

Beading INSPIRATION!

These photos are a result of web searches. The CQ Blocks are from *CQ Magazine Online*; and the hummingbird is from the most recent *Inspirations Magazine*. All others are from various commercial sources.

Try searching for bead embroidery or bead crazy quilt for more inspiration!





These are some basic types of beads I buy for Crazy Quilting or embellishing Quilt Projects. I love to look at all the examples available on the internet of beautiful beaded embroidery. These are a result of that inspiration...and I hope they help you look at beads differently too. Beads can be a great embellishment tool...if secured tightly to the project.

LEAVES

Obviously they can be used as a leaf. But, they also make good wings. The ones on the left and middle (blue and copper) were purchased at Walmart...on clearance! The ones on the right...are some of the beads from Joy110's wonderful bead buy-in.



The dragonfly in the middle is just an idea of how the beads can be put together to make a dragonfly. (I know it's pretty sorry...but I didn't have much time)

The others are purchased. The pink/purple one is from the craft section at Walmart; the tiny one is from the charms section at Hobby Lobby, and the bottom teal ones are buttons from Walmart. None were very expensive.

One important thing about leaves is to make sure that you get some that are pretty uniform...so the left and right will appear to "match". Also, I buy my wings before any other bead in the dragonfly...because the size of the wings will determine the size of all other parts...and it should balance.

Trust your eyes...if it looks like they go together, then they'll probably be okay in size.



ELONGATED



LEFT: Elongated beads make great dragonfly wings. These are tiny, so they'll be baby dragonflies (some of Joy's swap)

RIGHT: The pear shape makes good wings for bumble bees. They can also be used like a teardrop if they are flat enough to lay well on the fabric. And, elongated hearts work well for wasp wings.

PEAR



CONE



LEFT: The cone shaped bead is sometimes thought of as pear shaped...but they are really not. They are difficult to do CQ with (IMHO) because they do not lay flat on the fabric. They can be used for dottie doll legs however.

RIGHT TOP: These cone shaped are actually pretty small, and would be okay for baby spiders. Because they are so small (photo is enlarged) they appear to be flatter than they really are.



TEARDROP

RIGHT: The teardrop is one of my favorite beads. It is used for flower petals, bee wings, and dragonfly wings. However, it is best (IMHO) as the butt (thorax) of the spider. They are almost flat on one side, so lay nicely against the fabric; and come in a variety of shapes and colors. All of these pictured came from Walmart. Some are faceted and some are smooth.



Spiders have a center body, two tiny eyes, and a large teardrop shaped thorax. The colors don't have to match between the center and butt...legs should be stitched coming from the body...not from the butt.

SEED OR PERLES



ABOVE: The seed bead is probably the most used of all of the beads. It is very small and can be stitched in a row to make a straight line, or in a circle to make a flower, or at random to fill in a space. The larger size seed beads are called perles.

These are good to buy at Hobby Lobby or Walmart when they are on sale. Some websites also carry them in bulk quantity.

Seed beads are made by cutting a long narrow tube of glass into smaller sections. These are tumbled to smooth out the edges. They come in a large variety of colors; and you can't go wrong in having lots of them on hand..





The dottie doll on the left has only seed beads on the body, while the dottie on the right has seed, bugle, and some specialty beads. Specialty beads (from beaded fringe that was dismantled) are used for the legs.

BUGLE:

BELOW LEFT: Bugle beads are cylinder shaped. They can be short or long in length, and come in a wide range of colors. When stitching bugle beads, it is critical to put a seed bead before and after a group of these beads. Unlike seed beads, bugle beads have not been tumbled after being cut from the glass pipe and have sharp edges. Over time, these edges cut through the thread used to stitch them down...and the seed beads prevent this from happening.

BELOW RIGHT: Bugle and seed beads are sometimes sold with a mix of larger beads, and called Bead Soup. This is handy because you get a variety of sizes in the same color family.



SPECIALITY BEADS

These include animals, shells, hearts, flowers, etc. Typically, these are used to convey a "theme".

They look really neat when used with pearl or antique type buttons; or sea shells.



ORGANIZATION:

These are my bead containers (so far). Anything that has a tight lid will do. These lazy susan type came from www.collectionsetc.com.

They are not in the catalog, but are on the website.

