

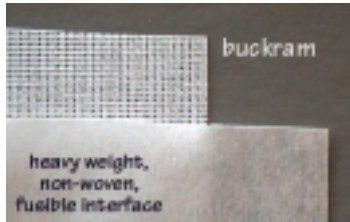
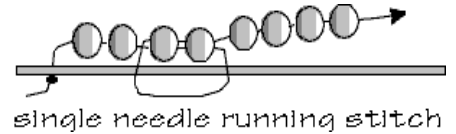
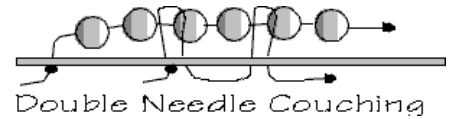
Basics of Seed Bead Embroidery

©2000 Judith Bertoglio-Giffin, www.beadline.com * These instructions are for your private use only.



Seed bead embroidery or applique is simply sewing beads down to a backing. With that said, it does take practice to get the beads to lay down nice and flat. One thing to remember is that the couching thread does take up a tiny bit of space

between the beads. There are various instructions for how to stitch beads down onto a fabric or other backing. All of them are just a bit different or have various uses. The following instructions are for the way I do it and some of my barrettes are still going strong 15 years later.

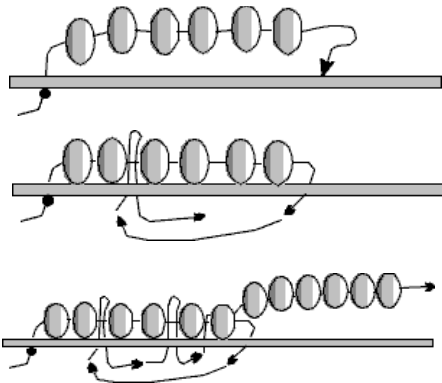


Materials:

- 11/0 or smaller seed beads
- Size B or D nylon beading thread
- size 12 beading needle
- Size 12 Sharps needle
- Stiff woven buckram
- iron-on non-woven interfacing
- or non-woven interfacing & fusible web
- alternative backing is "Lacy's Stiff Stuff" (TM)
- Barge Cement (TM)
- Finding
- Leather or Ultra suede
- Fray Check (TM), or glue
- Scissors, small pliers, flat work surface



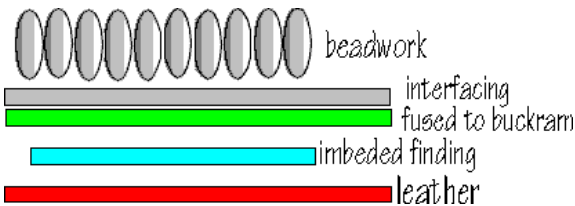
Draw or trace your design onto the interfacing. The interfacing is just transparent enough to allow you to trace and color in a design. If you starch the heck out of the interfacing & iron it you can *carefully* run it through your color printer. Just remember that ink jet printer inks are water soluble and *will bleed* through the interfacing! Fuse the interfacing to the buckram with your iron. You are now ready to start beading. It's called couching. Thread the beading needle, tie a knot in the ends and seal the knot with Fray Check or glue.



Couching: Pick a starting point and bring your needle up to the front of the fabric. Pick up 4 to 6 seed beads on your needle, lay them down and spot sew (couch) between every 2 beads. Bring your needle back up through the backing just behind the last bead and pass it through the bead. Pick up 4 - 6 more beads and continue sewing down beads within your pattern. Take care that the rows of beads lay flat and do not buckle or bulge.



FINISHING: Cut the backing close around the finished beadwork, being very careful not to cut through your stitching. Place the leather against the back of the beadwork and cut to shape, leaving it just a touch larger all around. Mark placement of the finding and cut slits for the ends to go through. Place the finding on the wrong side of the leather and poke ends through to the right side. Apply leather glue (Barge Cement) to the back of the leather, making sure some goes in under the bar. Place the glue side to the wrong side of the beaded piece and firmly press in place. Let the glue set up for at least an hour. If needed, finish trim the leather even with the edge of the bead work. If the white backing shows, use a permanent marker and carefully color the edge.



Thread the "sharps" needle, seal the knot and bury it between the layers of backing. Neatly whip stitch all edges. When you come to the end, carefully bury the end by sewing between the layers several times. If you want a neater edge you can finish it with a single or 3-bead picot stitch and even continue adding a ruffled peyote edge if you feel adventurous.

