

# INTRODUCING CHILDREN TO STITCH

## PROJECT 2: Button and bead brooch

*This project suitable for children 8+ with supervision.*

This simple project uses beads and buttons so it is not suitable for small children. You should be able to do it with minimum equipment - or find witty alternatives. This one takes only an hour for quick learners, or longer if you choose small beads or a bigger diameter brooch.

Your stitchers should be able to sew with a sharp needle.

### NEEDS:

- Small piece of felt (enough to cut two, 40 cm circles)
- Thick Vilene, buckram, or similar.\*
- Strong thread (or double strand of sewing thread).
- A needle that will fit through the buttons and beads you select.
- Small buttons, large beads, sew-on sequins etc (see photo of examples).
- A small safety pin (or brooch fastener if you have one).
- Optional: Vlisofix (see below)

\* it has to be able to be stitched through. If it is a bit floppy at the end, you could glue on cardboard or plastic. It also has to be non fraying which is why I suggest felt for children.

### PROCESS:

#### Step 1:

On a piece of paper, cut a template circle about 40mm diameter.

Using your template cut two pieces of felt, and one of the buckram or Vilene.

Using fabric glue or vlisofix (1) attach one piece of felt to the buckram. This will need to dry. Keep the second felt piece for the backing (Step 3).

#### Step 2:

Select beads and buttons of the stitcher's choice. There is no 'right' combination, this is supposed to be fun. However, if you choose very large buttons, you don't get as many on the brooch.

Thread the needle with a firm knot at the end.

Sew on the largest buttons and beads first. Then fill in with the smaller beads. Make at least two stitches through the beads and three through buttons; so that they stay on.



Here are four examples:



**Step 3:**

When you are happy that the brooch is finished, there will be a mess of threads on the back.



Take the second piece of felt and glue or vlisofix it to the back of the brooch. (2)

**Step 4:**

Using a strong thread or 3 strands, stitch a pin or brooch fastener, firmly on to the back of the brooch.

Pin to your clothes and wear!

**Notes:**

- 1) **Vlisofix** - a fabric bonding material. It is great for this but if you don't have it special fabric glue or even PVA will do.
- 2) If this is a bit flimsy, glue a piece of card or plastic in between the stitched layers and the backing. You will have to be careful about sewing the pin on the back and may need an adult to do this.
- 3) On the blue and the pink brooch examples, I have used a fabric paint called Dimensional fabric paint by Fashion® on the edges. This comes in glittery colours for extra bling.

This project was used for a school holiday programme at Hutt Art for children 8 - 12. Some needed more help than others but all were perfectly able to finish it in the two hours allowed.

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