

Supplies and Preparation for Bead Embroidery Class

Focal Pieces

If you plan to have a focal piece in your bead embroidery, it is very helpful, though not essential, to have it glued onto your backing 24 hours prior to the class. If you cannot glue it before the class you will just have to be very careful to keep it from moving out of place as you work. Alternatively, you can begin work on another area of your piece and glue the focal piece later.

Materials

- **Lacy's Stiff Stuff or other stiff backing** This backing is stiffer than most interfacings and is great for holding the weight of a piece covered in beads.
- **Ultra suede** Thin and soft, ultra suede is available in many lovely colors. If you plan to cover your piece entirely with beads you do not need ultra suede glued to the front of your backing, but you will want it for finishing the back. These instructions assume you will be using ultra suede on the front and back.
- **E6000 glue** Other jewelry glues, such as GS Hypo-Cement or 527 are also fine to use.
- **Cabochon, button or other focal piece** Anything with a flat side that can be glued to your backing can be used as your focal piece. Buttons are economical and sometimes so ornate they practically beg to be used as a focal piece.
 - **Preparing buttons:** sew-through buttons don't need any preparation, but shank buttons will adhere better if you can remove the shank. **Be very careful!** Glass buttons with glass shanks can easily break. Try using heavy-duty wire cutters and snipping at the shank in small areas. If the shank is not very deep, you may want to leave it and glue the button to the backing knowing there will be a small lump at the back. A metal shank can usually be cut with heavy wire cutters. Plastic shanks can usually be cut as well, but again, be careful.



Prepare the Backing

Cut your backing to the desired size and shape you want for your finished piece, and cut two pieces of ultra suede just a little larger. Set one piece of ultra suede aside to use later for finishing the back. Since you'll be sewing through much (if not all) of your backing, a few dabs of glue near the edges is all you need. A few dabs near the center is helpful if you have a large piece or if you don't plan to cover the entire piece with beads. Press the backing and ultra suede together firmly, smooth any "lumps," and allow to dry.



Glue the Focal Piece

Apply a thin layer of glue to the back of your focal piece and press it where you want it on your backing. I have decided to use a sew-through button, with a smaller shank button glued in the center. I allow the glue to come through the holes of the larger button, then press the smaller one in the center. If you're using a sew-through button and do not plan to glue anything in the center, be careful that you don't apply too much glue.



Inspiration

If you haven't already been looking at bead embroidery on Pinterest.com, I encourage you to do so. Some of the work is absolutely stunning. Here I've collected some images of the incredible variety that is possible with bead embroidery.



МК по браслету "LOTUS", техника - вышивка, Екатерина Деомидова.