

Explorations in Bead Embroidery: Intermediate & Advanced Bead Embroidery Techniques

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Supply List:

- A base(s) onto which you'll stitch beads. This could be as simple as a fabric sampler base (no larger than about 18" in each direction) or a set of fabric pages/panels between 4" and 8" on a side. You will want your base(s) to be stable enough to handle some heavy beadwork, so I recommend layering cotton or linen fabric with quilt batting, craft felt, or a thick interfacing like Peltex. You could also stitch on handmade wool felt or upholstery fabric. Just make sure that whatever base(s) you choose can be easily stitched through by hand.
- 1+ spool of beading thread in a neutral color such as grey or beige. If you want to bring several colors, you can harmonize those with your fabric base(s) and bring several values (e.g. lighter and darker). I recommend K.O. or One-G thread brands.
- Beading needles in whatever length is most comfortable for you in sizes #10 - #13 (several of each of sizes 10, 11, 12, and 13 – John James, Tulip, and Pony are all good brands).
- Seed beads: 3+ colors each of seed beads in sizes 6, 8, 11, and 15 (make sure at least some are matte finish and opaque). More colors are even better. Have these harmonize with one another and with your fabric base(s).
- Novelty beads: bring a wide variety of non-traditional beads such as sets of pressed glass leaves, flowers, spheres, and other shapes; freshwater pearls; stone chips; some 4-hole buttons and shank buttons; some larger novelty beads; bugle beads in various lengths; and anything else you'd like to explore attaching with beads but aren't sure how to use.
- A small pair of sharp scissors
- A cloth for holding loose beads
- A chalk pencil for marking fabric

If you have trouble finding beads and beading supplies in your area, I recommend shopping online at places like:

Caravanbeads.com

Nirvanabeads.com (wholesale only)

Limabeads.com

Shipwreckbeads.com