

Beaded Buttons Tutorial

This tutorial is for creating hand-made beaded buttons; without a “kit”.

Supplies:

Each button will need a 2”square of these fabrics:

TOP: Any fabric (match bead color if possible)

INTERFACING: Medium to Heavy stabilizer

LINING: Muslin

BACK: Felt or felted wool, vinyl, thin leather

Also, 1/4 of a small cotton ball for stuffing

2” square of flannel or thin-batting for cushion

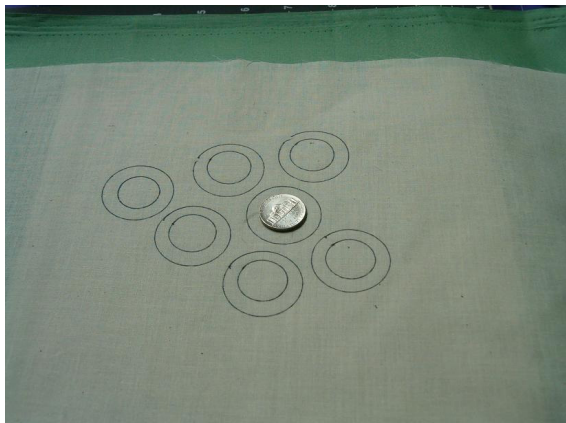
2” square of thin cardboard for backing board



Note: I like working in a hoop; so I used a FQ of light green fabric to do my buttons on because it fit in my hoop. Lesson learned...it is better to use a small hoop, and fabric to match the bead color. So, I have to get a smaller circular hoop to do these...but here is the tutorial with all my lesson-learned too... :)

Directions:

Layer the muslin, interfacing, and fabric. Place into an embroidery hoop so the layers are together and the surface is smooth.



Draw a circle on the muslin. If you want to do multiple buttons, draw several. This circle will be the size of the finished button top...make it at least the size of a NICKLE.

Draw a second circle around the first; this will be the cutting line . The second line should be at least 1/2 inch away from the first. (I make mine 1/4 and

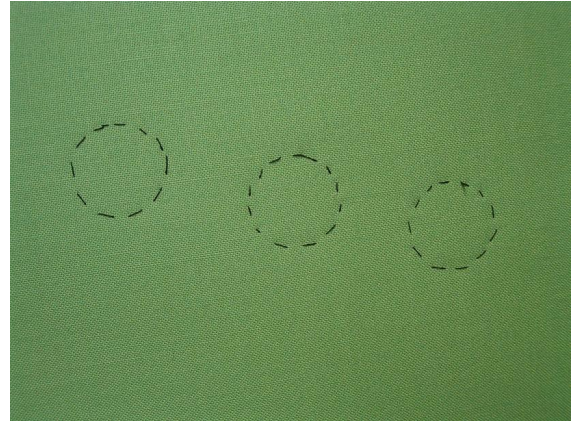
it was too tight...so the first button was not usable).

Baste the first circle. This is so you can see the stitching area on the front of the fabrics.

Note: You can also pin on the back, and use these “metal guides” on the front to pencil in the same nickel size circle on the front, as on the back.

Stitch beads securely to the front.

These can be free hand or you can draw a stitching pattern on the front.



Cut out the button shape through all layers using the largest circle as the cutting guide. Carefully separate the layers and trim the interfacing close to the inner circle so the bulk will be reduced for gathering. Stitch a running stitch around the button shape, about 1/8 from the edge...and through both the top and muslin layers of fabric.



Cut a nickel shape circle from the thin cardboard (I used a cereal box) and the thin batting.



Pull the cotton ball apart so that only a small portion is used. Layer the cotton ball, the batting, and the cardboard over the back of the button.

Pull the gathering thread tightly to bring the fabric to the back of the button. Anchor with several stitches and knot off.





The button is almost done.

Now is the time to add the piece of felt/fabric to the back. This is stitched down with a blanket stitch or a ladder stitch.

Look over the button and add any extra beads to 'fill in' any holes that might have appeared during the construction phase.

Extra beads can also be added around the outside of the button at this time.

These beads help to hide the side and back of the button.



Make sure that any beads, crystals, charms, etc are stitched very securely. Once the button is completed, it is not possible to "repair" any loose threads.



If you want to do more beading, or just need a refresher in how to secure beads...visit these websites and check out their free tutorials.

www.beadseast.com

www.beadpatterncentral.com