

To Bead or Not to Bead — Toolbox Series

Supply List

Thanks for signing up for To Bead or Not to Bead.

No question here: Bead on! Class will cover beading basics, including simple embellishment techniques using a variety of bead styles. We'll discuss different methods of affixing beads and play with the EZGlitzer to add flash and pizzazz. The possibilities are endless.

Required

- Something to put beads on.**
The ideal candidate is a small wall quilt to which you want to add embellishment. If you'd rather learn on a small sample (12" to 15" square), layer a piece of fabric on batting. Baste if you wish, but it's not necessary on a piece that size. Choose a fabric that you like and that has a pattern. Florals are perfect, as are medium- and large-scale prints.
- Beads (with holes)**
Bring a variety of beads to play with. Try to coordinate the bead color with the fabric you're playing with. I recommend buying a variety pack such as "Bead Gravy" or "Bead Soup."
- Thread**
Experts disagree. Bring what you want to use as long as it's not too thick. I have used piecing weight and quilting weight cotton and it's been fine. I will have a variety of other threads for you to try.
- Needles**
I bead with a straw needle. You can also use a good quilting needle. Choose a size you like that will fit through the beads you've chosen. Bring a variety to be on the safe side.
- Something to put the beads in**
Small trays or small, shallow bowls are good. Small containers with lids are best. Look for something flat-ish.
- Small scissors**

Recommended

- Bees wax or Thread Heaven
- Needle threader (I love the Clover tabletop model! It even threads straw needles!)
- Tweezers for picking up errant beads
- Beading Basics: 30 Embellishing Techniques for Quilters* by Mary Stori

If you want to learn to apply hot fix crystals:

- Hot fix crystals (like the Swarovski's upstairs in the Bernina room)
- If you have an EZ Glitzer, bring it. If you think you're going to want to add hot fix crystals to your quilts, I recommend buying one.
- If you buy an EZ Glitzer, you'll also want a stand. I recommend a soldering iron stand, as it will keep your EZ Glitzer out of harm's way while it's hot.