NETTING

Bold, beautiful buttons
Large vintage buttons are put in the spotlight as centerpieces for bead-embellished pendants

designed by Leslee Frumin

I see vintage buttons as small works of art. My design preserves each button’s collectibility by leaving its surface unaltered. A netted bezel encases the button without tape or other adhesives. I anchored the layers of embellishments into a right-angle weave band that circles the button.

**stepbystep**

**Embellished button**

[1] On 2 yd. (1.8m) of Nymo, leave an 18-in. (46cm) tail, and pick up 12 color A 11º seed beads (figure 1, a–b). Sew back through the first nine beads to form a ring (b–c).

[2] Pick up nine As (c–d). Working in right-angle weave (How-Tos), sew through the last three beads you went through, and continue through the first six beads just added (d–e). Continuing in right-angle weave (e–f), sew a band that is the length of the button’s circumference, minus the width of three As.

[3] To join the band into a circle, pick up three As, sew through the end As of the first ring (figure 2, a–b), pick up three As, and sew through the end As of the last ring (b–c). Insert the button to check the fit (photo a). Remove the button before stitching the netting. Sew back through the As added in this step (c–d).

[4] Pick up three color B 11º seed beads. Sew through the next three As (figure 3, a–b). Repeat (b–c) around the circle. Step up to row 2 by sewing through the first two Bs added in this step (figure 4, a–b). Add thread (Basics) as needed.

[5] Pick up two As, and sew through the center B added in the previous row (b–c). Repeat (c–d) around the circle. Depending on the size of the button, it may be necessary to adjust the number of As in a net to properly decrease the bezel’s circumference. It may also be necessary to add one or two more rounds to snug up the netting (figures 5 and 6, and photo b). Secure the thread with a few half-hitch knots (How-Tos), and trim.

[6] Thread a needle on the tail, and sew through the band to exit an 11º as shown in figure 3, point a on the back side of the band. Insert the button into the beadwork. Repeat steps 4 and 5 to bezel or enclose the back of the button.

[7] Embellish the edge of the button as desired, using the following techniques:

- Pick up the desired beads, cross diagonally over the square and sew through the three beads of the next cross bar (figure 7, a–b).
- Sew through the edge 11ºs,
Necklace
The designer’s pendants are hung from either a spiral stitch necklace or a necklace of alternating tubular netting segments and accent beads. Their length is long enough to fit over your head. You may add a clasp if desired.

Spiral stitch necklace
[1] On 2 yd. (1.8m) of Nymo, leaving a 10-in. (25cm) tail, pick up four 11’s, and a combination of five seed, hex-cut, or triangle beads. Tie a square knot (How-Tos and figure 9, a–b). Sew back through the four 11’s (b–c).
[2] Pick up an 11”, and repeat the bead pattern established in step 1 (figure 10, a–b). Sew through the top three 11’s and the 11” just added (b–c). Snug up the beads, and move the new bead group to the left so it sits next to the first bead group.
[3] Repeat step 2 until your necklace is the desired length. Add thread as needed.

Tubular netting necklace
[1] On 2 yd. (1.8m) of Fireline, pick up four Bs, leaving a 6-in. (15cm) tail. Retrace the thread path and sew back through the first B to form a ring (figure 11, a–b).
[2] Pick up a B and sew through the next B (b–c). Repeat three times (c–d). Sew through the first B added in this step (d–e) to step up to begin the next round.
[3] Pick up a B, an A, and a B, and sew through the next B (e–f). Repeat three times (f–g). Step up through the first B and A added in this step (g–h). Snug up the beads to start forming a tube.
[4] Repeat step 3 until the segment of the netted tube is the desired length. Add thread as needed.
[5] Step up through a B and an A, and pick up three to five 2–8mms accent beads (figure 12, a–b).
[6] Pick up a B, an A, and a B (b–c). Sew through the 2–8mms, the next end A on the netted tube, and back through the 2–8mms (c–d). Repeat three times.
[8] Repeat alternating netted tubes and accent bead segments until your necklace is the desired length.
[9] If you choose to use a clasp, taper the end of the last segment, pick up three Bs and sew through the next A. Repeat three times. Snug up the beads and step up through the first two Bs added in this round. Pick up a B, sew through the next center B. Repeat three times and snug up the Bs. Sew back through the four Bs just added and snug up the beads. Sew through the beadwork, tie a few half-hitch knots, and trim.

Bail
[1] On 2 yd. (1.8m) of Nymo, leave a 6-in. (15cm) tail, and pick up an even number of As that will form a ring large enough to fit around the beaded rope. Sew back through the first bead picked up to make a ring (figure 13, a–b).
[2] Pick up an A, a B, and an A, skip an A, and sew through the next A (b–c). Repeat around the ring (c–d), and step up to the next round (d–e).
[3] Pick up an A, a B, and an A, and sew through the next B. Repeat around the ring, and step up to the next round.
[4] Repeat step 3 until the bail is the desired width.
[5] Remove the starting ring and the As from the first round by pulling out the thread. Each edge of the bail should look the same, with Bs along the edge. To finish each edge, position a 15°, a

MATERIALS
necklace 25–32 in. (64–81cm) with embellished vintage button and bail
• vintage button 1½–2 in. (3.8–5cm)
• 29 3mm fringe drops for straight fringe
• 2–8mm embellishment beads (hex-cut, triangle, cylinder, fire-polished, stone, or crystal beads) for necklace
• 2–4mm embellishment beads (hex-cut, triangle, drop, cylinder, fire-polished, stone, or crystal beads) for button
• Japanese seed beads
3–4g size 11” in each of 2 or 3 colors: A, B, C for button embellishment
5–10g size 11” in each of 2 or 3 colors: A, B, C for necklace
1–3g size 15”
• Fireline 6 lb. test; or Nymo B conditioned with beeswax or Thread Heaven
• beading needles, #12
B, and a 15° between each B. [6] Thread a needle on the tail, secure the thread with a few half-hitch knots in the beadwork, and trim.

[7] Thread a needle on the bail’s remaining thread. Flatten the bail (photo d) and attach the lower edge to the top of the pendant by sewing through the bail beadwork and the embellishment surrounding the button. Secure the thread with a few half-hitch knots, and trim.

Assembly
Spiral stitch necklace
The pendant may either be attached to the necklace or to the bail, if you made one. If you’re using a bail, slide the necklace through the bail and join the ends by sewing through the end beads to match up the spiral rope pattern. Secure the thread by making a few half-hitch knots, and trim.

To attach the ends of the spiral stitch necklace to the pendant, sew through the embellishment beadwork. Secure the thread with a few half-hitch knots, and trim.

Tubular netting necklace
Slip the necklace through the bail before joining the last and first segments. Secure the thread with a few half-hitch knots, and trim.

Fringe
Straight
The straight fringe on the designer’s necklace has three layers (photo e), consisting of 13 2½-in. (6.4cm) fringes in the back row, ten 2-in. (5cm) fringes in the middle row, and six 1¼-in. (4.4cm) fringes in the front row.

[1] On 2 yd. (1.8m) of Nymo, secure the thread in the beadwork surrounding the button with a few half-hitch knots. Determine the width of the fringe and select a starting point on the back edge of the right-angle weave band.

[2] Pick up enough beads to form a 2½-in. (6.4cm) straight fringe using a variety of seed, hex-cut, triangle, cylinder, fire-polished, stone, and crystal beads. End with a drop bead. Skip the drop, and sew back through the rest of the beads. Sew through the next 11°. Repeat to fill in the bottom curve of the embellishment.

[3] Repeat step 2 to attach the middle and front rows of fringe to the same row of beads as the first row of fringe. Pick up fewer beads to vary the length of the middle and front rows.

Looped
The looped fringe shown on the designer’s necklace, is approximately ¾ in. (1.9cm) long. The 14 loops are anchored in the right-angle weave band surrounding the button, making it necessary to sew under the embellishment stitching.

[1] On 2 yd. (1.8m) of Nymo, secure the thread in the beadwork with a few half-hitch knots. Determine the width of the fringe and select a starting point.

[2] Pick up enough beads to cover a 1½-in. (3.8cm) section of thread using a variety of seed, hex-cut, triangle, drop, cylinder, fire-polished, stone, and crystal beads. Sew through the cross bars front to back (figure 14, a–b). Repeat to sew a total of seven loops. Reverse direction to add seven more loops, continuing to sew through the cross bars front to back so that the loops cross.

EDITOR’S NOTE:
Large vintage buttons may be difficult to find. If you find smaller vintage buttons, it is possible to expand their size by stitching them into 1½–2-in. (3.8–5cm) mother-of-pearl donuts by netting the entire back of the donut. You can also use large porcelain or shell pendants in place of a button.

Leslee’s love of arts and crafts began during her childhood when she spent time making craft projects at summer camp. As an adult artist, she focused on metalsmithing and eventually began combining beads with metal. Leslee started teaching her designs in 2000. Visit her website, lesleefrumin.com.