

McKenna Ryan LLC

1915 SE Jefferson St · Portland, OR 97222 · Phone (800) 728.2278 · Fax (503) 573.8311

Tips for Adding Embellishments

Tool Kit

Monofilament thread
A box of straight pins
Scissors
Tweezers
Jewel Bond™
Needle threader
Beading needles
Seam ripper
Permanent fabric marker
Air erase fabric marker
Hot fix tool
Black embroidery floss
Embroidery needle
Scrap of fabric (similar to the fabric in your project)

Basics - A “threaded needle,” whether monofilament or regular thread, has the ends knotted together with at least 1½” of thread after the knot. A threaded *embroidery* needle, on the other hand, has a knot on only one end with the other end left loose, as embroidery floss thickness is very important.

Seed Bead Eyes – Use straight pins to determine best placement and pin seed beads in place or mark the spot with an air erase marker. Pull threaded beading needle from the back side of the quilt top to the front, through the bead, then back down through the quilt and tie off on quilt back. Seed beads will stand on their sides, so take care to orient in the direction the creature is looking. This technique is used in *Halloweenies*, *Snow Buds*, *Tropical Noël*, *Mermaid Kisses*, *Season’s Tweetings*, and *Dog Days of Summer*.

Permanent Marker Eyes – Use your scrap of fabric to test your permanent pen for bleeding and saturation. Carefully draw the eyes in the desired location. This technique is used in *Mermaid Kisses* and *Tropical Noël*.

Embroidery – Using your air erase marker, mark the eyes and mouths in their desired location. To make French knot eyes, pull threaded embroidery needle (1 strand) from the back side of the quilt top to the front. Wrap the floss 5 times around your needle to create the knot, and pass the needle back through the quilt top. [If you are new to French knots, here’s a link to a good tutorial.](#)

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Embroidery, continued - For backstitch mouths, bring your threaded needle up one stitch length from the end of your marked line. Make a backstitch by inserting your needle into the quilt at the end of the marked line. Bring your needle up two stitch lengths from the end, and insert it in at the beginning of your first stitch, creating a solid line. This technique is used in *Mermaid Kisses* and *Tropical Noël*.

Puffs on Hats and Tails – Using a length of puffy fibers, gather fibers into a ball shape and pin in place using straight pins. Pull threaded beading needle from the back side of the quilt top to the front, through the fibers, then back down through the quilt. Repeat until desired shape is created and puff is secure. Tie off on back side of quilt. This technique is used in *Snow Buds* and *Road Trip*.

Eyelash Yarn – Use entire amount of eyelash yarn included in your embellishment kit, or trim for a less chaotic nest effect. No need to treat the ends of the yarn, as fraying won't be noticed. Use straight pins to hold yarn in place. Pull threaded beading needle from the back side of the quilt top to the front, through the fibers, then back down through the quilt. Repeat until desired shape is created and nest is secure. Tie off on back side of quilt. This technique is used in *Home Tweet Home*.

Rhinestones, Studs, Sequins and Seed Bead Stars – Mark where you want the embellishment to go with an air erase marker or a pin. Holding the embellishment with the tweezers, use a straight pin or a toothpick to apply a small amount of Jewel Bond to the back side of the embellishment. Place the embellishment on the quilt top firmly, and use the tweezers to press it in place. If any glue seeps around the embellishment, scrape it off gently with a clean straight pin. This technique is used in *Heaven and Nature sing*, *Snow Buds*, *Magic in the Moonlight*, *Tropical Noël*, and *Season's Tweetings*.

Hot Fix Crystals - Use a hot fix tool for attaching crystals (follow the manufacturer's instructions when using the hot fix iron). You can also use the Jewel Bond method for attaching the crystals. This technique is used in *Snow Buds*.

Fringe on Scarves, Blankets and Shoes – Cut length of novelty yarn to fit the specified placement. Treat the ends of each cut piece with a dab of Jewel Bond to prevent fraying and allow to dry. Pin in place with straight pins. Pull threaded beading needle from the back side of the quilt top to the front, and whip stitch down the full length of the main strand of yarn and back, finishing where you started. Pull needle back down through the quilt and tie off on the back side of the quilt. This technique is used in *Halloweenies*, *Road Trip*, and *Dog Days of Summer*.

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Rope, Cord, and Ribbon – Trim rope, cord, or ribbon pieces per the detailed directions on your pattern. Treat each cut end with a dab of Jewel Bond to prevent fraying and let dry. Pin pieces in place being sure to tie them if specified by your pattern. Pull threaded beading needle from the back side of the quilt top to the front and tack down the ends by looping over the cord. On the next pass, come up through the cord, then back down through the quilt on one side, and then back up again from the other side of the cord and back down through the cord. Tack once more to remove any bulges and tie off on back of quilt. This technique is used in *Tropical Noël*, *Magic in the Moonlight*, *Road Trip*, and *Halloweenies*.

Rondelle Beads and Onyx Chips - Using your air erase marker or straight pins, mark desired placement of beads. Pull threaded beading needle from the back side of the quilt top to the front, through the bead, then back down through the quilt on one side of the bead. Pull threaded needle from the back side of the quilt top to the front, through the bead, then back down through the quilt on the other side and tie off on back of quilt. This technique is used in *Snow Buds*, *Road Trip*, and *Season's Tweetings*.

Fringe Beads – For ungrouped or single beads: Determine best placement and pin fringe beads in place using straight pins. Pull threaded beading needle from the back side of the quilt top to the front, through the bead, then back down through the quilt and tie off on quilt back. Repeat for each bead.

For groups or clusters: Determine best placement and pin fringe beads in place using straight pins. Pull threaded beading needle from the back side of the quilt top to the front, through the bead, then back down through the quilt. Finish the group with the same length of thread, and then tie off. This technique is used in *Home Tweet Home*, *Mermaid Kisses* and *Tropical Noël*.

Charms and Glitter Lights - Pull threaded beading needle from the back side of the quilt top to the front and through the loop at the top of the charm or glitter light, then back through the quilt to the back. Pull needle from the back side of the quilt top to the front, across the charm or glitter light's middle, and back down to the back of the quilt. This technique is used in *Season's Tweetings*.

Beaded Hangers – Lay out the seed beads in your preferred order. Pull threaded beading needle from the back side of the quilt top to the front. String beads in order, then pass the needle back down through the quilt and tie off on back of quilt. This technique is used in *Season's Tweetings*.

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