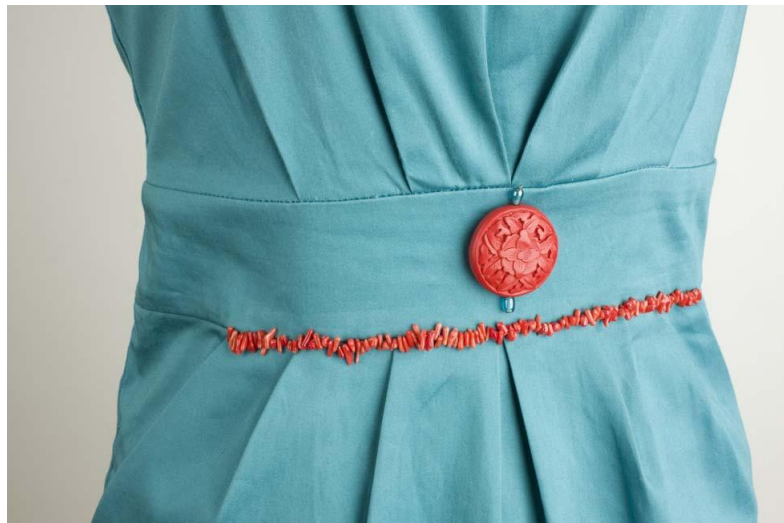**108-2**

Tricia Waddell shows how embellishments and embroidery can update store bought clothes.

Bead Embroidery Basics
By Tricia Waddell, Editor in chief of *Stitch* magazine
Display projects: Store-bought cardigan with sequins and beads added; store-bought knit top with split stitch embroidery and seed beads added; store-bought dress with focal bead and small beads added as a trim
Dress up sewing projects or store-bought items with simple bead embroidery. Use these bead embroidery techniques for securing beads to fabric.

Backstitch

Use this technique to secure beads on fabric for both line and fill-in patterns.

1. Bring the needle up, strong on 3 to 5 beads, lay them on the fabric and snug them up to eliminate gaps. Take the needle back down into the fabric. Try to take the needle down perpendicular to the fabric, or the end of the beads may bow out.
2. Bring the needle back up between the second and third beads and take the needle through the third and fourth beads again. Do not go back into the fabric at this point. Instead, pick up 3 to 5 more beads, go back into the fabric, and repeat the backstitching process until the line is complete.

Stacked Sequins and Beads

Use this technique to secure individual sequins with a small seed bead stacked on top. Make sure the size of the bead does not completely obscure the sequin.

1. Bring the needle up through the fabric and string on the sequin and bead.
2. Take the needle back down through the sequin. Pull it up tight so the bead stands up.

General Tips

- Use beading needles and beading thread or silk thread (if using beads with no sharp edges) for bead embroidery. Regular sewing thread will shred and break more easily.
- When beading on readymade garments that don't have a lining, consider adding one to avoid catching things on the exposed threads. Another option is to fuse a featherweight interfacing over the stitches (this also helps to stabilize lightweight and stretch fabrics for beading).

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