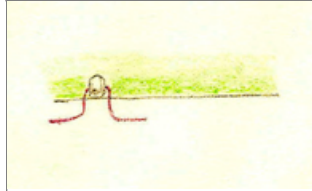
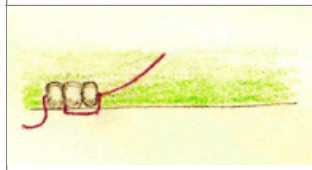





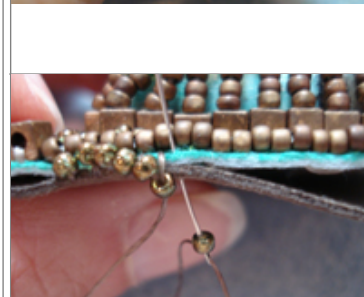
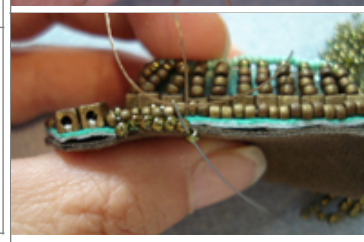
Bead Embroidery Basics and Fringe

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 2: Backstitch. You will use this stitch most often to lay down three beads at a time (or as many as 5)
	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 4: Stacked. Use this stitch to add embellishments like a rondelle. You can also stack several seed beads to create textures with more height.

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.

	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 6: Adding additional edge beads, pick up a bead, sew through both layers (ultrasuede first, stiff stuff last).
	Figure 7: Sew the needle through the bead you just added, pointing your needle in the direction of the next bead you will add.

Fringe Tips:

I find it helpful to use headpins to lay out my fringe design to view which bead combination I like best. Your fringe may be all even in length or you may like it longer in the center. Sometimes you can accentuate this effect on an uneven piece of beadwork.



You might like to start stitching in the center, if your center fringe will be the longest one. This will help keep your design symmetrical.

Secure your thread in the beadwork, string the bead sequence you have chosen, then stitch back up through all the fringe beads EXCEPT THE BOTTOM ONE. The bottom one is what holds all the others on!

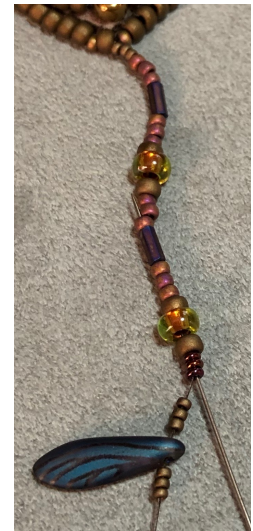
After you have stitched back up through all the beads, stitch into a bead at the top and start your next piece of fringe!

Bottom beads -

Drops or dagger beads make a nice finish. If you don't like the thread showing around them, fill in with a few size 15 seed beads.

Larger beads near the bottom give the fringe a nice weight.

If you're not using a drop, a small bead like a 15 is a good size to use at the very bottom to minimize thread visibility.



Work to find just the right thread tension when stitching each length of fringe.

- Too loose and thread will show at the top.
- Too tight and your fringe will be stiff.

Gail DeLuca • www.whitefoxbeads.com • White Fox Beads

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