

Fun Fabric Jewelry

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Your sewing and embroidery machines are perfect tools for whipping up a little accessory to wear. Experiment with metallic threads to add extra bling, and wear your hobby with pride.

Embroidered Pendant

Supplies

- Fabric for embroidery
- Backing fabric (felt or UltraSuede)
- Scrap of batting
- Embroidery and bobbin threads
- Stabilizer for embroidery (tear-away or cut-away)
- Illustration board or mat board, 2mm thick
- Craft glue
- Ribbon or cord for hanging
- Scan N Cut SDX225 digital die cutter
- Standard cutting mat
- High-Tack Adhesive Fabric Support Sheet
- Brother Embroidery machine and hoop
- Brother embroidery design (on-camera designs from iBroidery.com: 45016 and 45028)

Preparation

1. Select your design in PES format and save it to a USB stick for transfer to your embroidery machine and die cutter.
2. Stabilize and embroider the fabric for your pendant. Remove the excess stabilizer after embroidering and press the fabric carefully.
3. On the Scan N Cut SDX225:
 - a. Insert the USB stick and touch Retrieve Data; select the embroidery design

- b. Touch the flower icon to select the outline of the design and touch OK. Choose one of the three formats to show the outline of the embroidery design on screen, then touch OK and Set.
 - c. Touch Add>Pattern>Pattern and select the menu of shapes. Choose one to frame your embroidery design; the example uses BA-AO55. Touch Set.
 - d. Use the Scan N Cut menus to center the embroidery design in the framing shape, resizing the shape so there is a margin of $\frac{1}{8}$ " or more all around the embroidery. When the shape is the desired size, select and delete the embroidery design.
4. Attach a piece of illustration or mat board to the standard cutting mat and cut the shape. Remove the shape and excess board from the cutting mat.
 5. On the Scan N Cut screen, edit the shape to resize it, making the new shape about 0.30" smaller than the board cutout. This makes the new shape about $\frac{1}{8}$ " smaller than the board on all sides.
 6. Attach the backing material (UltraSuede, etc.) to a cutting mat with the Fabric Support Sheet in place. Cut out the smaller shape. Remove the shape and excess fabric from the cutting mat.

Assembly

7. Apply craft glue to one face of the illustration-board shape and attach batting to the board. Trim the batting to match the board.
8. Center the batting side of the shape on the wrong side of the embroidery. Use pins to hold the embroidered fabric in place. Trim away the excess fabric $\frac{1}{2}$ " - $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the board shape. Fold the fabric edges over the board and glue.
9. When the glue is dry, glue the backing fabric to the back of the pendant, covering the fabric raw edges.
10. Stitch the cord or other necklace material to the edge of the pendant. If you prefer, include a loop of ribbon between the pendant and backing material, or stitch a metal jump ring to the pendant to suspend it from a chain.

Fabric Beads

Supplies

- Foam hair rollers
- Fabric

- Stabilizer: iron-on interfacing or heavy spray starch
- Embroidery and bobbin threads
- All-Purpose thread for constructing the beads
- Ribbon or cord for stringing
- Purchased beads or spacers with large holes
- Tweezers
- Crochet hook or large-eyed, blunt yarn needle
- Brother machine with decorative stitches

Preparation

1. Stitch parallel lines of decorative stitches at least 3½" long on your choice of stabilized background fabric. Make each group of stitches as wide as the finished bead, and leave at least 1½" between groups.
2. Remove the plastic part from your foam roller. Measure around the foam (circumference) and add ½"; this is the fabric length necessary for your bead. Measure across the widest part of the foam at one end (diameter) and divide by 2; this will give you a general idea of how much fabric to allow at each side of the decorative stitches. The diameter isn't a specific allowance because you'll leave an opening in the center of the gathers (the hole through the bead) and because the edges of the foam will compress slightly as the gathers draw up. I generally cut ½" (including ¼" seam allowances) from the stitches on each side when using standard-size rollers, and recommend making a sample or two with your own materials before cutting the final beads.
3. Trim each group of decorative stitches as determined in step 2. Press ¼" to the wrong side on each long edge.

Assembly

4. Fold the bead fabric in half, right sides together, matching the short ends. Stitch, using a ¼" seam allowance. Press the seam allowances open and turn the tube right side out.
5. Cut the foam roller to the desired width for your bead and stuff the fabric tube. The easiest method is to insert tweezers through the fabric tube, grasp and compress the foam, and pull the foam into the tube.
6. Thread a hand-sewing needle with All-Purpose thread and make a line of running stitches around the tube next to one pressed edge. Draw up the stitches to gather the tube around the end of the foam roller. Repeat to gather the second pressed edge of the tube.

Design Notes

Any decorative stitches can be used for these puffy beads. You can also use machine embroidery designs; go to ibroidery.com and Sudberry House's Machine Cross Stitch catalog to find the designs shown on set (<http://machinecrossstitch.com/jewelry.htm> and <http://machinecrossstitch.com/html/sewmagic.htm>). Another possibility is miniature piecing or sections cut from sample or leftover blocks, or scraps of a fabulous fabric you really love.