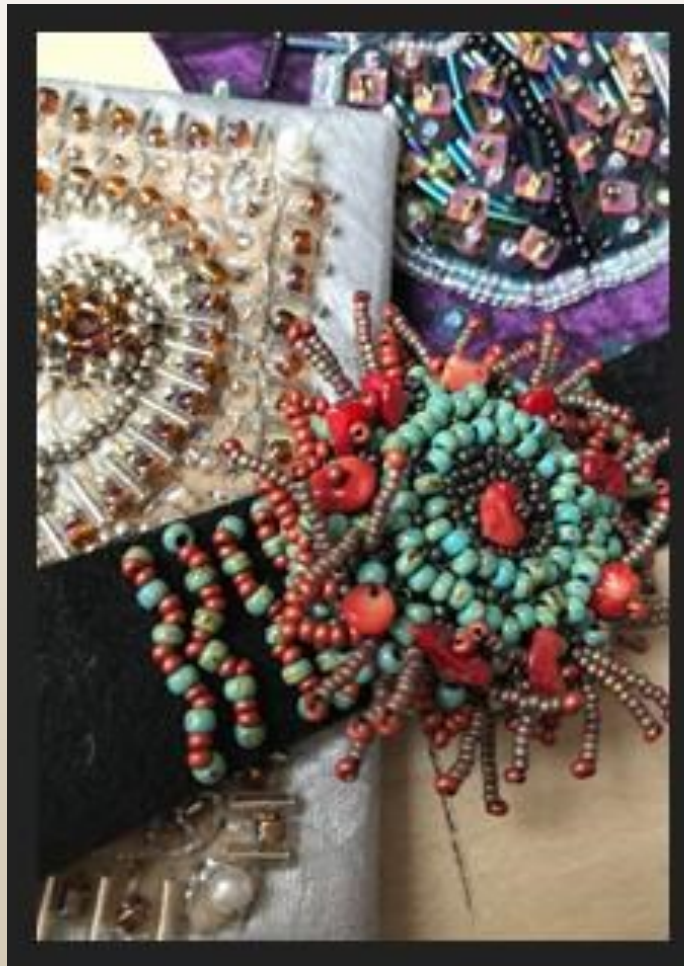


the
stitchbook
COLLECTIVE 2022

Workshop 9 of 12

Beaded Embroidery

These notes should be read in conjunction with the online video



www.untangledthreads.co.uk/MEMBERS

Video Password: BEAD

Beaded Embroidery

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Introduction

We are looking at one of the simplest methods of applying beads. This workshop is about attaching beads to pre-existing fabric. If your interest is piqued, this workshop could be the start of a whole new obsession, but, rest assured, you can achieve simple, dramatic results just by using basic techniques, without the need for a magnifying glass or particularly dexterous fingers.

If you find that beading is 'your thing', there is a plethora of information out there about creating stand-alone netted or woven beaded fabric, couture tambour beading, stringing or jewellery making techniques etc etc. Beadwork has such a rich cultural history. This workshop will just get you started, where you take it is up to you.

As well as showing examples of my own beaded embroidery, I have included 4 worked samples for you to try. As always, use the workshop as a means of learning the technique .. then go ahead and apply them using your own style and imagination.



(a) Simple application of beads



(b) Adding beads to applique



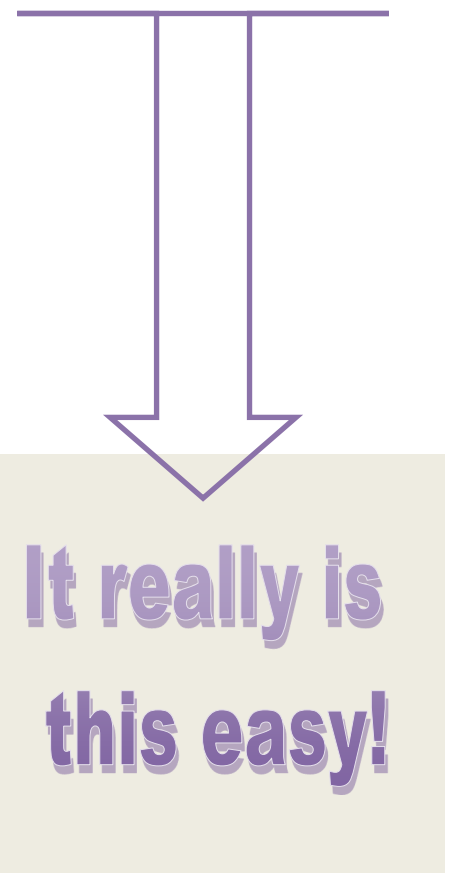
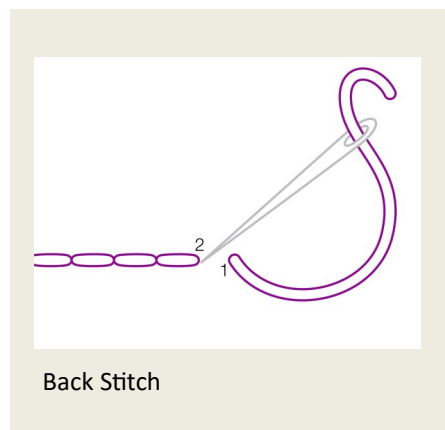
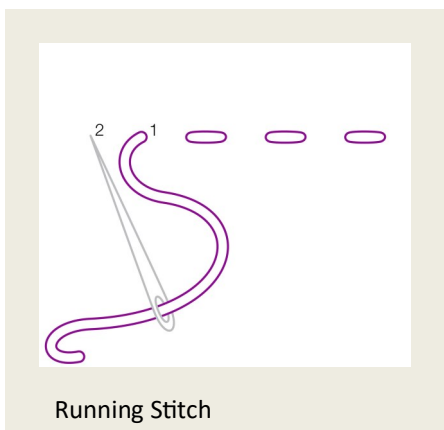
(c) Beaded felt beads



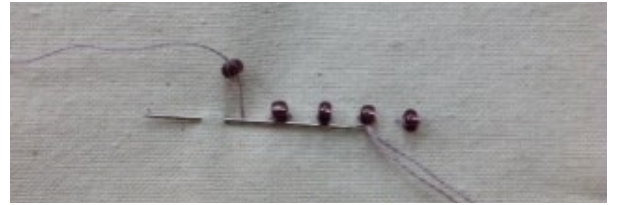
(d) Embellishing self-cover buttons

Basic Techniques

- You may find these techniques easier if you work with your fabric under tension. i.e. using an embroidery hoop. Work with short lengths of thread. Passing a long length repeatedly through beads tends to cause fraying or snapping.
- Specialist beading thread is NOT necessary for bead embroidery. I find a single strand from DMC 6 stranded embroidery thread works very well. This has the advantage of being able to work additional stitched pattern without needing to change thread.
- Despite what you may read online, you simply need an embroidery needle which is thin enough (when loaded with thread) to pass through the hole of your chosen beads. Beading needles are not recommended for bead embroidery. They are too fine and will bend very easily.
- Tip a few beads out onto a 'beading mat' if you have one. This will stop the beads rolling away from you when you try to pick them up with the needle. (If you don't have a beading mat, a piece of felt will do just as well!)
- **Don't be too precious with this ...** You are adding beads as an embellishment to your stitching. Whatever works, works!
- We are going to use 4 basic stitches:
- Running stitch, Back stitch, Satin stitch and Stab stitch



RUNNING STITCH is used to attach beads in lines with a space between each bead. Knot your thread. Bring the thread UP from the back, add the bead to the needle, leave a gap slightly longer than the bead. Pass the thread DOWN then UP again in one movement. REPEAT. The space between the beads is determined by the distance before you come up for the next stitch.



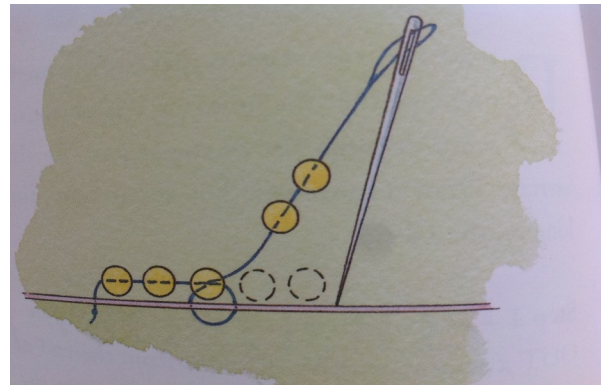
RUNNING STITCH with beaded decoration. If you stitch two rows of running stitch next to each other, you can then decorate it with 'whip stitch' beading.



BACK STITCH is used to attach beads in straight or curved lines with **NO** spaces between the beads. Knot your thread. Bring the thread UP from the back, add 3 beads to the needle, leave a gap (slightly longer than the length of beads you are adding), pass your thread DOWN, and come BACK UP just the length of one bead - **effectively coming UP underneath your line of beads.** Pass the thread THROUGH the last bead again. This locks the two sections together. REPEAT.



NOTE: Once all the beads are in place, pass your thread through all beads again, and pull the thread gently. The beads will all line themselves up!



To make curved lines it is best to backstitch the beads on one at a time. *NOTE: To make the small circle of beads, add beads one at a time with back stitch, THEN, pass your thread through all beads again, and pull the thread gently to line up the beads. The tighter you pull, the smaller the circle will become.*

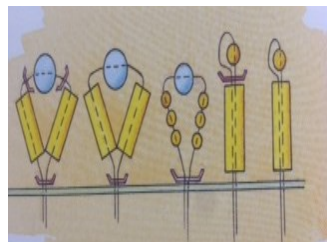


SATIN STITCH and STAB STITCH are used to attach beads in clusters, to fill shapes or to make vertical stacks of beads. You can satin stitch seed beads over the top of bugle beads or cord, to give a raised effect. Again, this is easier to demonstrate on video, rather than explain in illustrations.

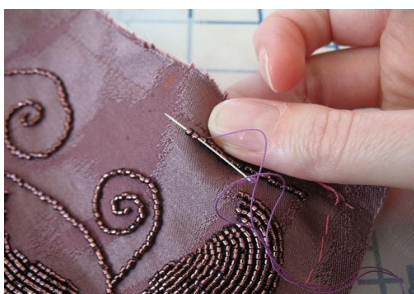
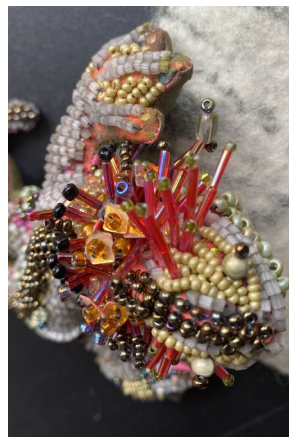
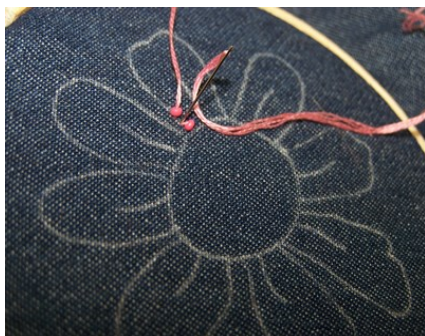
EXPERIMENT with the gaps between beads and the number of beads you add with each stitch. If you are wanting a very structured pattern it is easiest to follow a design which you have pre-drawn onto your fabric. Use a pen with air erasable ink (*but don't make the mistake of tracing out more than you will stitch before it vanishes!*)



NOTE: To make a leaf-shape, start by adding one bead. Bring your needle back up to a place slightly wider for each row, adding 2 then 3 etc.

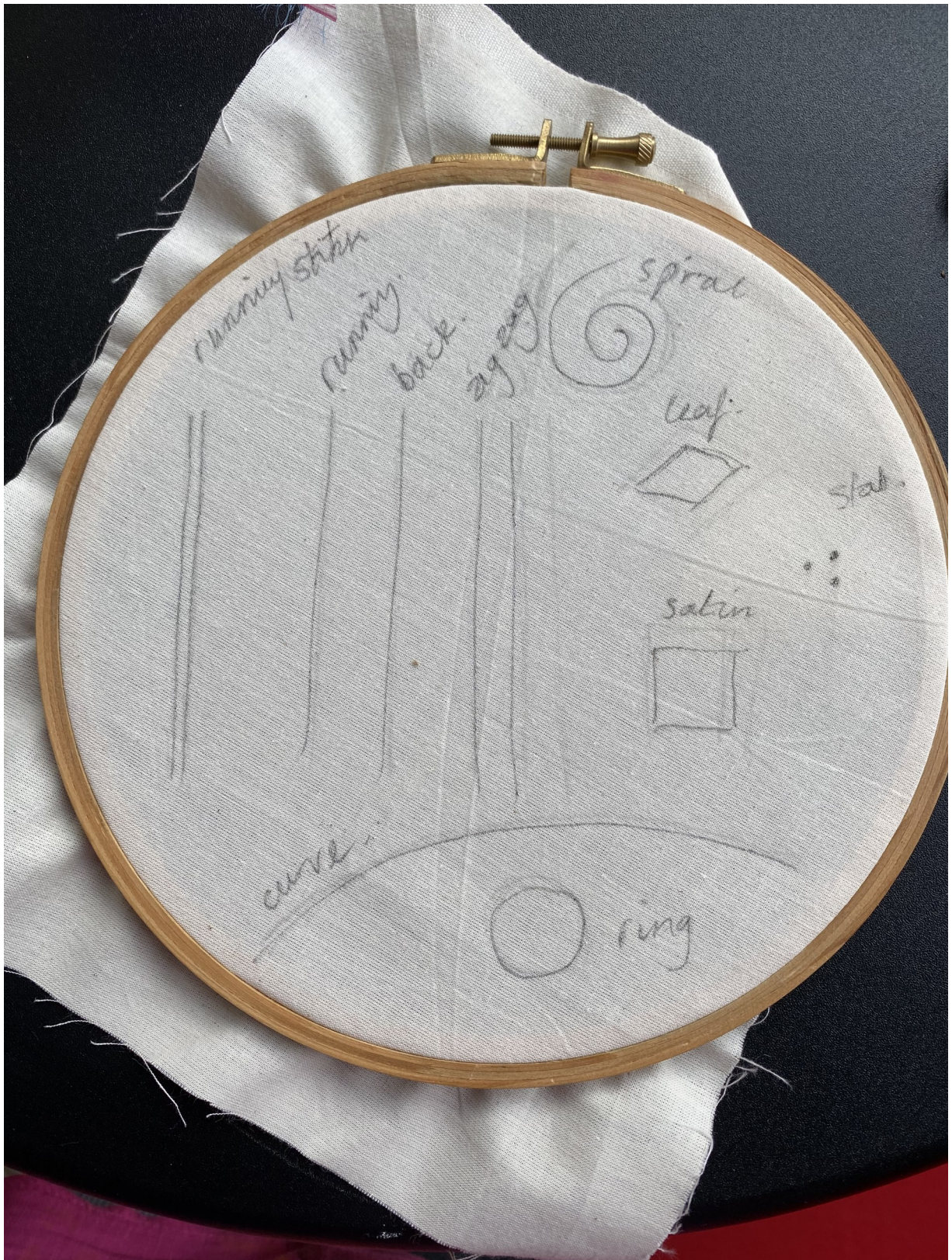


BEADS can be added in columns or clusters too.



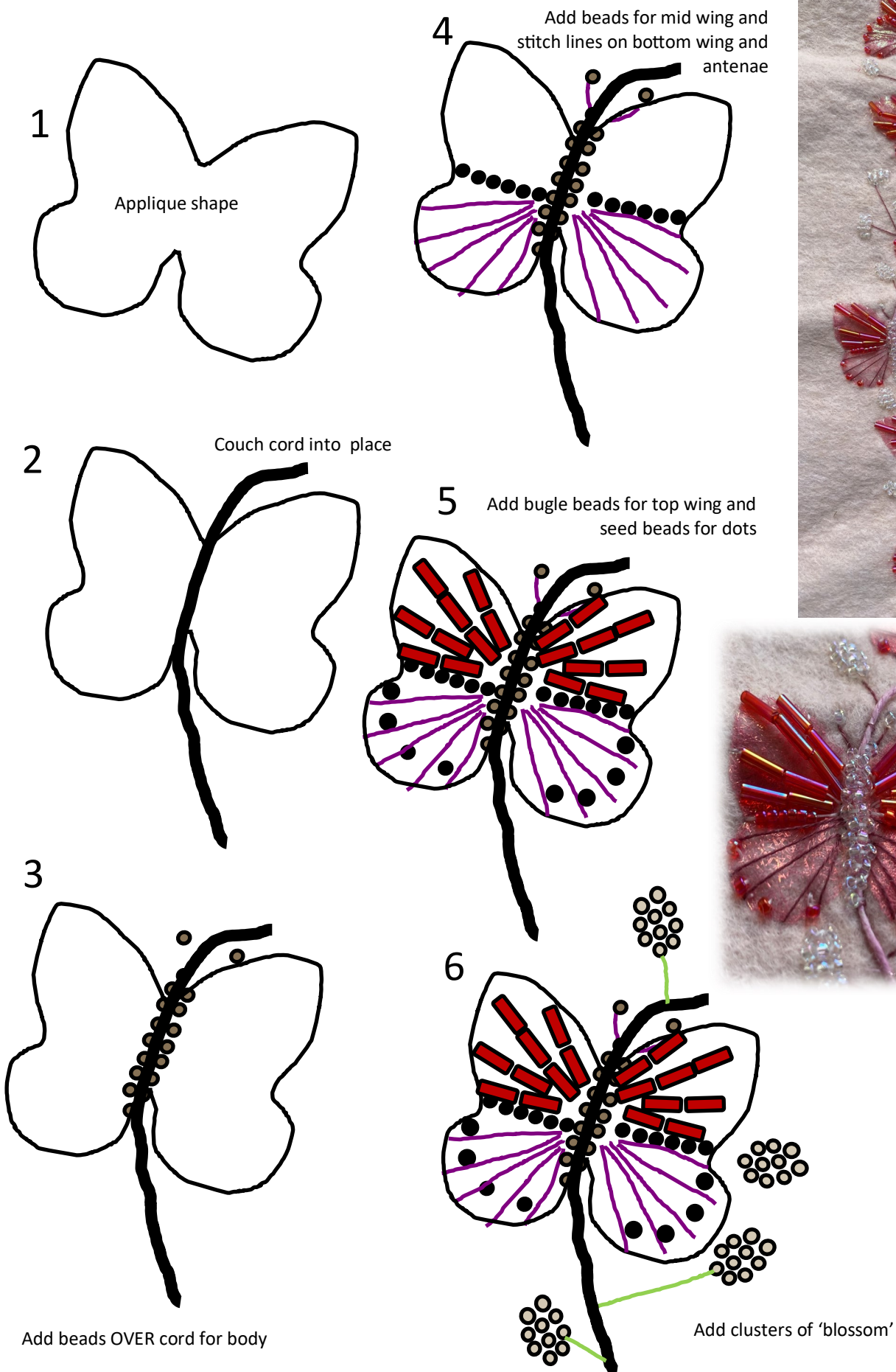
NOTE: If you are beading onto a garment which will be worn, USE DOUBLE THREAD, and consider using an interfacing to protect the threads at the back from excessive friction.

(a) Worked Sample - on Video
Simple Application of Beads



(b) Worked sample on video

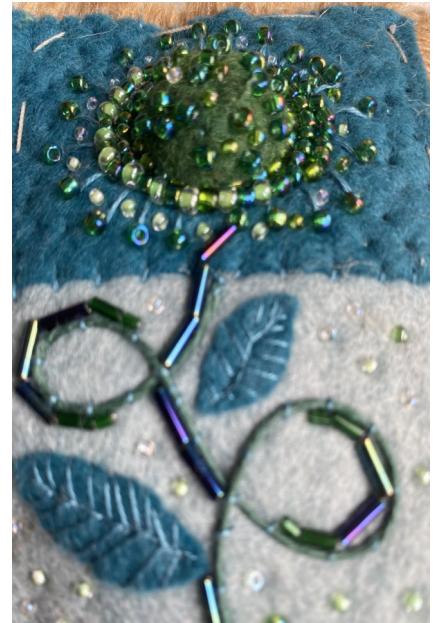
Stitching onto applique and couching



HMB design ©

(c) Worked sample on video

Beading Felt Beads



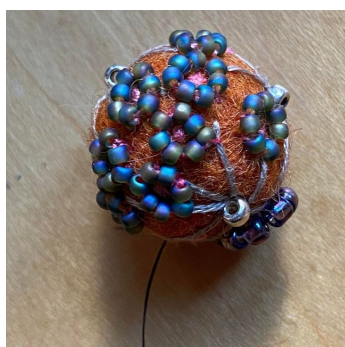
Strangely, there are few things that give me more pleasure than creating beaded jewels from felt balls.

Felt balls come in such a wide variety of colours and sizes - you can get ones which already have patterns in the felt itself, or plain, or you can cut them in half and use them like cabochons. It's often easiest to mark out a pattern using stitching first and then add the beads.



This is one of the most forgiving techniques, and the results can be amazing. *(If you have wool roving it is also very easy to make your own balls, but for this workshop, I'm starting with pre-made balls.)*

I have recently been looking at decorating the space around a half ball as well as the ball itself.

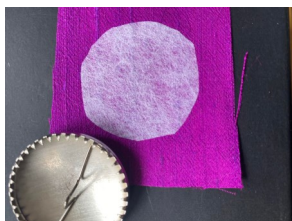


(d) Worked sample on video

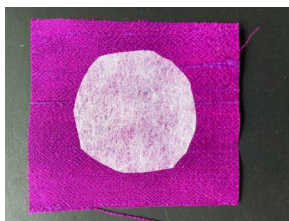
Stages for working a self-cover button



Cut a piece of fabric slightly larger than your button.



Cut a piece of iron-on interfacing the size of your button.



Iron the interfacing into place.



When you stitch your beads onto the right side, make sure that no beads are attached any wider than the edge of your interfacing.



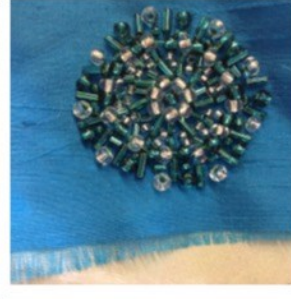
Bead your design onto the fabric.



Make sure that the beads don't extend beyond the interfacing.



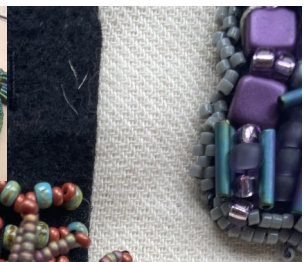
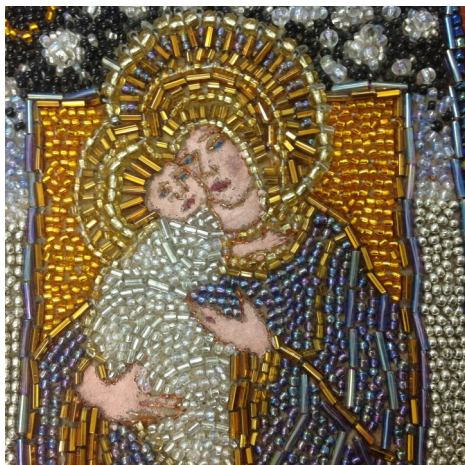
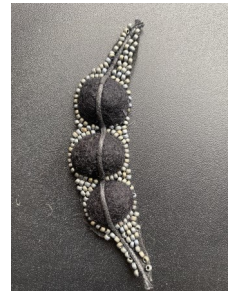
Once you are happy with your design, place the front section of the button (dome side down) onto your fabric. Make sure that the design is properly centered, and then stretch the fabric over the little 'hooks'. These need to be gripping your fabric. Suggestion: anchor your fabric on the hooks at North, South, East and West, and then gently work out any creases or folds. When you are happy with the position of the design, snap the back of the button into place. (It's a bit like paint tin lid). *The back of the button can be removed using a screwdriver, but after a few times, the metal becomes mis-shapen and won't snap back on again.*



East Yorkshire Federation
Women's Institute
Beaded Embroidery
workshop July 2017
by Untangled Threads



Here are some examples of my Beaded Embroidery pieces. It is possible to make quite intricate patterns and textures, and even complete images. I generally work on a felt background, or thin cardstock. If you find that this is way of working which you would like to explore, it is worth investing in some 'beading foundation' which is like stiffened felt, or you can substitute this for interfacing which works just as well and is much cheaper.



Transferring patterns

If you look online, or in embroidery magazines, you will find lots of resource material which is very easy, with a little imagination, to translate into beaded embroidery patterns. Here are a few examples which appeal to me. You can transfer the image onto your fabric using carbon paper, or trace from a light source. I recommend using an air erasable marker .. **BUT DON'T TRACE OF MORE THAN YOU CAN SEW BEFORE IT VANISHES!** Obviously I speak from experience .. here is a piece which I started, but now can't find the original source material I used!

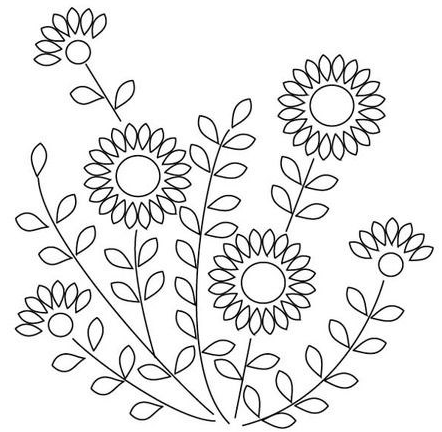
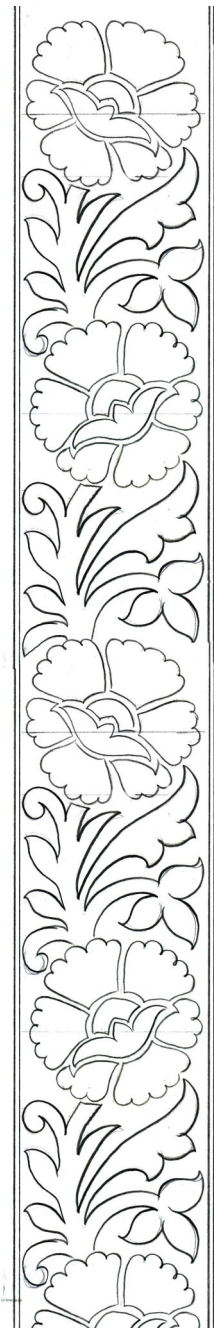
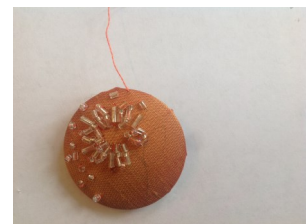
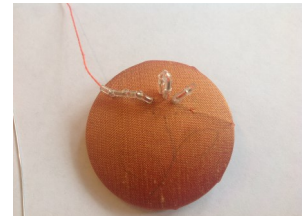


Image taken from Pinterest

Beading onto 3D surfaces

If you do get the 'beading bug', any surface is fair game I think! Here is an example from a previous workshop: the bowl is from the heated polyester felt and Tyvek workshop. The lizard is a present I made for my daughter many years ago, when she hankered after owning a 'Bearded Dragon'. I made her a Beaded Dragon instead! The base is made from one of those sand filled toys.



As well as the workshop sample on self-cover buttons, it is possible, and for me preferable, to work onto a button which has already had its fabric attached. You do need to work with your needle at a VERY shallow angle, because obviously the metal of the button is directly underneath the surface.

Weddings and motifs

Don't forget that simple colour co-ordinated beading can make a wedding or party theme really come together. With a repeated motif or design and a bit of imagination you can transform the ordinary into the extra-ordinary ...



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Next Workshop



November:
Lace & Hearts

8th November 2022
Workshop 10 of 12
Lace & Hearts

A list of supplies needed for this workshop will be announced in the next Newsletter (October 18th 2022) and online

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