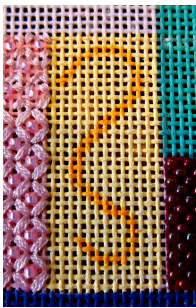


Louise's Needlework

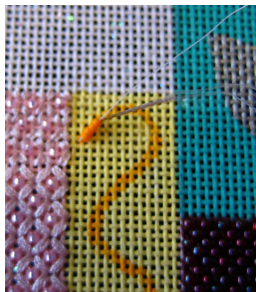
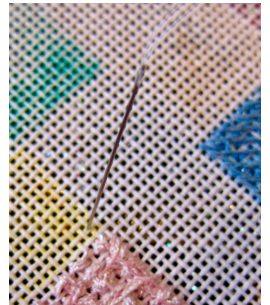
Backstitch Beading Step by Step

Backstitch beading is a technique used in bead embroidery which allows you to make curved lines. Essentially, you are stringing a length of beads and attaching them at intervals to your ground fabric, in our case, needlepoint canvas. Follow the step by step instructions to create smooth curves with beads to embellish your canvas.



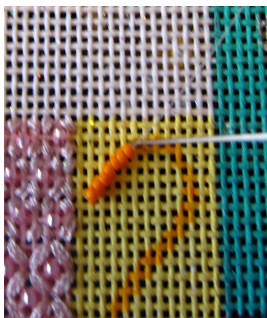
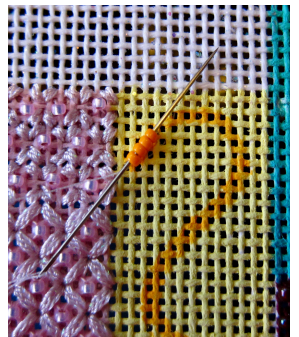
Here is the curve painted onto the canvas.

STEP 1: Use a single length of thread. Begin by tying a small knot in the end of the beading thread. Anchor it on the back of the canvas by piercing a canvas thread.

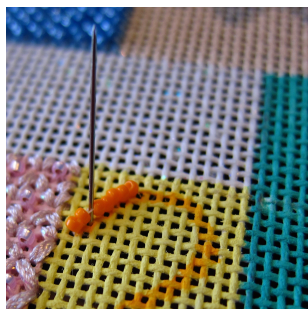


STEP 2: Start by stringing 3-4 beads on the thread. Lay them down on the canvas to determine where to take your needle back down. Do not try to "eyeball" this measurement. If necessary, pierce the canvas thread to maintain a smooth curve.

STEP 3: Bring your needle back up at the beginning of the line of beads and go through all the beads again, exiting at the end of the line.

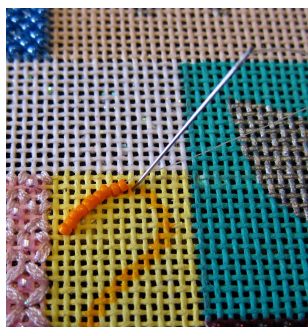
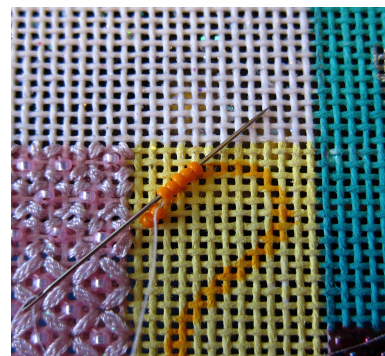


STEP 4: Add another group of beads to the end of the line. Use fewer beads if going around a sharp curve (try for no less than 3 beads) or more beads for a longer line (no more than 5 beads). Again, lay them down on the canvas to determine where to take the needle back down.



STEP 5: Bring your needle back up between the second-to-last and last bead of the original group of beads.

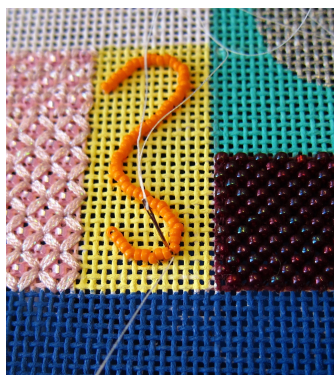
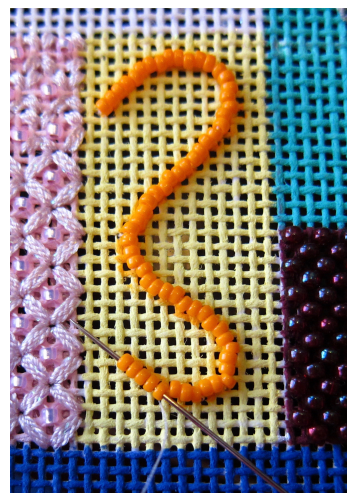
STEP 6: Starting at this point, go through all the beads to the end of the line. This secures the second group of beads to the first group.



STEP 7: Take the needle to the back of the canvas. Pierce a canvas thread if necessary to maintain a smooth curve.

Repeat Steps 5 - 7 to finish working the shaped line. After adding new beads, remember to bring the needle back up between the last two beads of the previous group and run through all the beads to secure them together.

After adding and securing the final group of beads, take your thread back through the last few beads to secure the end to the canvas.



Once you have completed your shaped line, you may wish to take a few couching stitches between beads to further refine the curves.

Directions and Photographs by Diane Snyder
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