Never used Perler beads before?
Here are some simple instructions to get you started!

1. Assemble your Perler beading supplies. You'll need a flat, stable area to make your Perler bead design. The pegboard you'll be using for your beads has very small pegs, so an unlevel surface may cause the beads to fall off. In all, for your Perler beading project, you'll need:

• A Perler pegboard
• An iron
• Parchment paper
• Perler Beads

2. Bead according to the pattern. If you are following a shaped pegboard, like a pegboard shaped like a cat for example, you should slip the beads onto the raised pegs in the arrangement you desire. If you are using a clear, square shaped pegboard, you should slide a pattern underneath before beading, or you could create a freeform design of your own making.

• When using a pattern beneath your pegboard, it's important to make sure the pattern is properly aligned with the pegs. Each bead represented by the pattern should center around a peg.

• You might make use of a realistic color scheme, or you might choose wacky colors to give your creation character. Your imagination's the limit!

• Due to the fact that the pegs of your Perler pegboard are so small, it's very easy for you to jostle the board and knock your beads loose. To prevent this, you may want to lay a non-slip craft mat beneath your beading project.

• You can put your Perler beads onto the pegs in any way that works best for you, but you may want to consider working from the bottom up or top down. Working from the outside in can crowd the empty pegs on the inside of the board, which may cause you to accidentally knock beads off of pegs.

3. Heat your beads. Take your parchment paper, which is also sometimes called ironing paper, and place it over the beads on the pegboard. You should be careful when doing this so that you don't accidentally knock any beads out of place. Heat a dry iron to a medium setting, then slowly run it in a circular motion over the parchment paper. You'll have to continue this for about 10 seconds for the beads to stick together.

• The amount of time this takes can vary depending on factors like the kind of iron you are using. You may want to remove your iron at intervals and check your design every five seconds. Applying too much heat could turn your design into a Perler pancake!

• If you have an iron with a steam function, you should be sure this is turned off when heating your beads. Hot steam could affect the outcome of your design.

• Wax paper can be used when heating your Perler beads, but this can leave a waxy residue on the finished product. Parchment paper, on the other hand, will not.

4. Heat the opposite side of your beads. *Please note that this is optional. If you like the way it looks with one unfused side, then you should keep it that way. After allowing a little while for the beads and board to cool, you should flip your peg board over. This will make the beads fall off the board and expose the un-heated side of your beads.

• Place the parchment paper over your beads, and heat the beads in the same fashion you did before. Use medium heat, a dry iron, and circular motions for about 10 seconds.

5. Peel away your parchment paper and allow time to cool. Take the parchment paper by one corner and peel it away from the pegboard. Your beads will be quite warm right after you finish ironing, so you should allow a few minutes to cool before handling your Perler art.

• Your Perler bead design is now ready to show off! Remove it from the pegboard and show your friends the design you have created.