

THE BEAD HOLD

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Queen Bead's EMBEDED CUFF Instructions

Materials Required

- 1 x lovely feature bead for the center of your cuff. This can be anything, with or without a hole, a glass tile feature will work well too or a button.
- 2 - 4 more feature beads, smaller than your main one
- A selection of seed beads in different colours and sizes, you will need 5 - 7 types/sizes and bugles
- Small accent beads such as facets, pearls and crystals
- Silamide to blend with beads
- Beading needles - size 10 and 12
- Laceys Stiff Stuff - 28 x 10 cm (1/2 a large sheet)
- A brass cuff blank

Equipment Required

- A bead mat to work on
- A pair of sharp scissors
- A ruler and pencil
- Straight Pins may be handy



PREPARATION

Thread your needle with 3 good arm lengths of Silamide. Bring the needle to the middle of the thread.

Round the corners of the foundation fabric using your scissors to avoid the thread catching

Spill a small amount of each of your seed beads onto the TOP of your bead mat.

A NOTE ABOUT TENSION

It is very important to keep your tension firm and even throughout the project.

- Pull your thread tight every few beads. Make sure that when you pull your thread tight you grip the thread close to the bead and pull straight in the direction the thread is going - not to the side or backwards as this will loosen the beads off.

- If you are using crystals, you must always pull your thread straight or you may cut your thread.

- make sure any picots are proper triangles before making the next stitch.

GETTING STARTED

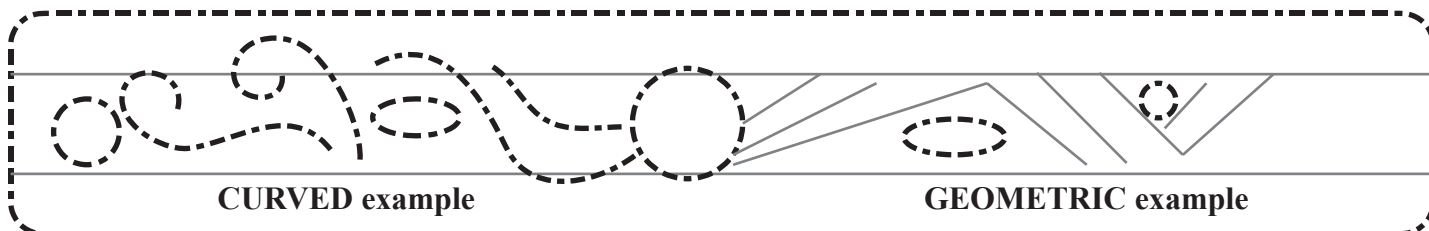
1. Take your ruler and pencil and place the ruler longways down your foundation fabric (FF).

2. Draw a line either side of the ruler. This is the middle of your work. The lines will help you keep straight, you are free to work outside of them.

FOR STRUCTURED PEOPLE: think about your design. Draw around your central bead on the FF, then draw/freehand lines and designs flowing away from the center bead. Draw around your smaller accent beads too, placed where you think they will go. If you are very organised you will want to spend some time doing this BUT you will get to a point where you just need to get started! Don't be surprised if once you get started you deviate from your careful plan!

FOR FREEFORM PEOPLE: a few basic lines/curves will be of great help. Sketch them on of FF and move on.

3. Glue, then sew, your central button/bead firmly to the middle of your Stiff Stuff, in the middle of the lines you have just drawn. Allow to dry before continuing.



Basic Surround

1. Bring your needle up on the good side of the foundation fabric, right next to the edge of the feature.

2. Pick up 4 x seed beads. Slide them down your thread and lay them on the foundation to curve snugly against the edge of the button. Bring your needle down through the foundation.

3. Now bring the needle back up through the foundation, half way through the 4 seed beads you have just stitched on. Stitch through the next 2 seed beads in the direction

4. Pick up another 2 seed beads, and slide them down the thread to sit snugly next to the button. Go down through the foundation.

5. Now come back up through the foundation, 2 beads back. Stitch through the last two beads.

NOTE: It is important that you do not have your line of beads sitting under the edge of the feature, it will make things a lot harder later on. It is better they are slightly out from the edge rather than slightly under.

6. Continue in this fashion until you have completely surrounded the stone with a line of seed beads.

NOTE: You MUST finish with an even number if you want to build a peyote layer on top!!

7. Mark the edge of your foundation fabric, then stitch around the whole circle of #8's with your needle and thread to make everything sit better and stronger. When you reach the mark on the fabric, come out of a bead, ready for the next stage.

PICOT EDGE ...

1. Pick up 3 x #11 seed beads. Skip the next base bead and stitch through the one after so that the #11's form a small triangle or 'picot.' If needed, pull the middle bead up slightly with the tip of your needle so that the picot point forms properly.

2. Continue in this way all the way at #8 seed beads.

NOTE: As you stitch, push the picots flat to the foundation fabric.



Peyote caging of feature bead/s

1. Complete basic surround up to step 7.

2. Pick up another #8, the same colour as the bead you are currently coming out of. Look at the bead your thread is coming out of, ignore the next bead and go through the one after that. Continue in this fashion the whole way around. This is a basic Peyote row.

3. Once you have stitched all the way around with the second row of #8's, 'Step Up' by bringing your needle and thread up the first bead in this row so you are ready to start the next layer (you will be coming out of a 'sticky outy' bead on the top row of beads).

4. Continue peyote stitching around the feature (picking up one, stitching through the next 'sticky outy' bead) using the same/different colours of #8's as desired, until the last row is just a bit higher than the edge of the feature. Then do 1 - 3 more circles using #11 seed beads. This will tighten the stitching to the feature.

NOTE: you can use #11's instead of #8's and use #15's for the final rows if desired.



Beaded Backstitch

Follow the basic surround instructions 1 - 6, the only difference being that you are not stitching around a bead, but following a line you have drawn (or just going for it freeform).

Most of your cuff will be filled in using beaded backstitch.

TIPS

- use bugle beads for great effect. make sure you have a #11 seed bead at the start and finish (as well as in between each bugle bead) to avoid them cutting your thread.

- facets, large and small, look fab too. Stitch larger ones (6 - 8mm) individually. 3 - 4mm do two at a time.

- when going around corners, go down to one bead at a time for accuracy and smoothness.

- put lines of smaller beads hard against lines of larger beads for effect.

- anchor your thread every so often into the foundation fabric. This means you can cut away parts you don't like without the whole thing falling to pieces.



EMBELLISHMENT TECHNIQUES

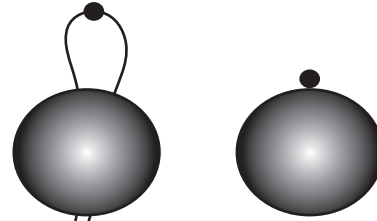
TIPS

- Save embellishing until the end of the cuff/a certain area.
- remember that the embellishment will bring it all together - and hide any stange, random and down-right ugly bits!
- you don't have to embellish much if you prefer a smoother look
- start embellishment with a new or well anchored thread. If you don't like what you have done you can just cut it off without affecting the rest of the work.
- smaller beads generally work better than larger ones.

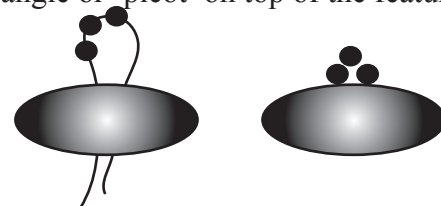


1. Upright Accent Bead

Pick up a feature bead and one seed bead. Stitch back through the feature bead and the cord (NOT through the seed bead) and pull tight. The seed bead acts as an anchor and holds the feature bead in place.



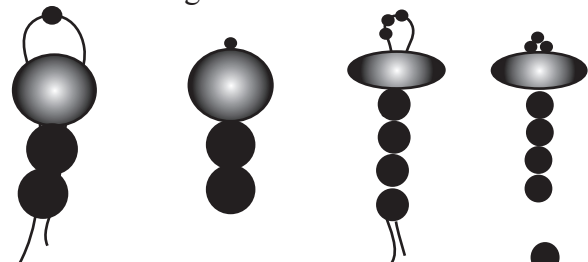
Try using 3 seed beads instead of 1, this will give you a small triangle or 'picot' on top of the feature bead.



For large beads and leaves it is a good idea to stitch through them 2 - 3 times to help keep them in place.

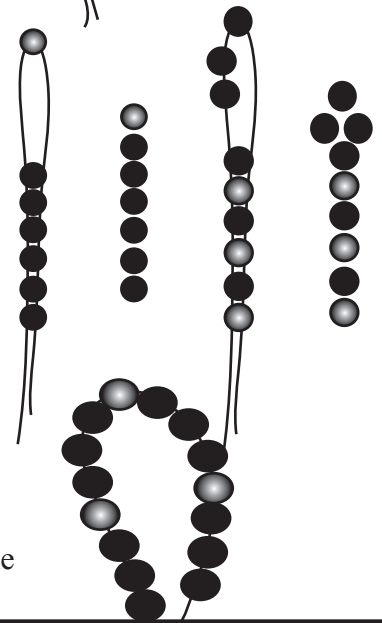
2. Feature Bead Ladder

Build your smaller feature beads up on your larger seed beads. Pick up 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 seed beads (depending on the length you would like), your feature bead, and 1 or 3 small seed beads. Ignore the last seed bead/s and stitch back through the other beads and the cord.



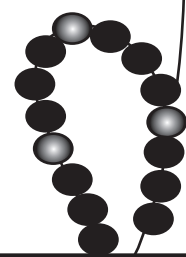
3. Frond

As above, but using a longer length of seed beads to start, and no feature bead.



4. Seed Bead Loop

Pick up a length of seed beads, alternating colours if desired until you have 1 - 2 cm of beads. Now, stitch down through the same hole you are coming out of. The more beads, the bigger the loop.



FINISHING YOUR CUFF

Materials Required

- 1 x #8 Japanese seed bead for finishing the edges
- Felt to back the cuff
- A brass cuff blank narrower than the finished work
- Clear drying craft glue
- #10 beading needle and Silamide to blend with edge beads
- rubber tipped clamps are helpful

Glueing

1. Make sure the Embeaded work extends past the edges of the cuff.
2. CUT the embeaded stiff stuff down until it is 2cm from the edge of the work
3. CUT a piece of felt the same size as the above
4. GLUE the beaded work and felt together with the cuff in the middle. Make sure the cuff is not sticking out the edge of the beaded work.
5. Allow to dry well. It can help to use clamps to hold everything together at this stage.
6. Trim edges down with sharp scissors to approx 4/5mm. If you are not sure - leave more rather than less. You can always trim in down later but you can't add it on!

Brick Stitch Edging

1. Thread your needle with 3 good arm lengths of silamide. Double the thread and tie a knot at the very end of the threads.
2. Stitch through the join of the felt and stiff stuff so the knot is hidden. Come through to the good side as close to the beaded edge as possible.
3. Pick up 2 x seed beads and slide them down the thread. Stitch through to the back of the fabrics, pulling the thread tight. Stitch back through the fabrics right at the base of the second bead. Stitch UP that bead, DOWN the first bead, then back UP the second bead. This is the only time you do this, just to get started.
4. Now, pick up another bead. Stitch through the fabrics to the back pulling the thread tight. Stitch back through the fabrics right at the base of the new bead. Stitch UP that bead.

Repeat Step 4. all the way around until you have edged the entire cuff

