



AWARENESS RIBBONS



By

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A Beaded World



*International Beading Week 2026 theme is Emblems.
Bead a sparkly awareness ribbon brooch to raise awareness of a cause, illness or situation close to your heart. As an added bonus, you're also raising awareness about beading!*

Level: Beginner

Techniques Used: Bead Embroidery

Requirements

Component	Amount
11o seed beads	3g
3mm cup chain	11cm
4mm fire polished beads (or rounds)	18-20
Foundation (eg stiffened felt)	13x2cm
Backing (eg leather, suede, pleather, etc)	12x1cm
Brooch finding	1

You will also need:

- preferred beading needle (I used size 10 in this project)
- thread of choice (fireline or a nylon thread (eg OneG) both work well)
- thread zap or thread cutting scissors
- sharp pointy scissors-to cut fabric
- a pair of scissors you're not emotionally attached to (or wire cutters)-to cut cup chain
- beading mat/surface
- lighting as required
- scrap paper to make template 13x2cm
- E6000 glue
- Ruler



The finished brooch measures 5x3cm.

Step By Step

Step 1

Cut a strip of paper 11cm long and 0.8cm wide. Fold in half and cut a slanted point off the end (about a 45° angle).

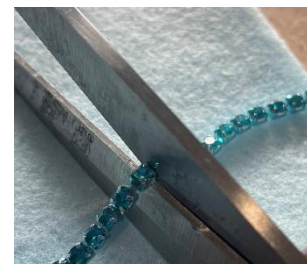
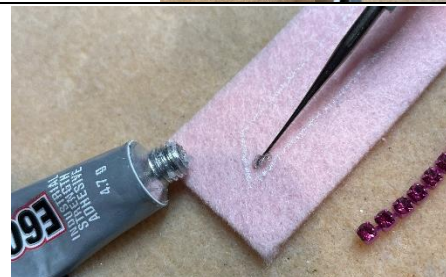
Trace this onto your beading foundation.



Step 2

Spread a thin layer of e6000 along the **long** edge of the template and lay the cupchain over it. Cut it to length—*don't use your good fabric scissors here! You'll wreck them. Alternatively, you can use wire cutters.*

Couch the cupchain down by stitching over the bridge between each stone. Keep your stitches as close to the cupchain as possible so you don't accidentally cut your thread when you cut out your work later.



Step 3

Starting at one end, stitch a Fire Polished (FP) down between the cupchain and edge of the foundation—*note the position:* leave enough room to stitch size 11 seed beads around it, including between the FP and the cupchain.



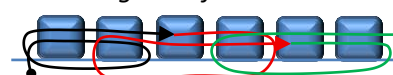
Then use 2-bead backstitch to stitch size 11 seed beads (SB) around the FP. If you go slightly over the edge of the template that's ok.



A QUICK OVERVIEW ON BACKSTITCH: There are several ways to do this. I prefer 2-bead back stitch: Pick up 2 beads and stitch down into the foundation. Go through these again (*black thread*).

Pick up 2 beads and bring them alongside the previous beads. Sew down into the foundation. This time when you bring your needle back up to go back through these beads, bring it up next to the 3rd last bead and go through 3 beads (the 2 just added and the last bead of the previous pair) (*red thread*). Continue picking up 2 and going back 3 until you've finished the row (*green thread*). Then sew into the foundation.

Diagram of 2 bead back



'Pick up 2, go back through 3.'

Step 4

Fill in the small gap at the end of the template with SBs

**Step 5**

Repeat step 3 until you've reach the other end of the strip. Here are some tips:

- Always stitch the FP first, then the SBs.
- Butt the FP right up to the last row of SBs; the existing SBs will surround that end of the new FP. Carry on stitching SBs
- Fill in any gaps with SBs
- Optional: Change the orientation of each FP-I alternated them between horizontal and vertical. This gives it a more organic look



Fill in the gap at the other end of the template with SBs just as you did in step 4

Step 6

Cut out the shape, careful not to cut any threads.

**Step 7**

Position the strip with the short side toward you and the cupchain edge away from you. Cross the ends together so the right end is over the left. The long end-points should be next to each other. This is how the piece will lay in the final construction.

If any gaps appear where the ribbon bends, fill this in with SBs. This will create a permanent bend in the piece; that's ok!

**Step 8**

Stitch the brooch finding to the back of the bottom layer. *TIP: you can glue it down first to help positioning.* Make sure it's not up against one edge or you'll have trouble edging the ribbon later.

Cross the ends of the ribbon again like in step 7 to ensure the pin is positioned correctly, easily accessible to work the mechanism (ie don't stitch it too high), and cannot be seen from the front. Re-do if necessary.



Step 9

Lay your piece on the reverse side of the backing fabric. Mark the two ends of the brooch (ie the clasp and the hinge). Make a **small** hole at these points-*careful not too big; the thread zap can be handy for this job!*

Check the fit over the brooch finding before continuing; adjust the hole size as necessary.

**Step 10**

I recommend doing the following steps in one session as it will be much harder to stitch through multiple layers once the glue is dry.

Glue the backing to the back of the ribbon, poking the ends of the brooch finding through their respective holes. **Ensure the piece is straight.** Due to the beads added in step 6 it will struggle to lay flat; that's ok! Let it dry upside down with the curve, like a turtle on its back.

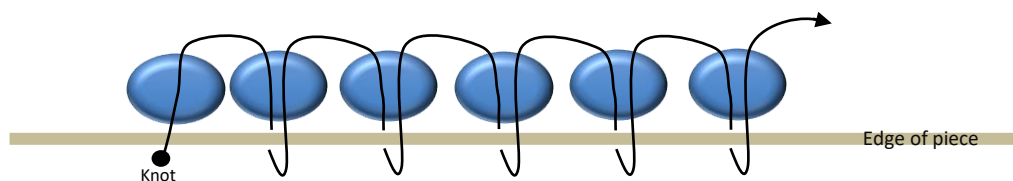
Once dry, carefully cut out the ribbon.

**Step 11**

Edge with SBs using Brick stitch and end your thread.

Need a refresher?**BRICK STITCH EDGING OVERVIEW**

Pick up 2 beads and sew up through the backing into the foundation. Go back through the 2nd bead in the opposite thread direction so the bead sits upright with its hole facing out. Pick up another bead, sew up through the backing and foundation, then back through this bead just as before. Continue in this manner all the way around the piece. When you reach the beginning again, go through the first bead added (instead of picking up a new bead) and complete the stitch like normal so it stands upright like the rest. If you turn your piece on its side you should see the thread along the tops of the bead holes.



Step 12

Cross the ends over like you practiced in step 7. Ensure the tips of both points are level. Using a new short length of thread, stitch both layers together where the edging beads meet so the stitching won't be seen on the back.

*TIP: Stitch on the **inside** of the cupchain on the bottom layer to help hide the stitching or you'll see the thread.*

End your thread. Your pin is ready to be worn!

**Alternate finishing option**

Not a fan of brooches? If you'd prefer to wear this as a pendant, skip adding the brooch back (note: wrangling of holes in backing fabric no longer required), edge and finish as normal. You can either add a bail to the top, or simply loop a cord or chain through the open hole of the ribbon.

I hope you enjoyed this tutorial!

If you have any questions regarding anything about this project or would simply like to share a photo of your finished piece don't hesitate to contact me at abeadedworld@gmail.com



Kits are available in all the main colours for this project. Find them on my website at abeadedworld.com.au



You can find me on social media at A Beaded World-Designs by Meg on Facebook, and @abeadedworld on Instagram. Check out my shop at www.abeadedworld.com.au for tutorials, kits, cabochons, and upcoming classes.

Happy Beading!