



Delicate Beadwork

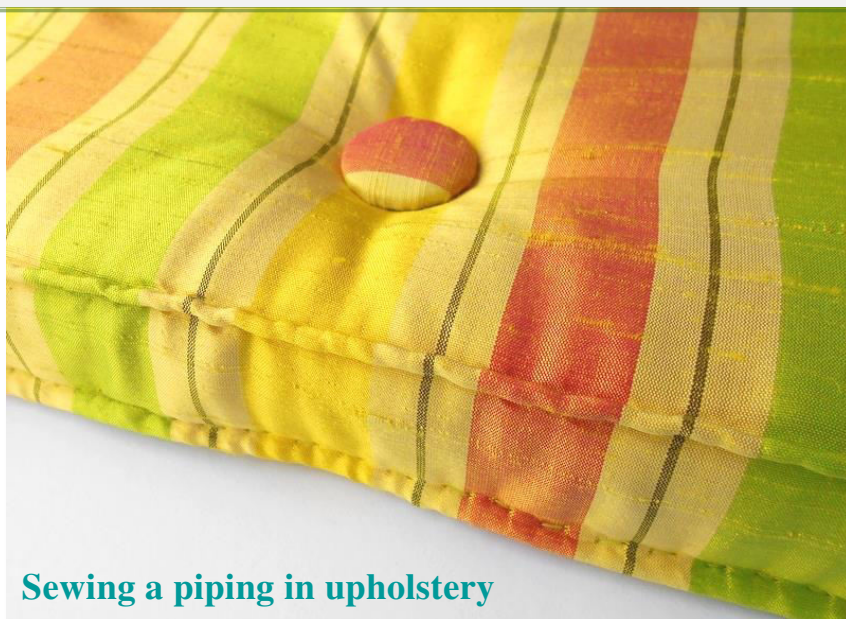


Invisible Sewing



Button Embroidery

## A great solution for many projects – the curved needle



Sewing a piping in upholstery



Curved needles are slender, allowing for easy threading.





## All you need from PONY:

- one pack curved needles containing sizes 4 and 9
- embroidery scissors
- DIY cover buttons. (I chose size 23 mm for the fasteners on my book jacket and on the upholstery but there are others available 12, 14, 17 and 19 mm diam.)

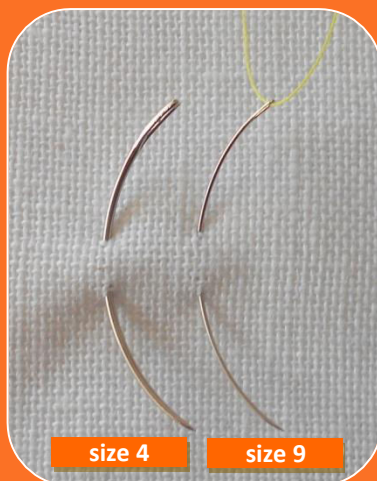


## You also need this:

**For the beaded button:** Different beads of your choice (rocaïlle, opaque, translucent, wooden, Swarovski). I used Rocailles in five different colors and a disc bead in the middle; one self-covered button or cover a PONY button (read manufacturer's information), suitable sewing thread.

**For upholstery:** One foam cushion pad, suitable self-covered buttons, sewing thread.

**For bird:** two different pieces of fabric, polyester batting, two small beads for the eyes, sewing thread.



*Curved needles can access hard to reach places and are ideal for sewing all basic fabrics.*

*To give shape to your project when it isn't possible to hold the fabric over a finger or hand, curved needles can aid intricate manipulation and size 9 can be threaded with beads for embroidery. The size 4 needle is thicker and ideal for intricate upholstery work such as sewing piping.*

*Curved needles are also perfect for sewing together stuffed toy parts.*



Here's how to make a bead embroidered button:



Apply fabric to a DIY cover button or use a ready-made one. Thread needle size 9, knot the end and sew around the button's outer diameter. Thread sufficient Rocailles onto the curved needle to make a perfect ring of beads around the button. Lay the bead ring around the button and stitch in place.



To secure the ring, sew between every two beads using an over stitch to secure the beads around the button edge.

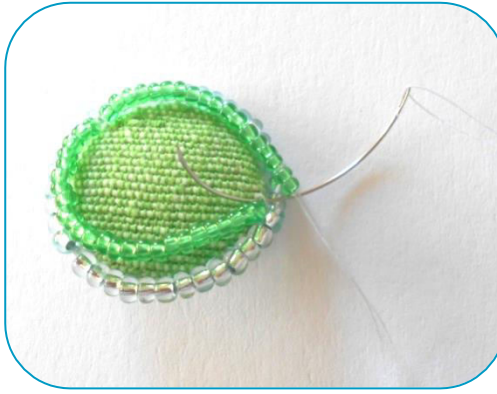
The curved needle makes it easy to create a perfect circle around the button.

Make sure the thread is securely over stitched to finish.

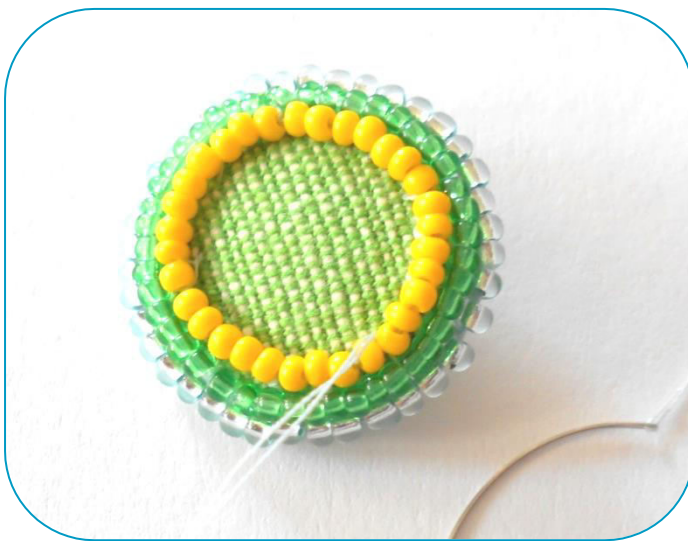
**Button  
with the first  
sewn-on  
circle of  
beads.**







For the second row take up the appropriate number of Rocailles, attaching this ring of beads onto the button as before



Take up the third row of beads, making another ring and attaching it as before. Repeat to create the fourth row.

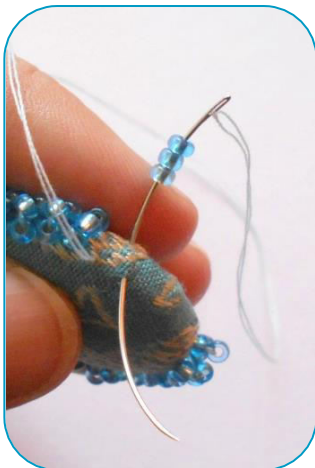
*The curved needle is perfect when space gets tight with little room to maneuver. In this case you are piercing in and out of the beads on a solid and inflexible surface. The curved needle works splendidly.*





**Above:** To finish the project sew on a disc bead with a Rocaille on top.

**Below left:** If you want to cover a button with patterned fabric you might prefer sewing on just one ring of beads. You can use large single beads or Rocailles. Sew the thread on the edge of the button, take up three Rocailles and pierce from bottom to top diagonally into the edge, pull the thread taut. The three Rocailles arrange themselves around the edge so that the middle bead stands upright. Repeat.



**The finished buttons:**

I used the top one as a fastener on a handmade book jacket. The ruffle trim is elasticated. These eye-catching makes can be used into so many different ways. Choose wooden or polished beads or sparkly gemstones to create your favourite style.



This is how to add piping to cushions:



Cover a foam pad in the required size fabric, then, to make it look more appealing, sew a piped edging. Using curved needle size 4, sew through both the fabric and the foam, 3 mm in from the edge on both sides (this will give a piping effect all around the edge). To sew the piped edge, start from left to right and stitch all around the edge then repeat again from right to left to avoid puckering.

Be sure to sew evenly, easing the thread through and smoothing it out every few stitches to form a neat piping. Once the top edge of piping is complete repeat along the bottom edge.



### The finished cushion:

Make cushions in a variety of sizes for chairs, and make larger ones to scatter on the floor (use more substantial foam and fabric for these). They look great embellished with covered buttons, attached with counter-buttons on the underside of the cushion to secure. Sew the upper button tightly so it's well embedded.

Sewing the birdy together using a slip stitch:



Here's my handmade gift tag. I stitched and turned through the bird body and the two wings and stuffed them. The wings are then sewn flat onto the bird. Using the curved size 9 needle makes it easy to sew the inside of the wings to the body.



Curved needles are ideal for reaching those almost inaccessible areas. They are perfect for sewing on components such as arms, legs and wings on stuffed toys.



## Actual-size pattern for a gift tag "Birdy":

Fold fabric in half, right sides together. Cut out 1 x body (2 pieces) and 2x wings (4 pieces) adding a 5mm seam allowance all round. With wrong sides facing out, stitch around the body leaving a small gap for turning through and stuffing. Repeat same process on the two wings. Before turning through, make small incisions in the seam allowance at the curves. Turn through and stuff with polyester filling. Fold in raw edges and slip stitch to close gap and add a hanging string to complete the bird.



Curved needles are so unbelievably useful! Until recently I just thought they were crude, heavy-duty tools for upholsterers – not anymore! These PONY needles can be used for so many handicrafts and decorative sewing projects. It's great to have them at the ready in my sewing basket and I'm amazed how often I use them now. For my recent projects they have given me great service and I hope I've inspired you to have a go. If you love being creative I'm sure you'll have lots fun too!