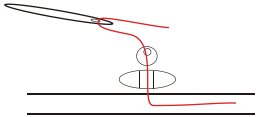


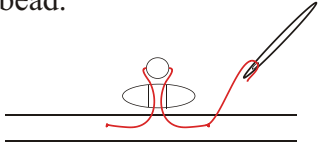
### Stop Beads

Stop beads can be used with sequins, other beads, washers or anything that has a hole in it. You can stack several beads using one stop bead on the top.

Pick up the beads on your needle in “reverse” order, i.e., the bottom bead will be the first you pick up and the stop bead will be the last. Slide them to the surface of your work.

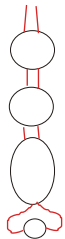


Bring your thread around the stop bead and insert the needle through all of the others below. Insert your needle through the top layer of fabric and move to your next beading location between the layers. Pull your thread taut and the stop bead should roll over, showing the solid side of the stop bead.



### Making fringe

Anchor your thread as above and pick up your fringe beads with your needle, with the bead at the top of the fringe being the first bead and the stop bead being the last. Bring your thread around the stop bead and insert the needle through every bead on the thread.



### Making fringe (cont.)

Hold on to the stop bead loosely with one hand, while pulling on the thread with the other, to gather the beads together. The stop bead should roll over, showing the solid side of the bead on the bottom of the fringe.

Make a small locking stitch by stitching in place. Insert the needle between the layers and move to your next beading spot.

### Couching yarns

We like to couch yarns as part of our quilting using a zig-sag stitch with polyester invisible thread (made by Sulky and Superior) and sometimes decorative threads. You could also couch them by hand with a simple whip stitch or with embroidery stitches. A feather stitch looks great!

You now know the basic embellishing techniques, so go have fun!! And remember, if it’s not embellished, it’s not finished!

Resources for more info on embellishment:

- “Embroidery with Beads” by Angela Thompson
- “Beaded Embellishments” by Amy Clarke and Robin Atkins
- “Beadwork for Fabric Artists” by Larkin Jean Van Horn
- Quilting Arts Magazine

**FREE**

# Guide to the basics of beading and Embellishing

By Betty Blais  
© 2003



15165 SW 100th Ave Tigard, OR 97224  
503-639-9820 or toll free 1-877-639-9820  
sales@embellishmentvillage.com  
www.embellishmentvillage.com

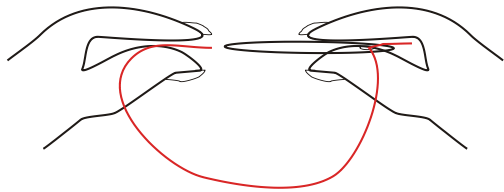
*If it’s not embellished,  
it’s not finished!*

Welcome to *Embellishment Village*. We hope that you will end up loving embellishments as much as we do. It's a fun, easy way to add your own special touch to your projects as well as purchased items. And it goes amazingly fast!

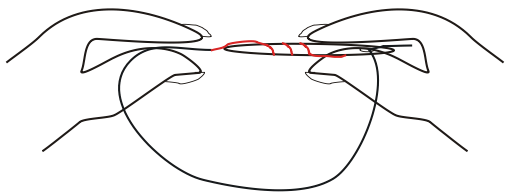
We don't like having knots hanging off of the back of our projects or inside any wearables, so we bury the knots between the layers.

In order to do this, you first need to learn the "quilter's knot", a nice, tidy little knot that easily "pops" between the layers of a quilt or between the lining and front of a vest or jacket.

Thread your needle with the appropriate thread and, holding the needle in your dominant hand, point the tip of the needle at the tail of the thread held in your other hand.



Grasp the end of the thread with the hand holding the needle and wrap the thread around the needle three times with your other hand.



Now, "sew through" the wraps while gently holding them. It's rather like making a french knot in the air. Slide the wraps all the way to the bottom of the thread and you now have a "quilter's knot".

## Thread

Our favorite beading thread is Silamide. To minimize the stretch, cut a 24" piece, grab both ends and yank it about six times until stretching stops.

## Needles

Our favorite beading needles are Soft Touch size 10.

## Getting started

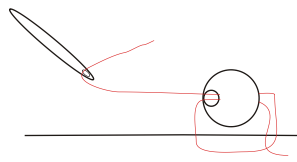
Insert the tip of your needle about 1/2" from where you want to start beading. Slide the needle between the layers of your piece and pull the needle through where you want to start. Pull the thread, "popping" the knot through the fabric. Make a small locking stitch by stitching in place through a couple of threads.

## Basic beading stitches

There are only a few simple stitches you need to know to attach beads and sequins.

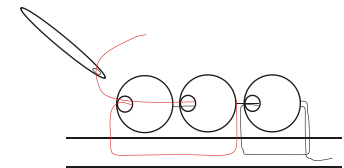
## The beaded backstitch

Pick up the first bead with your needle and slide it to the surface of your work. Insert the needle through the top layer of fabric right at the end of the bead (if you go under the bead, it will turn it hole side up). Sliding the needle between the layers, bring the needle back up where you started and go back through the bead again. Pull thread taut.

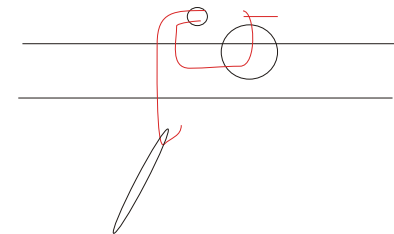


## Beaded backstitch (cont.)

Pick up one to four beads with the tip of your needle (if you are going around a curve, you may need to do it one bead at a time) and slide them to the surface of your work, laying them flat and close together. Insert the needle through the top layer of fabric right at the end of the last bead and, sliding the needle between the layers, bring the needle back up between the first bead and the new string of beads and go back through the string of beads again. Pull thread taut but be careful not to gather.



Stop the line of beads with a single bead and bring the needle to the back of your work at the end of the last bead.



Make a small locking stitch by stitching in place through a couple of threads. Make a quilter's knot and insert your needle a thread away from your locking stitch, slide the needle between the layers of your piece and pull the needle through about 1/2" away. Pull the thread, "popping" the knot through the fabric.