



Bead Embroidered Pendant

Designed by Gail DeLuca

Learn basic embroidery stitches and techniques while making a small backed pendant.

Materials List

- Size 11 seed beads in three or more colors (about a gram each)
- Size 15 seed beads in one or two colors (less than a gram each)
- Glass cabochon, 25mm round
- Beading thread such as KO, Nymo or One G to match your color palette. You can also use several colors to match the beads.
- Size 10, 11 and/or 12 beading needles - as needed
- Ultra suede fabric for the backing - 2" square piece
- Beading Foundation - 2" square piece
- Scissors
- Bead blanket or other work surface.
- Glue - E6000, Gem Tac or Crafter's Pick (we will be capturing the cab - you just need to glue so it holds while you bead.)



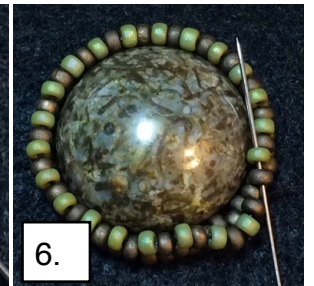
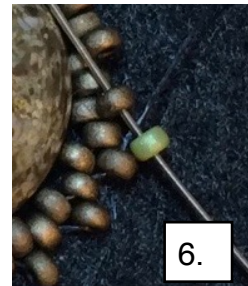
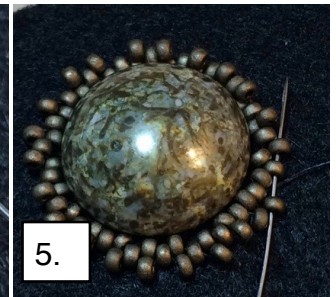
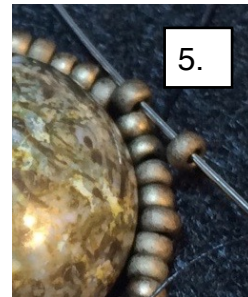
1. Glue a 25mm round cabochon to the center of the 2" square beading foundation, and let dry at least an hour or so, preferably overnight. You don't want the cabochon to be moving around as you stitch.
2. Use a 2' length of thread, thread your needle and knot the end. Hold both ends of the thread and tug to pre-stretch it a little. Stitch up through the foundation where you want to begin stitching.

Add thread as needed: Stitch old thread into foundation, knot to secure. Start a new length as in step 2.

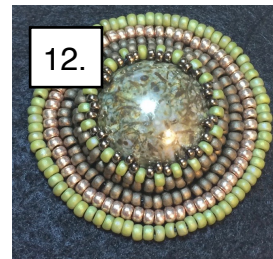
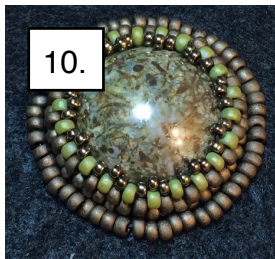
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3. Stitch a row of size 11 seed beads around the cabochon, staying close to the edge of the cabochon, using the backstitch (figure 2 in the stitch guide at the end of these instructions) to sew beads. (68 beads will fit nicely around these 25mm cabs.) Use an even number of beads and if you find the last bead doesn't fit, add it anyway and the next step will help it align. Or, leave one out to make it an even number
4. Stitch through all the beads again, and this will help them all line up if your line isn't perfect.
5. Stitch a row of Peyote stitch, using the same color size 11 bead as the row in step 3. (String a bead, locate where your thread is exiting the bead, skip the next bead, then stitch through the next bead. Repeat around the circle and step up through the first bead added in this row.). Don't worry if this row looks wonky - it will straighten out fine in step 6.
6. Stitch another row of Peyote stitch, using another color size 11 bead. As you stitch, pull on the thread to tighten your stitches and the beads will tighten up around the cabochon. Step up into the first bead added in this step.
7. Stitch a row of peyote stitch, using size 15 seed beads, and step up into the first size 15 bead added in this row.
8. Add another row of size 15 seed beads as follows, only adding for every other stitch as follows: String a size 15, stitch through the next 15, the next 11 and the next 15. Repeat around the circle, pulling the thread tight as you go to draw up the beads around the cabochon. If you see thread showing between beads, try playing with how many 15s you add in each stitch - you can create many pretty patterns in this step to hide the thread and embellish the capture.



9. Weave the thread through the beads back down to the first row, stitch down through the foundation, then back up right next to the beads to prepare to continue with the embroidery.
10. Use backstitch to stitch a row of size 11 seed beads around the first row of beads, staying close to the beads. You don't have to count these, but do stitch them nice and close together. Use the same color as in step 3.
11. Stitch another row of size 11 beads around the beads added in step 10, using another color.
12. Stitch another row of size 11 beads around the beads added in step 11, using another color.



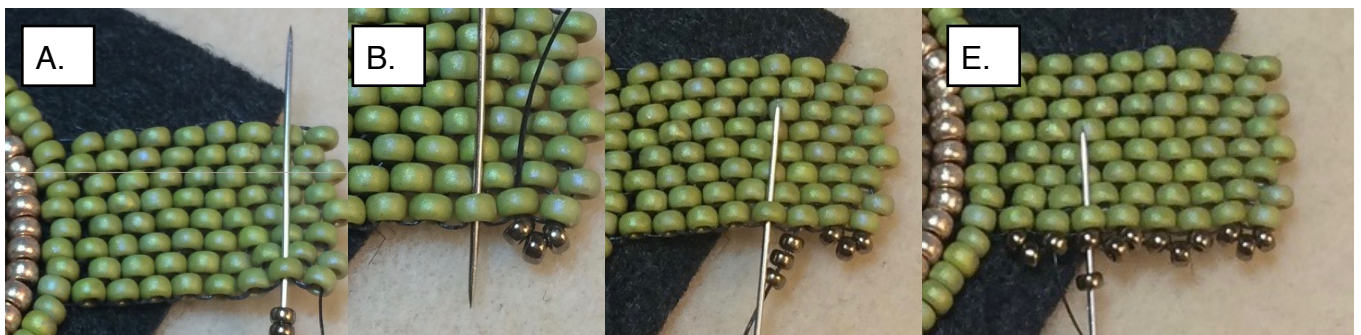
13. To create the bail, use size 11 seed beads to work 16 rows of peyote stitch 8 beads wide off the edge row. You will know you have 16 rows when you can count 8 beads along each edge of peyote stitch.



This creates a small diameter bail for a chain, leather or strand of seed beads. If you want to make a larger bail for something like a kumihimo braid, add more rows of peyote stitch.

14. Add size 15 beads to the edge of the bail as follows

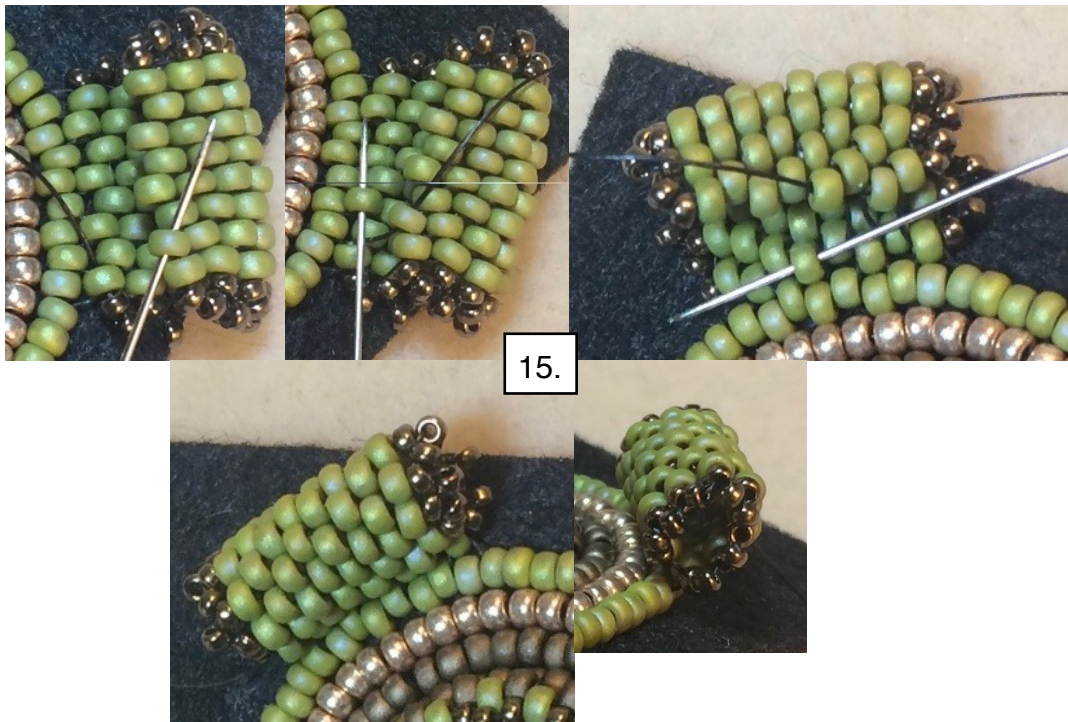
- A. String 3 size 15 beads, stitch through the next size 11 bead,
- B. Stitch through the next size 11 bead toward the edge.
- C. Repeat steps A-B three more times
- D. Stitch through the beadwork so that your thread is exiting the **next to last** size 11 bead nearest where you left off in step A, and stitch through the closest 15.
- E. String a 15, then stitch through the next 15, stitching toward the center (away from the edge), and stitch through the 11 below it.
- F. Stitch through the next 11, stitching toward the edge, and stitch through the closest 15.
- G. Repeat steps E and F three more times
- H. Stitch over to the other edge of the peyote stitching so that your needle is exiting the last size 11 along the edge.
- I. Repeat Steps A-G to complete the decorative edge on the other side.



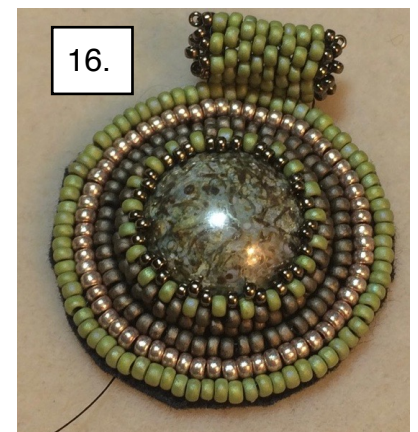
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15. Zip the edges of the Peyote stitch together as shown to complete the bail. Weave thread into foundation, secure and trim.



16. Use Crafters Pick glue to glue the beadwork to a piece of ultra suede backing. Take care to not use so much glue that it soaks through the ultra suede - just a nice thin coating on the back of the beadwork. You can spread it around with your finger - it's water soluble! Let dry and trim the beading foundation and backing close to the beads, taking care not to cut through any threads on the back. (If you do, you can thread a needle and carefully reinforce the stitching where the cut threads are. Been there, done that!)

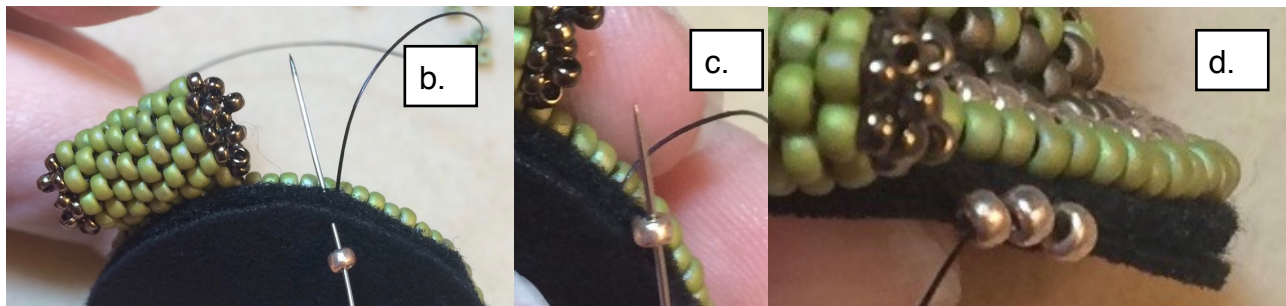


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17. Edge stitch a row of beads as follows:

- a. Start with a new thread, about 3' long, with a knot at the end. Stitch from the center of the foundation toward the edge, exiting through the foundation between the outer row of seed beads and the very edge of the foundation.
- b. Holding the piece of ultra suede backing to the back of the beadwork, string a size 11 bead and stitch through the backing and the foundation, exiting through the foundation between the outer row of seed beads and the very edge of the foundation as in the previous step.
- c. Stitch through the size 11 bead, exiting toward the direction you will be adding more beads.
- d. Repeat steps 17b and 17c, taking care to keep the backing in position as you go.
- e. When you complete the edge beading all the way around, stitch through all the size 11 beads. This will help them align.
- f. Stitch the thread into backing to secure and trim.


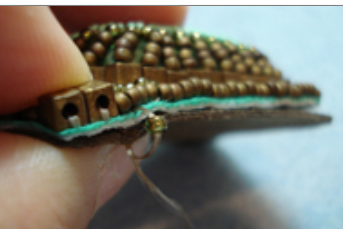







This finishes your pendant! I hope you will take what you have learned and design and stitch some wonderful pendants of your own. These basic techniques can be used for all sorts of cabochons and with other kinds of beads.

Stitch Guide for Basic Bead Embroidery

With all stitches, it is important to remember to place the needle perpendicular to the bead, and not at an angle. This way the thread is going down through the backing directly next to the bead which will help the bead sit straight.

When you are adding several beads at a time, hold the thread taut with one hand and tap the line of beads into place and then run the needle through the backing. This will take the guesswork out of knowing where to put your needle in.

	Figure 1: Seed stitch (or single stitch) You will use this to fill in with a bead in a small space, or to add a single larger bead securely.		Figure 5: Sewing on the first edge bead. After capturing the bead, sew the needle through the bead, pointing the needle in the direction of the next bead you will add.
	Figure 2: Backstitch. You will use this stitch most often to lay down three beads at a time (or as many as 5)		Figure 6: Adding additional edge beads, pick up a bead, sew through both layers (ultrasuede first, stiff stuff last).
	Figure 3: Couching. Use this to lay down a long line of beads. String the number of beads in the line, then come back from underneath and bring your needle up and around the original thread every other bead to secure the line to the backing. You will need to estimate the amount of slack to leave, but this will come with practice. You can also use this technique to go back and tighten down beads that may look a little loose.		Figure 7: Sew the needle through the bead you just added, pointing your needle in the direction of the next bead you will add.
	Figure 4: Stacked. Use this stitch to add embellishments like a rondelle. You can also stack several seed beads to create textures with more height.	<p>Tip: you can paint white foundation in a color to match your beads as follows: Use thinned acrylic paint to add color to the stiff stuff so that gaps between stitched beads are less noticeable. Mix one dab of paint with about two teaspoons of water. You just want a thin wash to add color, not a hard layer of paint you might have trouble beading through later. Brush onto stiff stuff and let dry before beading. Don't worry about getting an exact match or covering the surface evenly with color - your beads will hide most of the backing. The idea is to add a little color to knock the harshness off the white.</p>	