

Sherry
Serafini's
SENSATIONAL
BEAD
EMBROIDERY



25
inspiring
jewelry
projects

"Few, if any, people throughout the course of bead history have taken beads to this thrilling new height."

— DIANE FITZGERALD

ROCK STAR CUFF

In this cool design, instead of one focal point, you'll work with many, embellishing with embroidery after capturing each cabochon in a bezel. Let your imagination go wild, and use any color or shape—square, oval, or round—that appeals to you. You can also make this cuff narrower by creating only the middle section.



SUPPLIES

Basics Supplies (page 13)

Focal bead:

Odd- or pear-shaped
labradorite cabochon, no
wider than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (1.9 cm)

6–8 dark mossy green oval
cabochons, 13 x 10 mm

16–20 gold-tone square
cabochons, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (13 mm)

Size 11° cylinder beads:

Color A, black, 5 g

Color B, gold metallic iris, 8 g

Size 15° gold metallic seed
beads, 10 g

140–160 seed and freshwater
pearls, 3–4 mm

20–30 vintage sew-on rhine-
stones, crystals, and nail heads

14 dark gray/black crystal
rounds, 2 mm

Size 11° gold metallic seed
beads, 5 g

Beading foundation, $3\frac{1}{2}$ x 8
inches (8.9 x 20.3 cm)

2 hook-and-eye sets

Suede, $3\frac{1}{2}$ x 8 inches
(8.9 x 20.3 cm)

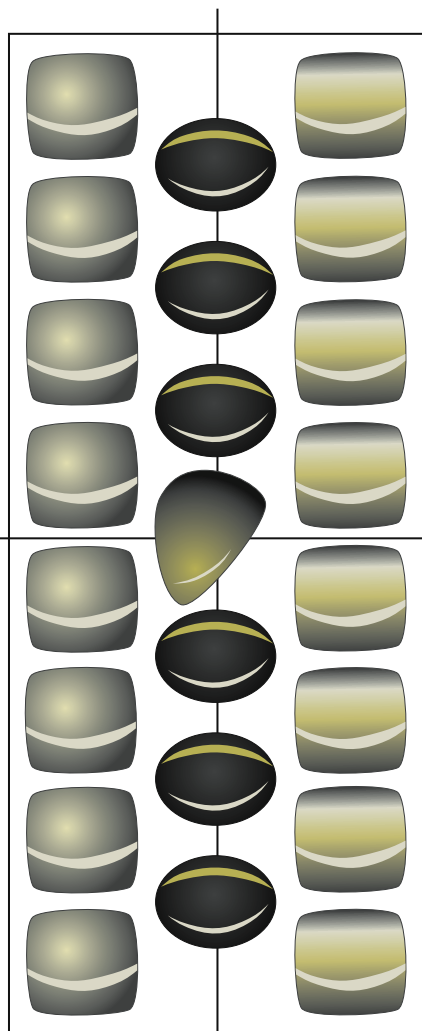


figure 1

► Measure and Design

1 Refer to figure 1 as you do steps 1 and 2. The width of the cuff will be determined by the sizes of the cabochons. Begin by drawing a line horizontally and one vertically through the center of the beading foundation. Place your focal bead at the intersection, and then put the oval cabochons across the longer line, leaving a 1/8-inch (3 mm) space between them and on both sides of the focal bead. Draw around them so you know where they'll be glued.

2 Place a row of square cabochons on both sides of the center row, leaving a 1/8-inch (3 mm) space between them and the center cabochons and between each other, and trace them onto the foundation. Remove the cabochons from the beading foundation and measure an extra 1/8 inch (3 mm) from the outer cabochons, then draw lines indicating the long edges of the cuff.

3 To determine the length, wrap the piece of beading foundation around your wrist and make marks where one

end meets the other. Subtract 1/4 inch (6 mm) for the hook-and-eye closures, and draw lines perpendicular to the edges drawn in the previous step, to indicate the cuff ends. Glue all the cabochons into place with industrial-strength adhesive and allow the glue to dry.

► Embroider

1 Thread a needle with 1 yard (91.4 cm) of thread and tie a knot. Start at one end of the cuff with A cylinder beads and backstitch, one cabochon at a time, attaching an even number of beads around all the cabochons in the middle row.

2 Work 2 rounds of peyote stitch with the same cylinder beads off the backstitched rounds, to form bezels around the cabochons. When the bezel starts to flare out, stitch a final row with 15's to close up around the cabochon. Repeat for every cabochon.

3 Repeat steps 1 and 2 with the square cabochons, using B cylinder beads and the same 15's.

4 When all the cabochons are completely bezeled, randomly backstitch embellishments of pearls and vintage beads in the spaces between the cabochons.

5 Backstitch one 2-mm crystal in each space between the square cabochons along the outer edges.

► Finish

1 Carefully cut the foundation flush against the beadwork.

2 Stitch the hook and eye closures to the underside of the beadwork at the ends, making sure they aligned on each side.

3 Attach the suede to the back of the beadwork with white glue. Once the glue is dry, trim the suede flush to the foundation.

4 Stitch single-bead edging with 11's all the way around the cuff. When the first edge bead meets the last, weave the needle and thread through the beadwork, tie off several small knots, and clip close.



Sherry Serafini

Crystal Eyes, 2007

22.9 x 15.2 cm

Assorted beads; embroidered

PHOTO BY LARRY SANDERS

BASIC SUPPLIES

In addition to the project-specific materials listed on the previous pages, there are some things you should keep on hand for all of your embroidery projects. Each project has a list of the things you'll need, and the heading Basic Supplies means the items below. Descriptions of these appear on the next few pages.

Needles

Thread

Scissors

Thread Burner

Adhesives

Toothpicks and Dowels

Plain White Paper

Ruler

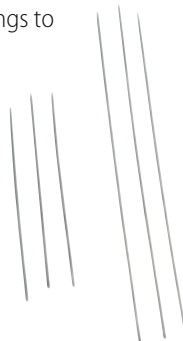
Markers

Task Lamp

Needles

I use sizes 10, 11, and 13 longs to work with a wide variety of beads. Sometimes switching needles in the middle of a project is imperative; a freshwater pearl may have a hole that won't accommodate the larger needle I've been working with.

Never force a needle through a bead, because it might break the bead.



Thread

There are many wonderful beading threads available and I usually tell my students to choose their favorite. For embroidery I use nylon thread, and my preference is Nymo B (lighter) for the smallest beads or D (heavier) for larger beads. I sometimes use a heavier weight braided beading thread called Fireline that was originally developed for fishing. It has become a favorite of beaders, especially when backstitching crystals or beads with sharp edges that may fray nylon beading thread. Use your favorite threads and pay more attention to the color than the brand. If you plan to back a piece with suede, it's very important to match the thread color to the suede.



Scissors

You *have* to have good scissors! Dedicate a small sharp pair to your beadwork and your beadwork only, to use for cutting and snipping nylon thread. Using this pair on other items such as paper or braided beading thread will ruin it—don't do it. Buy a separate pair of inexpensive craft scissors for cutting braided beading thread, and another for paper.

