

Soutache

Soutache is a flat braided cord traditionally used in military uniforms and other formal garments. The most common width is 1/8" (about 3mm). It bends and curves easily and is very useful, indeed beautiful, in bead embroidery. **You can replace a backstitched line of seed beads** with a single or doubled length of soutache as in this design, or use it as a "bezel."

There are no hard and fast rules for adding soutache; where it can be stitched, stitch it; where it abuts a solid object, use clear glue. The cut ends will fray so dab them with glue or hide them under an adjacent element.










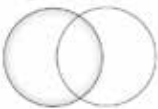



In this design I used dangle leaf chain as both the necklace band and as drop decorations on the focal piece.

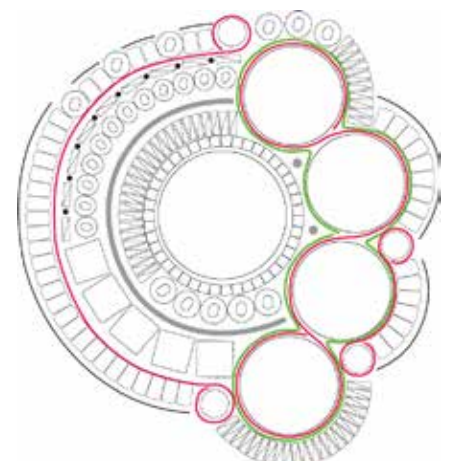
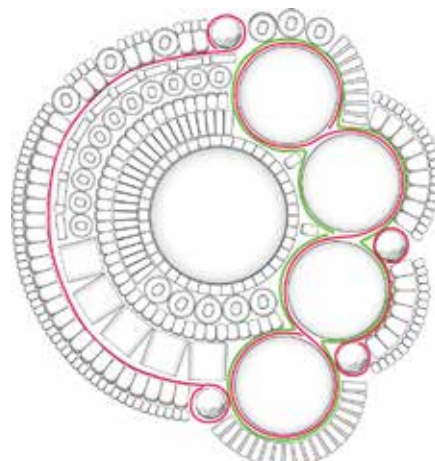
The chain is attached with loops of Czech 13° silk copper (JP 15° copper can also be used). The clasp is a lobster claw attached with 24-gauge copper wire; the loop is made using the same wire.



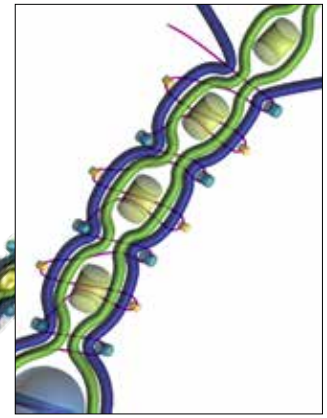
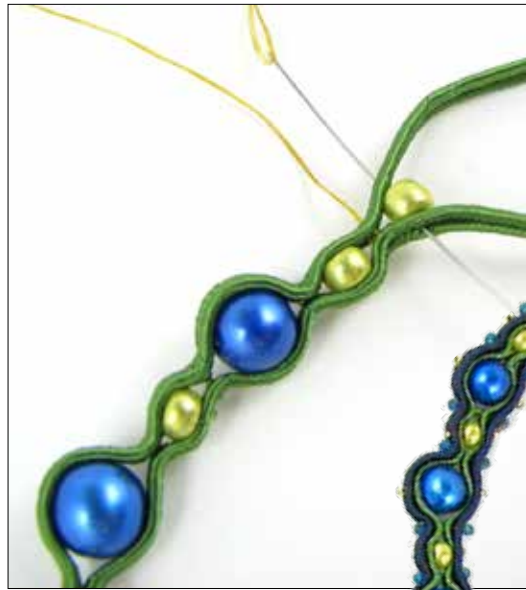
The dangle leaf chain drop sections are graduated in length, with the longest placed at the bottom center. Loops of CZ 13°s (or JP 15°s) are used to anchor each drop. This attachment method allows for adjustment in the length of each drop, and retains the fluidity of each drop so the necklace will move as you move.

-  1/8" soutache, one color
-  11° JP/CZ seed beads
-  15° JP seed beads
-  Cylinder beads size 11
-  JP bugle size 1
-  JP/CZ 8° line
-  8° w/ 15° anchor
-  6° w/ 11° anchor
-  4mm round/firepolish
-  5x5mm Tila
-  13mm round stone
-  18mm round stone

Size 2.3" x 2.4" (58mm x 59mm)

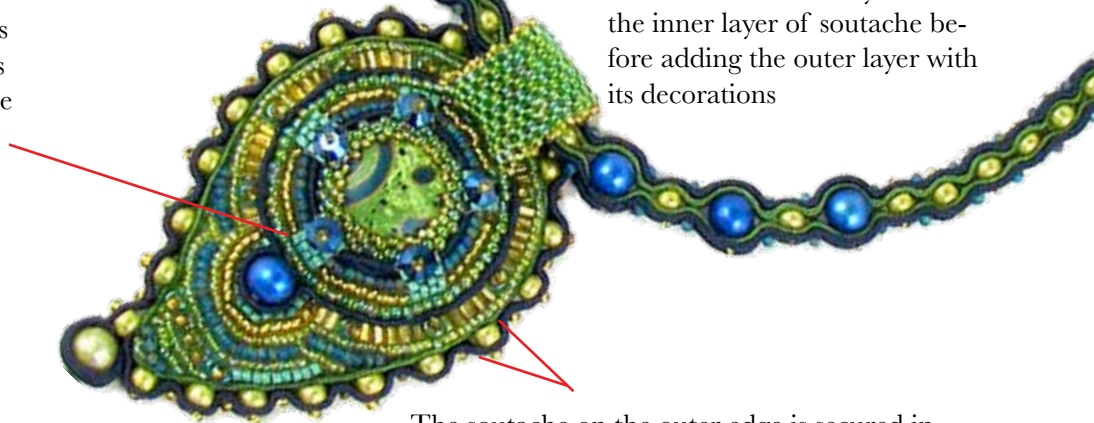


Here the soutache is used more liberally, flowing out to the neck bands, and is part of the edging on the paisley drop. Most of the construction on this piece is done with stitching with only minimal gluing. The 6° seed beads incorporated into the edging reflect the 6os used in the necklace band to unify the entire design.



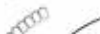






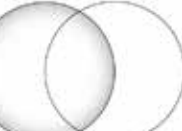


In this design the soutache carries out to the band itself; the construction is done by stitching the soutache around pearls and 6°s. The construction will be easier to handle if you add the inner layer of soutache before adding the outer layer with its decorations

The 5mm rhinestones/sequins are added AFTER the bezel is complete and sit on the surface of the bezel at a slight angle



The soutache on the outer edge is secured in place with 15° seed beads that run through the 6° beads on the edge. They're not shown in the graphic and should be added as part of the final edging on the main motif.

-  Soutache
-  CZ/JP 11° seed beads
-  JP 15o seed beads
-  Cylinder beads size 11
-  8° anchored with JP 15°
-  JP/CZ 6° seed beads on side
-  5mm rhinestone/sequin
-  7mm pearl
-  8mm pearl
-  18mm round stone

