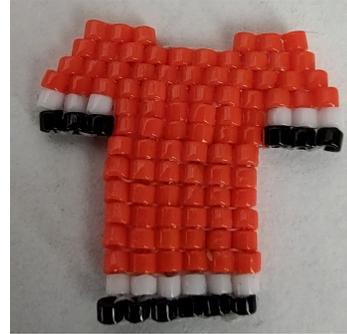
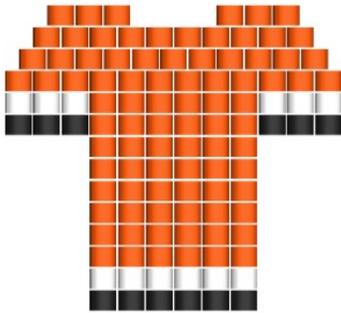


## Orange Shirt Pin for Orange Shirt Day September 30



What is Orange Shirt Day?

Orange shirts (often combined with the slogan Every Child Matters) are worn every year on September 30 in order to recognize the damage residential schools inflicted on the Indigenous people of North America. Residential schools were set up all around the United States and Canada from 1831 to 1997 to “Kill the Indian, and save the man.” There is no record of how many children were taken from their homes to live in these boarding schools, but by 1925, there were over 60,000 children in these schools in the US alone.

In most schools the death rate of the students was near 25% while some reached close to 70%--- yes, 70% of all students in the school would die from abuse, neglect, malnutrition, and poverty related illnesses. Thousands of these children were buried in unmarked graves on school property. Their families were never informed of their deaths.

In 2013, an event was held in British Columbia to commemorate the stolen children, and survivors told their stories. One survivor had been sent to school with an orange shirt her grandmother had made for her, and it was taken from her. The shirt became a symbol of loss to the people attending, and has since grown to represent the movement.

This beaded pin graph is offered at no charge in the hopes it will help raise awareness of the horrors of the residential schools. People who would like to make it as part of a fundraiser are welcome to. Please do not sell it for personal profit.

Materials:

Beads:

This design was stitched with size 11 Delicas in bright orange ( DB 722, F), white (A) and black (C). I have also stitched this piece using Czech seed beads using the same technique and quantities of beads.

Color	Symbol	Bead count
	A	12
	C	12
	F	87

Needle:

#12 beading needle

Thread:

I generally use a size D Nymo thread that I wax\*. Small objects with multiple passes through multiple beads seem to me to work better with less strain on the bead than other materials like Fireline. But use whatever threads you are comfortable with. This piece will take about 1.25 yards of thread. If using seed beads, you will need more thread, as the beads are larger.

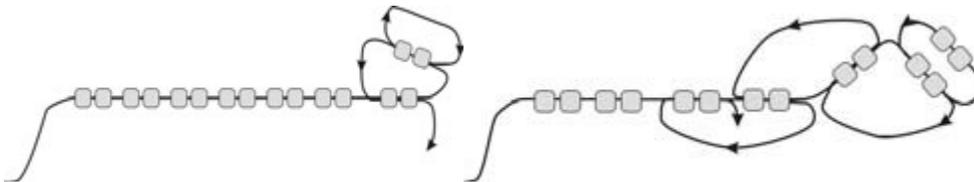
Findings:

This uses a plain pin back glued on after the beadwork has been stiffened with nail polish.



At this point, you want to separate the first three beads that are the last you strung on (F A C), then go back through the next three beads (C A F). These beads will then sit next to the first three beads when you snug them together. Continue coming into the back of the three bead sets until you get to the last row. Again, make sure you are exiting from the last orange bead in the row.

These diagrams show a ladder stitch with only 2 seed beads, but it shows how to attach them.

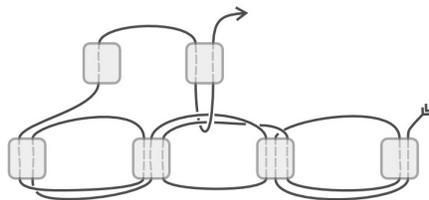


Now the base for the shirt is finished. If it's loose or not sitting as well as you would like, you can run a thread down the rows. This is easy to do with Delicas and harder to do with seed beads. Next, work upwards to finish the shoulders and neckline.

### Brick stitch

The shoulders and neck are done in brick stitch and entirely in orange so you don't need to worry about keeping track of colors. Because brick stitch automatically decreases, it's perfect to do the shoulders. To avoid having the thread show on the outside of the beads, start each row with two beads, though every other stitch is with one bead.

You want to switch your needle to the other thread, after removing the lock bead or tape. Make sure you are coming up through an orange bead. Pick up two orange beads on your needle, and come under the thread that is lying between the tops of beads 2&3 of the ladder stitch just completed.



After the first pair, every stitch will pick up one bead and loop under the next thread. If the end bead isn't sitting firmly, loop back through the beads after adding the third bead to snug it up. When you reach the end of the first row,

come out the top bead, and add two orange beads as you did before. Continue until you reach the end of the second row.

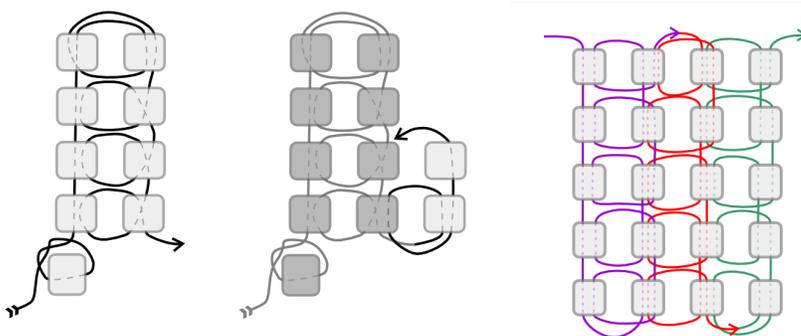
To make the neck line, you will again pick up the pair of beads, but you will only stitch a total of three beads. Weave through the beads of the last row stitched, and repeat, adding three beads, to make the second shoulder. Secure the thread by weaving it through a few times.

Square stitch:

The main part of the shirt is done in square stitch. This stitch is not difficult but can be awkward to start. You are going to come out of an orange next to a black at the bottom of the sleeve. We will be doing rows 9-16 at the same time, but working one column at a time (with an optional 2 as a start). Because every column will be anchored into the ladder stitch, it'll be a lot easier to maintain tension at the start of the square stitch.

For this, you want to string on six orange beads, 1 white and 1 black. To help with tension, you may want to string on another black, white and 6 orange beads and work the first two columns at the same time. If you do the two columns, bring your needle up and through the second orange bead on the shirt, right next to where the first column came out.

Then you want to loop around the beads a pair at a time, working to the black bead.



When you reach the bottom black bead, you are going to attach a single bead in the exact same way until you get to the ladder stitched row again. And then you work your way back down, until you have completed that section. Again, weave your end through and you have completed your shirt.

Finishing:

To complete this shirt as a pin, I stiffen the beads with clear nail polish (which will also hold your thread ends). I paint one side, let it dry and paint the other. I then chose the better side, and on the other side, I attach a pin back with a dab of jewelry cement.

You could also make a pair into earrings, sew it on as a patch, add to a barrette, or even use pony beads and make an ornament.

If you have any issues, please contact me. I am always happy to help.

Tik Tok @ginama66 youtube@gmk66 Insta @gmk66



\* My husband keeps bees. If you want some wax from his hives, let me know.

\*\* a 'lock bead' is just a bead that has been stitched through a few times that prevents the beads you are working with from sliding off. A piece of tape will work just as well. When the beads are secure, you can unwind the lock bead and remove it.

For more about me:

[hyacinthinspirations.kleinmartin.com](https://hyacinthinspirations.kleinmartin.com)

To learn more about the residential schools:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/national-day-truth-reconciliation.html>

<https://collegefund.org/blog/orange-shirt-day/>

<https://orangeshirtday.org/orange-shirt-day/>

<https://blogs.loc.gov/law/2024/09/orange-shirt-day-and-the-federal-indian-boarding-school-initiative/>