

Beaded Object Class

Unit 1

Patterns and Foundation

Video Link for taping a pattern <https://youtu.be/Idqt2tAHMFw>
Video Link for sewing the foundation <https://youtu.be/8rDu4Wk233U>

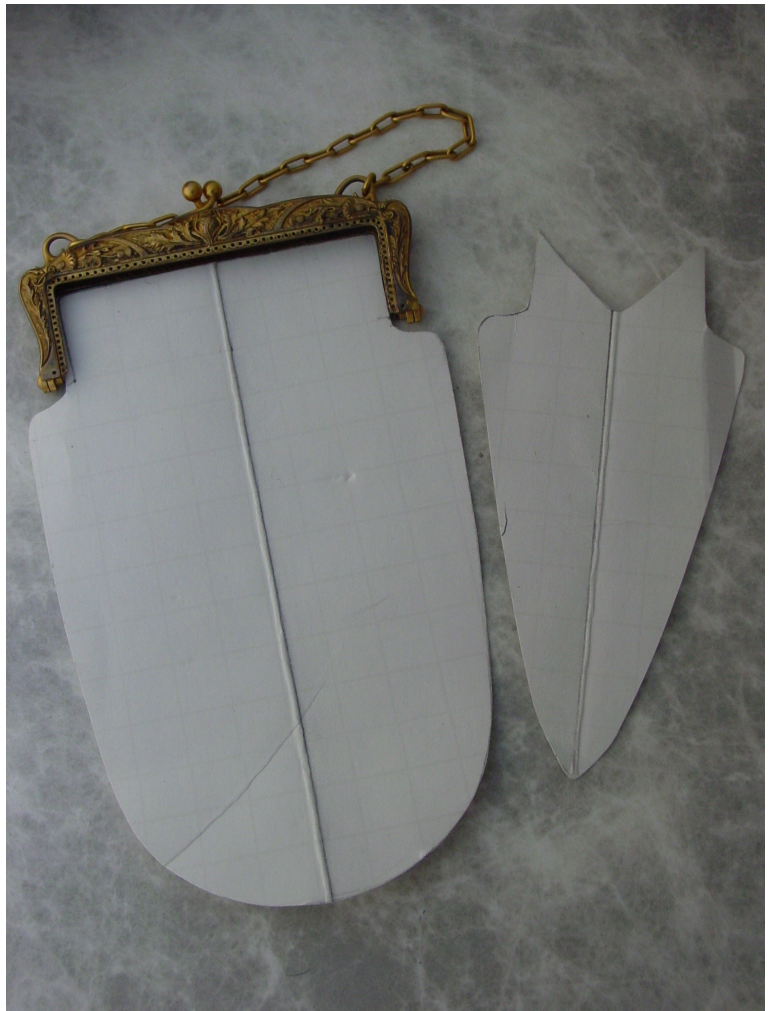
Making A Pattern

MAKING A PATTERN

No matter what object you have in front of you to bead embroider, the first challenge is to make a pattern. One thing to think about is, how much of your object will be covered in beads. Are there certain parts of the object that would be impossible to cover using bead embroidery techniques, but perhaps bead weaving or epoxy clay might work?

Flat objects to make a pattern are easiest. A piece of paper is all you will need to make this pattern. Paper with guide lines helps make things balanced and symmetrical.

The photo on the right, shows an example of making a pattern using an old vintage purse frame. Will the front of the purse be the only area beaded? Will it be lined? Will you be adding a section as shown in the photograph, that allows for the purse to have more room, rather than sewn flat.



Curved objects are a bit more challenging. I have found that using masking tape to make a pattern works great on a curved object. The photograph to the right shows masking the top of a VW Bug toy.

Use 2 -3 layers of tape. If you can use the straight edge of the tape along an edge that is straight. In the VW example the straight edge is on either side of the roof.

You can use a utility knife to cut off the excess tape, but keep in mind it might cut into your object. Or use a fine tip marker to mark your lines, pull off, and cut with scissors.

You now have a perfect pattern to use for your foundation. The tape sticks nicely to your foundation, and can be trimmed easily. You may need to cut a few darts in your pattern to allow them to lay flat on your suede.

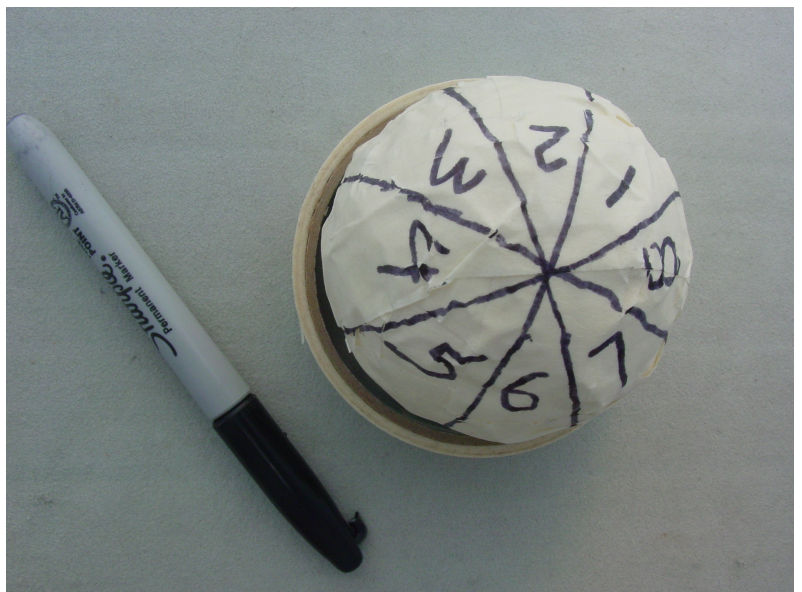
It's a good idea to mark your tape with numbers and or top and bottom so you know how to fit them back together once they are transferred to the suede.

Round objects are also tricky to figure out. I know there is probably some mathematical way to figure out how to flatten a ball.

When I made my first sphere, I used a 6" foam ball from the craft store. I looked and looked at this sphere trying to figure out how to make a pattern.

I used masking tape and taped the foam ball. I then sectioned the ball with string, and marked them. No two section were the same size. I suppose if I was patient I could have figured out how to make them all the same. If I were to do it again today, I would use rubber bands to make my lines, rather than string.

Using a utility knife I cut the taped sections on the ball, and peeled them off. I also marked and numbered the sections so they would line up, when I put it back together



Picking A Foundation

Ultra suede makes a great foundation if you need flexibility, such as a curved or rounded object. It also works great for purses because it is soft and has a nice look if you aren't covering the whole surface with beads. If you are working on an animal or doll, I would think ultra suede would be your best choice.

Lacy's Stiff Stuff is another foundation many beader's prefer for bead embroidery. It is a felt like foundation and a bit stiffer than ultra suede. This would be a good foundation for a box, or something flat and not needing to bend or stretch.

I have found that using a black foundation makes the mistakes go away. The black background has a way of making everything blend together. Of course this will depend on the color of your object.

Pattern To The Foundation

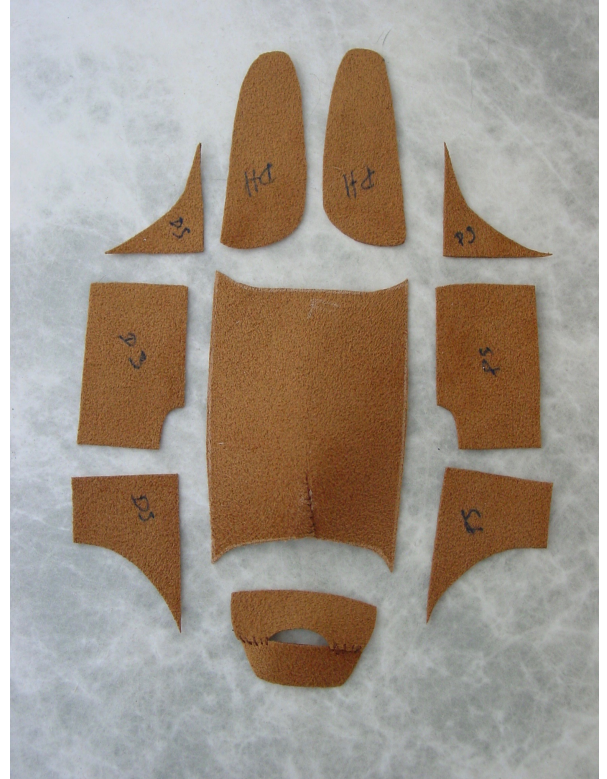
If you have a paper pattern, use a gel pen or fine tip marker, transfer the patterns to the foundation, also mark what they are so you know the placement of the piece. If you have a masking tape pattern, you can stick the tape right to your foundation and trim around it. Make sure and transfer any numbers or top, and bottom onto your foundation. Using the VW as an example, I wanted to know which pattern was for the drivers door as opposed to the passenger side, the hood as well.

If you have a pattern that is curved and doesn't lay flat on the foundation, you may need to cut a slit in the tape and make a dart. This allows the tape to lay flat, you will stitch the dart back together, once your foundation is cut.

I would also keep your patterns true to size or a bit larger only where you won't be sewing them back together. Things seem to shrink once you start sewing beads to them, but the ultra suede has some stretch to it. You can always trim away excess foundation if needed.

When transferring the sections to the suede, I numbered the sections. You want them to line up the same way you cut them.

If you are transferring a pattern on something like a tea pot, or something symmetrical, you may only need to make one pattern. the left side will be opposite the right. So you can flip the pattern as they are the same size but just opposite.



Sewing the Foundation

If making a sphere, tea pot, odd shaped object with curves, you may need to stitch some of the sections back together. This process also allows you to see how the sections are going to lay upon your object, and in what order they will be reassembled. When stitching the pieces back together use small stitches, so your seams aren't large and bulky. You can carefully pull the seams apart so they lay flatter. Also make sure you have good knots on the ends.

Don't sew all the parts back together, as it is easier to work on sampler parts than a bulky one. Also once you reassemble the pieces back onto the object, you will want them to go back in sections, or they may not fit back together, especially around a handle, spout, or leg.

Take into consideration that once you start to add components on to your foundation it will become smaller. The stitching of the beads has a way of shrinking and pulling the foundation. Not to worry I feel they work better when a bit snug rather than loose, just something to be aware of.

