Create Your Own Inuit Sealskin Keychain with Carissa Metcalfe-Coe

JOIN US FOR THE LIVE PREMIERE ON JUNE 12TH AT 11:00 AM EDT
https://youtu.be/QNHapb7cg20

If you cannot make the live premiere, not to worry the link will be available for you to watch until the end of June.

Materials:

- ☐ John James Glover Needle - size 10
- ☐ Thread (WildFire Thread for durability)
- ☐ Seedbeads – Miyuki size 11/0
- ☐ Keyring
- ☐ Sealskin piece x2 (can be substituted with leather, stiffened felt, thick fabrics)

Everything can be found at Beaded Dreams on Bank St (Ottawa, ON).

Youtube tutorial - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VcWdkN-UVlU

Getting Started:

1) Set up your beading station. A well lit area with a flat surface. Take a plate and paper towel/toilet paper to pour your beads onto (this will allow you to pick up beads on your needle with more ease and less mess).
2) Thread your needle, you will need roughly 2 arm lengths (approx. 6 feet). Pull thread most of the way through but **do not** double up your thread. You should have 1 side slightly longer than the other.
3) Tie a knot at the end of your longest piece of thread. There is more than one way to do this, as long as it is secure enough for your thread to be anchored/unable to pull through the sealskin. The bigger the knot, the more likely it will anchor successfully.

First Steps:

1) Take your needle and thread it in-between the 2 pieces of sealskin, a few millimeters from the edge. The knot should sit on the back of the pelt (hidden on the inside) and stop your thread from sliding all the way through.
    a. Hold/bead your sealskin on the same "side" consistently throughout the piece. It does not matter which side you start on, just ensure that you keep that side facing you for each stitch. This will keep your beads sitting properly and cause less mistakes.
2) Take 2 beads onto your needle and push it through **both** sealskin pieces – about 2 bead lengths away from your first anchor stitch. Pull all the way through.
3) Take the needle and come up the **bottom** of the 2nd bead. Pull it all the way through. Your beads should be sitting on the edge of the sealskin. The 1st bead will be slightly loose, but that is what we want, for later use (see youtube video for reference).
4) Pick up 1 bead with your needle (only use 2 beads when starting a row of beads) and push it through both sealskin pieces – 1 bead length away from the last bead laid down.
5) Take your needle and come up the bottom of the bead. Pull it all the way through.
6) Repeat steps 4 & 5 all the way around.
7) Once you make it all the way around to where you laid your very 1st bead, take your needle, and push it **down through the top of the 1st bead**. Pull through.
    a. Push your needle through your sealskin (just below the bead you just came through) and then come back up the bottom of the same bead. This will finish your first row of beads. (see video for reference - 36:20)
8) Your thread should now be coming through the top of the last bead of your first row. Pick up 2 beads and thread your needle 2 spaces over.
9) Take your needle and repeat steps 4 & 5.
    a. The first row of beads will help anchor each stitch moving forward. Instead of your stitches going into the sealskin, they will be going through each individual stitch from the row below.
        i. To do this, push your needle under each "thread bridge" of the beads from your first row.
10) Once you come all the way around again, repeat step 7.
    a. Take your needle and go up from the bottom of the bead beside. This will anchor your last bead of this row.

Finishing up:

1) Find the top center of your keychain. Bring your needle to that point by threading your needle back through the beads.
2) Once at the center, add 2 beads to your needle and then go down through the top of the center bead of the row below. Pull through.
3) Pull your needle **up through** the bead sitting beside it <u>as well as</u> the 1st of the two beads you just added.

4) Add 2 more beads. Go down through the last row of beads and back up the beads beside.
   a. After 2 beads are added, your needle should be going Down 1 -> move 1 space over -> Up 2. Your threading should be going in a circle motion.
5) Continue this process until you get the length you want.
6) Thread your needle through the keyring and also pick up 7-9 beads (enough to enclose your keyring in a loop).
7) Take your needle and come back down 2 rows of beads, move to the side, and come back up 2 rows (same circle motion as before).
8) Re-thread your needle through the loop of beads surrounding the keyring. This will make your keychain more durable and less likely to break.
9) Repeat steps 7 and 8 until your beads enclosing the keyring have been threaded 3 times.
10) Thread your needle back down to the first 2 rows of beads you did and tie off your thread
   a. Tie a knot on one of the "thread bridges". Do a second knot for security. Cut off excess thread.

OR

   b. Thread the needle all the way back down to the first row of beads against the edge of the sealskin. Tie a knot on the stitches that are edging the sealskin. Do a second knot for security. Cut off excess thread.

We would love to see your finished keychain, post a picture on Facebook and tag us #ssif2021