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Marlene Blessing shows how to add bezels to a denim cuff by gluing and stitching with silk cord.

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Please see page 2 for project instructions.



Guest:



Marlene Blessing

Beads, Baubles, & Jewels: Series 1400



MARLENE BLESSING:

Silk Cord Bezels

Soft, silky bezels for cabochons are as easy as “coil + stitch.” Just use silk cording (also called silk “strings”) to wind around your cabochons, sewing with a simple whipstitch to build up several layers.

TECHNIQUES: Sewing, glueing, sanding

TOOLS & MATERIALS

- 1 or more lampwork cabochon (about ½" diameter)
- 1 fabric wristband (handmade or purchased)
- 40" piece of silk cord (you may need more for additional bezels)
- Silk or cotton sewing thread
- Sewing needle
- Embroidery scissors
- Tailor's chalk pencil
- E 6000 industrial-strength glue
- Toothpick or thin bamboo skewer (to apply glue)
- Superfine sandpaper

1. Place your cabochon(s) onto the wristband and mark placement with a tailor's chalk pencil. (If you plan to place more than one cabochon, it's a good idea to check placement by putting the band on your wrist. Also, you'll need to ensure there is at least ½" between each cabochon to allow room for the bezels).
2. Gently sand the back of the cabochon so that the glue will adhere well; wipe with a dry cloth until clean. Apply glue onto the back of the cabochon with a toothpick, ensuring that you have covered it well. Press onto the placement you've marked on the fabric wristband. Let dry for several hours.
3. Place one end of the silk cord next to the cabochon and secure with a whipstitch. Using a contrast color for your thread gives this some extra punch, but you may want to stick to a matching thread if you don't want the stitches to be as noticeable.
4. Continue coiling and whipstitching until you have a layered bezel that fits your cabochon. Be sure that your stitches are even and that you coil the silk tightly. For the cabochon specified in the Materials list, 3 coils is just right. When you come to the end of your coiling, you'll need to cut the cord and tuck that end under so you can stitch over it.

RESOURCES:

Silk cord: Silk Painting Is Fun. Lampwork cabochon: Robert Jennik.