

STANDARDS OF QUALITY

BEADING

Designs may be original or traditional. A reproduction of a traditional design motif must be clearly identified as such.

Materials

1. All materials must be of good quality and suitable to the technique used.
2. Only high quality beads are acceptable.

Technique

1. Beads must be stitched evenly and lie flat on the fabric, unless a three-dimensional effect is intended.
2. When the couching method is used, beading thread, sinew or nylon multi-strand thread must be used both to carry the beads and hold the beads in place.
3. Beads must be sewn in the following method when couching:
 - a) in a straight line of beading, a couching stitch must occur after every **second** bead
 - b) at a corner, a couching stitch must occur after **every** bead
 - c) on a point, a couching stitch must occur before and after each of the three beads that form the point
4. Thread used to carry the beads must be secured periodically to make beads more secure.
5. Use of the lane stitch (stitch of carrying thread every 5th - 7th bead, in a straight line only) is permitted.
6. Single beads must be double stitched or sewn in place using a chain-like stitch; the length of the stitch should be the length of the bead. This is particularly important when using bugle beads.
7. Beads may also be attached using a tambour hook.
8. All thread ends must be secured well. When using nylon thread, the ends must be knotted, back-stitched and a tail that is $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inches long left inside.

* Craftspeople should note that standards for tanning, sewing and garment construction or embroidery may also be pertinent and should be consulted. Craftspeople using beads in other contexts, such as the making of jewellery, should consult other standards as appropriate.