

Bead Embroidery Techniques: Volume Bezels - A Comprehensive Guide for Intricate Beadwork

Welcome to the enthralling realm of bead embroidery, where skillful hands transform shimmering beads into captivating works of art. Among the myriad techniques that adorn this vibrant art form, volume bezels stand out as a captivating choice for adding depth and dimension to your beadwork creations. This comprehensive guide is your passport to mastering volume bezels, unlocking endless possibilities for intricate and eye-catching designs.



Bead Embroidery Techniques - Volume 1 Bezels

by Jamie Cloud Eakin

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Section 1: Understanding Volume Bezels

Definition and Purpose

Volume bezels are three-dimensional beadwork structures that encase gemstones, cabochons, or other embellishments. They add a dramatic focal point to any piece, creating the illusion of a raised or elevated surface. Bezels are commonly used in jewelry making, particularly in pendants, earrings, and brooches.

Types of Volume Bezels

There are numerous types of volume bezels, each offering unique design possibilities:

- **Basic Bezel:** A simple, yet versatile bezel that wraps around the outer edge of the embellishment, creating a clean and polished look.
- **Raised Bezel:** Adds an extra layer of dimension by elevating the embellishment above the surrounding beadwork.
- **Scalloped Bezel:** Features a wavy edge that adds a playful and decorative touch to the design.
- **Fringe Bezel:** Incorporates dangling beads or chains that extend beyond the bezel's edge, creating a dynamic and eye-catching effect.

Section 2: Essential Techniques

Choosing the Right Beads

The choice of beads for volume bezels is crucial to achieving the desired look and durability. Seed beads, with their small size and variety of shapes and colors, are a popular choice for creating intricate patterns and textures. Delica beads, known for their precision cut and uniform shape, are ideal for more complex and geometric designs.

Stitching Methods

Various bead embroidery stitches can be used to construct volume bezels, including:

- **Peyote Stitch:** Creates a dense, three-dimensional fabric that is perfect for raised bezels and fringe.
- **Brick Stitch:** A versatile stitch that offers stability and flexibility, suitable for both basic and scalloped bezels.
- **Right-Angle Weave:** Produces a strong and secure structure, ideal for large and elaborate bezels.

Section 3: Step-by-Step Tutorial

Follow this step-by-step tutorial to create a basic volume bezel:

Materials:

- Size 11 seed beads in two colors
- Size 8 seed beads for edging
- 6mm cabochon
- Beading thread
- Beading needle

Instructions:

1. **Create the Base:** Start by weaving a circular peyote stitch base that is slightly larger than the cabochon.

2. **Attach the Cabochon:** Place the cabochon on the peyote stitch base and use seed beads to secure it around the perimeter.
3. **Build the Bezel:** Continue weaving peyote stitch rows around the cabochon, gradually increasing the height of the bezel.
4. **Create the Edge:** Once the bezel reaches the desired height, switch to size 8 seed beads and create an edging around the top and bottom.
5. **Secure the Thread:** Pass the thread through the last few beads and pull it tight to secure the bezel.

Section 4: Advanced Techniques and Design Tips

Embellishments

Elevate your volume bezels with additional embellishments such as:

- **Rhinestones:** Add sparkle and glamour by incorporating rhinestones or crystals into the bezel design.
- **Charms:** Attach small charms or pendants to the bezel for a touch of personality and movement.
- **Bead Drops:** Suspend bead drops or tassels from the bezel's edge for a delicate and elegant look.

Color Combinations

Experiment with different color combinations to achieve a variety of visual effects:

- **Monochromatic:** Use different shades of a single color to create a sophisticated and cohesive look.

- **Complementary:** Pair colors that are opposite on the color wheel for a vibrant and eye-catching contrast.
- **Analogous:** Combine colors that are adjacent on the color wheel for a harmonious and pleasing effect.

Section 5: Applications and Inspirations

Volume bezels find endless applications in bead embroidery jewelry, including:

- **Pendants:** Create statement necklaces with bold and intricate volume bezels that showcase gemstones.
- **Earrings:** Add a touch of elegance to your earrings with delicate volume bezels that enhance the beauty of small cabochons.
- **Brooches:** Embellish your clothing with eye-catching brooches featuring volume bezels that incorporate unique beading patterns.

Let the vibrant world of volume bezels ignite your creativity and inspire you to create bead embroidery masterpieces that will turn heads. From delicate pendants to bold earrings, the possibilities are limitless. So, gather your beads, thread your needle, and embark on a journey into the captivating realm of bead embroidery.



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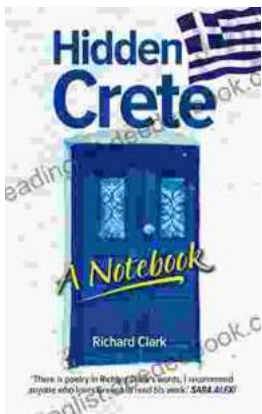
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