Beading of the Month April 2018

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Birds of a Feather Pin

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Finished size: 3-inches by 2-inches
Birds of a Feather Pin

Nancy Eha | Beadcreative.com

The 3 videos listed in the instructions are at my website: www.beadcreative.com/free-videos

Contact me regarding the kit for this project nancyeha@beadcreative.com

Supply List

- Felted wool, four colors for each bird and green for leaves. Hint: Stack wool with a different value under each wool layer to make birds. Do not position wool directly on top of wool with same value. (Also known as folded wool for appliqué). Look at pattern pieces to determine size of wool needed.
- Size 11 bronze seed beads for outlines
- 2mm gold bugle beads
- One black size 6 seed bead and one black size 11 seed bead for eye.
- 5-inch square of Heat and Bond ULTRAHOLD. The only fusible I have found which gives a tight seal between two layers of felted wool, and a beading needle can pass through. Test all others before using!
- Light brown or other neutral Silamide beading thread. Always use double thread on the needle.
- Size 12 sharps needles or size 12 beading needles
- Pin back
- 2-inch piece of white tissue paper
- 1 straight pin
- Mechanical pencil

Contact me about kit availability, all beads, thread, needle, wool, and pin back are in the kit:
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- Always bead with double thread and secure beginning and ending knots.

Directions

Read all directions before starting. Finished size is 3-inches x 2-inches

1. Trace the pattern pieces to the paper side of the fusible web.
2. Cut around the paper pattern pieces leaving an approximate ¼-inch of excess paper.
3. With an iron on medium/hot setting and using a press cloth on top of the paper, press the adhesive side down to the wrong side of the felted wool. Adjust iron heat setting if needed. Watch position if wool is plaid. Leave room on the grey wool for another pattern piece 4 but do not make it now. I am using grey wool for the background. Let fabric cool, be patient!
4. See if the adhesive totally covers the wrong side of the fabric. If not repeat Step 3 and press again where needed. Not only with the adhesive adhere the layers of wool together, but prevent the wool edges from unraveling.
5. With a small sharp scissors cut on the pattern lines, cutting through the paper and the wool.
6. Leave the paper on all of the wool pieces. Position and stack all the wool pieces to gauge where they will be placed, and trim and stray threads. Now separate all wool layers and set aside.
7. Remove the paper only from pattern piece 1. Take pattern piece 1 and position it on pattern piece 2 with the adhesive side down.
8. Leaving the two layers stacked and using a press cloth and warm/hot iron, press and fuse the two layers together.
9. Remove the paper from pattern piece 2.
10. Using a mechanical pencil, trace the coil pattern onto the tissue paper. Pin the tissue paper pattern in place on the wing. Position the pattern so there will be room remaining for the bugle bead accents on the wing as in photo. The straight pin should go through the paper, and both layers of wool.
11. If you need to remove beads, pull on the last beads you put on the wool until you can pull the needle eye first through the wool. Never try to remove beads by back tracking with the point of the needle.

12. See videos Beaded Back Stitch 1 and 2 [www.beadcreative.com/free-videos](http://www.beadcreative.com/free-videos) Using the Beaded Back Stitch with three beads at a time, bead the coil pattern through the tissue paper and two layers of wool.

**Beaded Back Stitch Overview**
Read the following 1-9 steps. Then read the next section Back Stitch Curved Line before you start beading.

- 1. Cut a 1 1/2 - 2 yards length of Silamide thread. Thread the needle and tie the thread tails together in a knot. Use double thread.
- 2. Pass the needle and thread through the fabric to the right side of the fabric.
- 3. Pick up THREE size 11 seed beads on the needle and let the beads fall down the thread to the fabric. Lay the beads on the fabric without excess thread showing between beads or at the ends of the bead line.
- 4. Hold the beads in place on the fabric with the thumb of your non-beading hand, before passing the needle and thread through the fabric.

[Diagram of back stitch]

Making first back stitch

- 5. Pass the needle and thread through the fabric to the wrong side of the fabric at the end of the last bead, Bead 3.
- 6. Pass the needle and thread through the fabric to the right side of the fabric between Bead 1 and Bead 2.
- 7. Without taking another stitch in the fabric, pass the needle through Bead 2 and out of Bead 3. This is important; the thread is not exiting the fabric right now, just Bead 3.
- 8. Repeat Numbers 3-7 with a new increment of three beads.

[Diagram of repeated back stitch]

- 9. Continue with increments of three beads. The beads should be laying flat on the fabric, and you should be making a continuous line of beads, not small lines of three beads each.
**Back Stitch Curved Line**
1. Follow Numbers 3-7 in the section above, except make the line curve by holding each new increment of three beads in place with your non-beading hand’s thumb to direct the curve.

**Creating a Smooth Back Stitch**
- 1. To smooth and straighten a completed bead line, pass the needle and thread to the wrong side of the fabric at the end of the last Bead 3 you added to the bead line. Then pass the needle and thread back to the right side of the fabric at the end of the last Bead 3.
- 2. Pass the needle and thread through all of the beads in the bead line in the reverse order you added them, without passing the needle and thread through the fabric. If you have a longer line of beads than your needle, you can pass the needle and thread through a few beads at a time and then continue with more beads until you are through the first Bead 1 you started with. You can also see this step to smooth the back stitch in the video Back Stitch Part 2.

![Thread passes to create smooth line](image)

- 3. End the back stitch by passing the needle and thread to the wrong side of the fabric and make an ending knot. The beginning knot and ending knot are very near each other on the wrong side of the fabric. You can make any type of secure knot that you know how to make. Use a knot that you would use for sewing on buttons, which is what I mean by a secure knot. Now you can cut off the thread with the needle on it.

13. Remove the paper from pattern piece 3.
14. Position pattern piece 3 on pattern piece 4 with the adhesive side down. See photo for position.
15. Leaving the two layers stacked and using a press cloth and warm/hot iron, press and fuse the two layers together.
16. Remove the paper from pattern piece 2.
17. Position pattern piece 2 on pattern piece 3 and 4 with the adhesive side down. See photo for position.
18. Leaving the two layers stacked and using a press cloth and warm/hot iron, press and fuse the two layers together.
19. Remove the paper from pattern piece 4 in one piece, leaving the paper in place where the leaves will be added later.
21. Using the larger black size 6 seed bead followed by the smaller black size 11 seed bead position and create the eye with the Beaded Stop Stitch.
22. Using the bronze size 11 seed beads and the Back Stitch Curve Line for the remaining continuous Beaded Back Stitch Lines. Refer to the photo for placement. Do not forget to smooth the Back Stitch lines as the last step.
23. Sew down the short gold bugle beads one at a time. Refer to photo for placement.
24. Remove the paper from the green leaves, pattern piece 5.
25. Position pattern piece 5 on pattern piece 4 with the adhesive side down. See photo for position.
26. Put the paper you saved from paper piece 4 back under pattern piece 4 before the next step.
27. Leaving the two layers stacked and using a press cloth and warm/hot iron, press and fuse the two layers together.
28. Sew down the short green bugle beads one at a time. Refer to photo for placement.
29. Using the flower bead followed by a size 11 seed bead, position and create the flower with the Beaded Stop Stitch.
30. Position the beaded bird with the adhesive side down onto the remaining grey wool.
31. Leaving the two layers stacked, lay the beaded side face down on the ironing board. Using a press cloth and warm/hot iron, press and fuse the two layers together.
32. Cut around the fused edge of pattern piece 4 and through the layer of grey wool adhered to it. Look to see all the edges are firmly fused together. If not, use a press cloth and the tip of the warm/hot iron to firmly adhere the two layers together.
33. Using double thread and strong Silamide beading thread, sew the pin back in place.
34. You did a great job! Enjoy your new pin, it is beautiful! I would love to see a photo!
Trace These Patterns for Right Facing Bird as Pink in Photo

2  4

3  1

Trace These Patterns for Left Facing Bird

5