



TUTORIAL FOR BEAD EMBROIDERED BUZZY THE BEE KEY RING CHARM OR BROOCH

Materials:

Beading foundation : Lacey's Stiff Stuff, stiff felt or similar (I used white stiff felt)

This design uses size 11/0 beads

Approx 3g size 11 beads - Black (colour A)

Approx 0.5g size 11 beads - White (colour B)

Approx 1g size 11 beads - Yellow (colour C)
(I used Toho 9F)

Approx 2g size 11 Crystal AB (colour D) **or**
Approx 70 3x2mm white crystal rondelles for the wings

Approx 0.5g size 15 beads-Hematite (colour D)

2 beads - red for tongue

1 x 4mm black Fire-polish Crystals for the eye

Brooch back finding 1" / 25mm or glue on bail

2 gold tone Ball End head pins about 2"/50mm
(for the antennae)

Piece of card/plastic for stiffening

Piece of leatherette or ultrasuede for backing

E6000 glue

Needle and thread of your choice - Beading thread to match the colour of the beads used at each stage. Fireline works well also. Use smoke for the black beads and crystal for the yellow and white beads

Optional - Yellow Sharpie or Gel pens to colour in the beading foundation

Template:

Print off and cut out the template. I have indicated its size. Printed from this sheet on A4 paper should give the correct size.

4.5 cm / 1.75 inch approx across

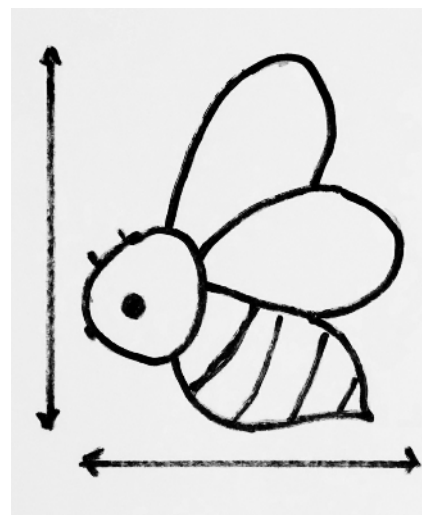


Note: This is a beginner friendly tutorial as I have only used a few stitches namely:

Back stitch

Blanket Stitch aka Brick Stitch with beads
(for the edging)

5 cm
/ 2 inch
approx
high



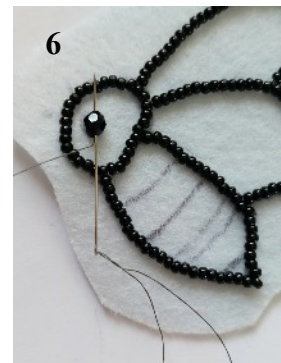
1) Use the cut out template to mark the design on your foundation, starting from the outer edge. You can then cut the template further to create the inner lines, or draw them free hand, whichever you prefer. Don't worry if your design isn't exactly the same, my two were slightly different, as are bees in real life.

Use a pen that will eventually blend in to your background. Colour in the eye and mark where the stripes on the body will be

2- 5) First we need to do the edging for the head and the wings, using black beads (col A). We use back stitch throughout. I usually add the beads in groups of 3 as this makes for a more easily controlled outline. Also after completing a section, I always take my thread through all the beads again to straighten and tighten them up. You can start beading wherever you feel comfortable. The pictures show the order in which I added the beads.



6) Next we stitch on the 4 mm Fire-polish bead for the eye, securely in the direction shown by the needle in the picture



7 - 9) We now start beading the bee's head using white beads (col B). Add a row of beads around the eye crystal, making sure it is snug around the crystal. Add more rows around this first row to fill up the head area. You may also need to add a couple of short rows to fill any space remaining.

I then coloured in the areas of the body that will be beaded with yellow (col C) beads. You can omit this step if you wish, but I find this helps to disguise any small gaps between the yellow beads.



10 - 14) Next we add the beads for the body, alternating 2 or 3 rows of yellow (col C) beads with single rows of black (col A) beads, until you fill the area, but ending with black (col A) beads.



Then we will add beads for the wings. This can be done either with Crystal AB Beads (col D) or for a more sparkly effect, using small rondelle crystals. The method is the same, although the version with crystals needs fewer rows to fill the wing area.

15 - 18) For the seed bead version, add beads in groups of three, using back stitch, starting close to the edging of one wing. Once that row has been completed, add further rows, as shown, until you fill the wing areas. Always pass the needle and thread back through each row as you complete it.



19 - 20) For the crystal bead version, add beads in groups of two only, using back stitch, starting close to the edging of one wing. Once that row has been completed, add more rows until you fill the wing areas. Always pass the needle and thread back through each row as you complete it. As the holes in crystals are larger, I did this several times for each row, to snug the crystal beads together.

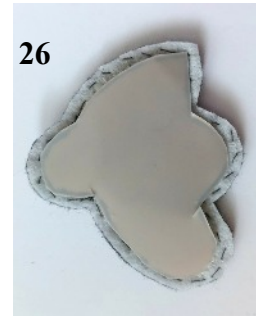
The main beading is now completed.



21 - 23) Trim close to your edging, leaving enough space for the final stitching, but making sure not to snip any of the working threads. I then like to colour in the cut edges with a black sharpie, but you can omit this step if you prefer.

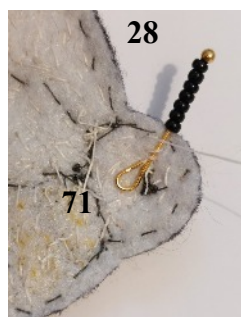


24 - 26) Next we prepare the stabilising piece. Draw around your bee onto a piece of scrap card (I often use plastic from food packaging, cereal packets or other stiff card - for this I used plastic). Then draw a line approx 4mm / 1/8th inch inside the outline you have drawn and cut out. Check this against the back of your piece and take off any extra you need to.



We need to ensure that this leaves enough of a gap for our stitching. The purpose of the card/plastic is to stabilise and firm up your piece. Put this aside for now.

27 - 30) Next we need to add the antennae. Using Ball end head pins, add 6 black (col A) beads to one head pin, and 7 black beads to the other pin. Turn a loop at the end of the head pin so that the beads will have space before the loop, as we will use this to stitch them on. Place the 7 bead antenna where you would like it to be, with the beads sitting on the cut edge of the foundation. Sew over the headpin as many times as you can but making sure that your needle and thread exits on the right side of the bee between beads. Go back through to the back avoiding allowing your thread to go over any of the beads. Pull gently. Continue until the headpin is securely sewn on. Add the other antenna in the same way, lower than the first antenna. You can then bend the antennae slightly, as desired.



31) If you are making your bee as a charm, for a keyring etc, glue a glue-on bail to the back of the foundation as shown. Put aside for a while for the glue to dry and set.

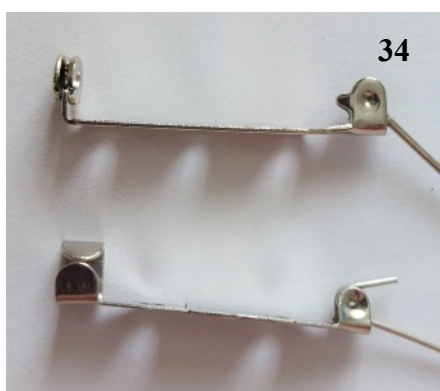


32) Add the Stabiliser: Then for all versions, glue the stabiliser onto the foundation, making sure that the glue does not go outside the area of the stabiliser.

Allow to dry. You may want to trim the stabiliser around the bail before gluing, if you added one.



33- 34) For the brooch, we can now add the brooch finding. There are generally 2 types of brooch findings available : those with a safety catch and those without, see pictures 33/34 Both work equally well so it is a matter of preference which one you choose to use. Whichever type you use make sure that the section that holds the pointed end of the pin is to the bottom and try to centre it vertically and in the middle of the back of your piece. Apply the glue to the back of the finding. Allow to dry for several hours before proceeding.



Once dry, we need to add our chosen backing.

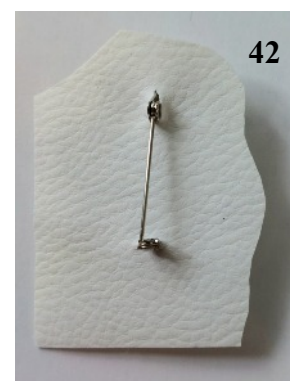
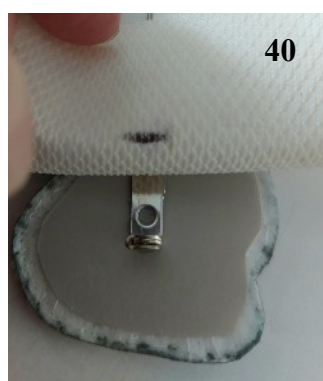
For the Pendant/Charm version, it is simply a matter of gluing on your chosen backing, but make sure that you only add glue to the card/plastic section, otherwise you will find it more difficult to do the final sewing. I have not shown a picture of this. Roughly trim the backing material. Set aside to allow to dry fully, preferably overnight.

33 - 38) For the brooch, open up the finding, position your brooch on your backing, and make a small hole in the backing using the point of the brooch pin. I then make that hole slightly bigger using my bead reamer, to make cutting easier. Where you made the hole in the backing cut a small slit to allow you to push the pin hinge end of the brooch fully through. You may need to rotate the brooch to get it through the hole. Then turn the brooch to make sure that the backing covers all the brooch with overhang on all sides. Smooth the backing down until you reach the other end of the finding, and fold back. Mark where the other end of the finding needs to come through the backing with a pen and and cut a small square, for the type without a safety catch. Poke that end through and close the brooch finding. Roughly trim the backing material, leaving extra all around (we will trim that off later).

Carefully apply glue to the flat metal bar of the brooch finding and press the backing firmly so that it will adhere to the glue. Carefully glue down the rest of the backing and press down firmly. Make sure that you don't get any of the glue too close to the edges of your beading as that will make the final sewing more difficult. Set it aside to allow to dry fully, preferably overnight.



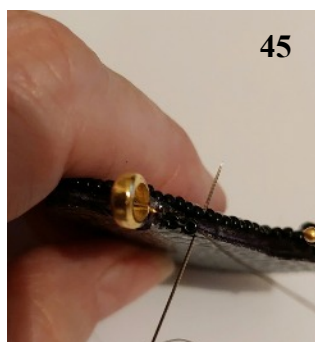
39 - 42) For information: how to use other type of brooch finding, with safety catch. The pin end is the same for either type of brooch finding. Tip for this type is to colour the stabilising piece with a permanent pen, around the catch end. This will stop the colour of your stabilising piece from showing through, should you make your hole a tiny bit too large.



43 – 44) Once fully dry cut all round, close to the cuts you made on your beading - we want the backing to match up to the beading, with no overhang.



45 - 47) Using thread long enough to stitch all around without joins, stitch the backing and the beading together using blanket stitch with beads, aka brick stitch with beads, and black (Col A) beads, making sure that your stitches don't go inside the border created by the edging. Start where the head and the wings join for the brooch and to one side of the bail for the pendant/charm. When you get to where you want to add the "mouth" use 2 red beads, then continue with black beads. At the antennae, add beads as close as possible to the antenna, then carefully wrap the thread below the lowest bead on the antenna, add the next bead(s) and continue. When you have reached back to where you started, do a few extra stitches, without beads, over those already made, then pass your needle and thread through a part of the backing, a little towards the centre of the brooch. Pull tight and cut your thread carefully close to the backing. The little hole will close itself up and not be visible.



Your bee is now complete. For a key ring - add to the key ring finding using a strong jump ring.
I hope you enjoy making them

Tip : Different bead finishes give different results - for the yellow of the body, for the brooch I used opaque beads and for the keyring charm I used transparent AB finish beads.

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*Thank you,
Kind regards
Janet*

