

Turn a Pretty Button into A Pendant

© Hannah Rosner, 2013

Thank you for purchasing this tutorial! Before you get to work, **please take the time to read the tutorial thoroughly.**

It's a bit like a complicated recipe; you want to have all of your ingredients ready before you start! This tutorial is intended anyone who can thread a needle!

This document is protected by copyright, and is intended for the sole use of the person who has purchased it. Please do not copy this tutorial, or distribute it in any manner. (This does not include printing for your own personal use.)

The design for this piece is based off of ancient techniques. You may not reproduce this design for sale without my written permission. In addition, this design, may not be entered in any competitions without given me design credits and without written permission. Thank you.

Most importantly, please have fun! Feel free to contact me with any and all questions regarding the information below, and for sources for any of the materials mentioned. I'll do my best to help you track down whatever you'll need!



Materials Needed:

- *Pretty Button, any size
HINT: For your first button pendant, pick one with a **flat** back and no shank. It'll just make it easier for you.
- *Scrap of soft, non-fraying fabric large enough to put the button on and still hold comfortably in your hands while you work. I suggest Lacy's Stiff Stuff, but you can also use thick non-fusible interfacing.
- *Backing Material (ultrasuede)
- *Selection of seed beads
- *Optional: Selection of larger accent beads for fringe
- *Size 10 or 11 sharp beading needles (not pictured)
- *Optional: Size 15 needles
- *Beading thread (I like Fireline)
- *Glue (E6000)
- *Sharp scissors



This variation on bead embroidery makes a beaded bezel that will not only hold a button securely but also will add beauty to whatever type of button you choose.

The piece can then be embellished with fringe or accent beads and turned into a pin or necklace. As an alternative, you can apply the button directly to a leather pouch or jacket, choosing colors that will highlight your central piece.

Apply a very small amount of glue to the center back of the button, and place it onto the center of your stiff stuff scrap. This holds the button in place as you work. Try to avoid letting the glue seep out the sides, as this can make it difficult to pass your needle through once the glue has dried.



Now, set the button aside and let the glue dry a little bit.

Thread your needle with an arm's length of beading thread, and knot the end. While holding the button and fabric firmly between your thumb and forefinger, push the needle up through the fabric and sew the button down firmly on the fabric through its holes.

If you don't like the fact that you can see the thread between the button's holes, then once it is secure come up and add a few beads to the thread before you go back down. This will create a loop of beads instead of the bare thread. In the photo to the left, I've created two loops to cover my bare thread.

TECHNIQUE #1 – BEAD EMBROIDERY

Come up next to the button with your thread. Make a baby stitch to secure it.

1. Pick up four beads on your needle and run the needle back down through the Stiff Stuff, securing the beads in place.



2. Bring the needle back up between the second and third beads you just added, and out through the third and fourth beads. The drawing to the right shows you going through just one bead, but you'll be going through two.



3. Add four more beads. Run the needle back down through the Stiff Stuff, securing the beads in place. Come up between the second and third beads of the last four you added (these can also be seen as the sixth and seventh beads, if that makes it easier for you to visualize). Go through the very last two beads.



4. Add four more beads. Continue as above in step #3. This is called the "backstitch" since you continually stitch back through the last two beads. I do a lot of bead embroidery (see last page) and this is the technique I use about 95% of the time.

5. Continue adding the beads four at a time by following the above two directions, until you've worked your way around the perimeter of the button (see photos, below).



Here's halfway around.



Here's the full way around. If your beads aren't all lined up like mine are, don't worry. Just remember that I've been doing this a million years. Also, if you run the thread through all the beads in that last row and pull a little bit, they'll all snug up right next to each other and your work will look like you're a pro!

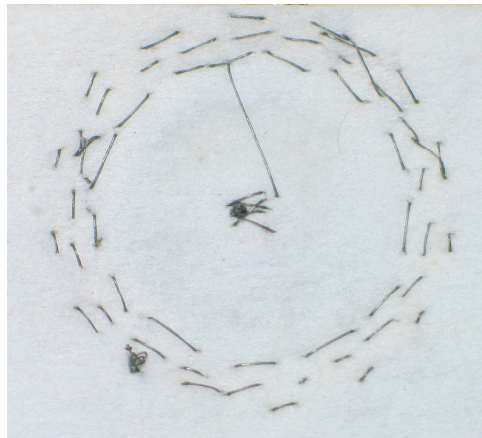


You can continue embroidering around the outside of your beaded button if you'd like to make the piece larger. I love it that I can mix and match metals in my work!

Design Tip: I suggest a variety of seed bead sizes in the bead embroidery to give your piece some texture.

Once you've decided that your piece is big enough, trim the Lacy's Stiff Stuff from around your embroidered piece. Trim as close as you possibly can without snipping the threads holding your beads in place.

Here's a photo of the back of my piece, just so you know that it doesn't have to look neat and clean.

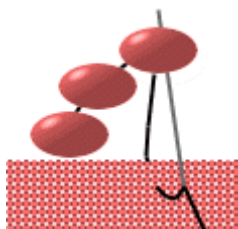


In order to make this look really professional, we want to cover that mess on the back. Glue the piece onto your ultrasuede, but try to keep it away from the very edge since its difficult to sew through the glue. I like using a surprising color on the back, just for fun. Trim as close as possible.



TECHNIQUE #2 – PICOT

Picot stitch is a great way to finish off the edge of bead embroidery so you don't see the cut edge(s) of fabric. You can also just whip stitch the two together using tiny little stitches.



Set Up for the 3-Bead Picot Stitch – thread on 3 beads (see diagram left and photo below). You will use three beads to set up the pattern just this time.



The middle bead will sit up above the 2 side beads on either side. Let the beads fall to the bottom of thread and rest on the Stiff Stuff edge. Move needle over one bead width and pass needle from the back, a whisper in from the edge and through to the front edge. Now, pass the needle up through the last bead from its bottom hole through bead to top.

From now on you will only thread on 2 beads each time you create a bead picot (photo below).



You will simply thread on 2 beads and make another small stitch that is one bead width away, bringing needle through from back to front edge. Now bring needle up through the last bead and tug thread to set beads into position. The finished picot should look like the diagram and the next photo.

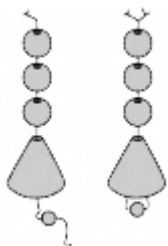
FINISHING YOUR PIECE

You have a finished button pendant! Sew some beaded loops on the top of your piece to attach to your necklace.



You could be done right here.

But... I love fringe. It's a madness with me. So, I've decided that I need to add some fringe to this piece. First, I collected some larger beads that match to use as fringe beads. I like using smaller beads toward the top of the fringe and I always map my fringe out before I start working it.



A basic fringing graph is to the left. Add all your beads for the fringe. *Skip the last bead* at the bottom and thread your needle through the rest of the beads to the top.

Tip: I usually use the bigger beads at the bottom to help weight the fringe.

Tip: Can you see the little bead at the bottom of the fringe in that beading graph? It acts as a knot to keep the fringe together and is the most important bead in your fringe.



Biography – Hannah Rosner

With over twenty years teaching experience combined with twenty-five years as a working artist, I still look forward to teaching both fine arts and craftsmanship skills every day. I've taught college level multimedia and design at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh and the Illinois Institute of Art. I have taught beadwork and fine arts at bead societies, bead stores and cultural arts centers across the US, and show my work internationally. Bead embroidery is my favorite form of art.

To see more of my tutorials, kits, beads and finished work, check out my website – <http://www.GoodRiverGallery.com> and also my Etsy sales site – <http://hannahrachel.etsy.com>

