

*John Bead*  
ESTABLISHED 1954



**Orange  
Shirt Pin**

**Create Your Own**

Designed by Mel Compton







# About

## THE DESIGNER

Mel Compton is an Urban Mi'kmaq and Scottish person living in Tkaranto on the lands of the 'Dish with one Spoon Territory'. Her family originates from Ktaqmkuk (Newfoundland) and she sits with the Caribou clan. She is a multilateral artist who uses lived experience, artwork and therapeutic skills to develop and facilitate specialized youth programs within the Urban Indigenous community in Tkaranto. Mel has used writing, painting, music and bead working as her tools for self care, connection, and expression.

Mel's journey with beadwork began as a way to reconnect to her Mi'kmaq ancestors and family members. Through the recent rediscovery of the children who never returned home, Mel did a giveaway of an orange shirt pin to honour those children's spirits and her grandmother's spirit. Although Mel's grandmother did not attend residential camps, there were many stories of abuse that were shared that described horrible things that she endured while in school: The main story regarding her left hand and the abuse she faced. The story can be found on Mel's Instagram page.

## Orange Shirt pin - Written Tutorial

Melissa Compton – Mi'kmaq Nation

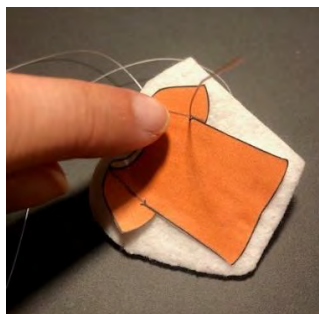
**STEP 1:** Draw your sleeve lines all the way up to the collar. This will help with filing in the sleeves later.



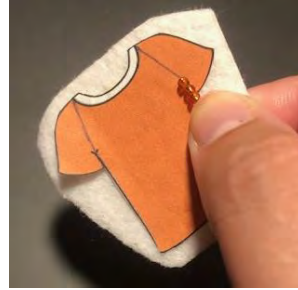
**STEP 2:** Using a glue stick: paste the orange shirt onto the pellon/beading stabilizer and let dry for a few minutes before pushing the needle through



**STEP 3:** Thread your needle and tie a double knot at the end of your thread. Then push your needle from the back of the piece on the left 'printed' sleeve line. Then up through the paper and through the image. Pull the thread all the way through to the knot.



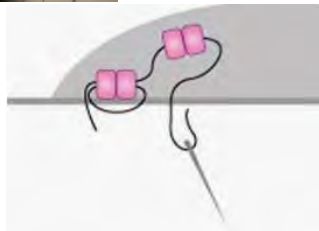
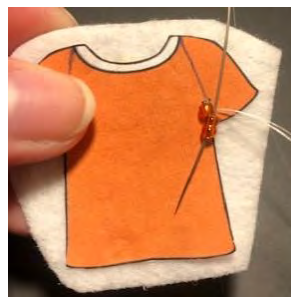
**STEP 4:** Thread on 3 orange beads and push them so they are resting on the line.



**STEP 5:** you now need to 'tack down' this set of 3 beads. As shown in the picture, you are going to place the needle at the end of where the beads are and push through the pellaon/beading stabilizer. You want to make sure that you do not go right up against the beads as they may make your bead-work too tight – give the beads a tiny amount of space.



**STEP 6:** You will now push the needle up through your beadwork, in-between the first and second bead. Pull the needle all the way through. You will then push your needle through the second and third bead and pull the thread all the way through. ( We are using 3 beads at a time but if you were using 4 bead, you would come up through 2 beads and pull through as the diagram pictures show).

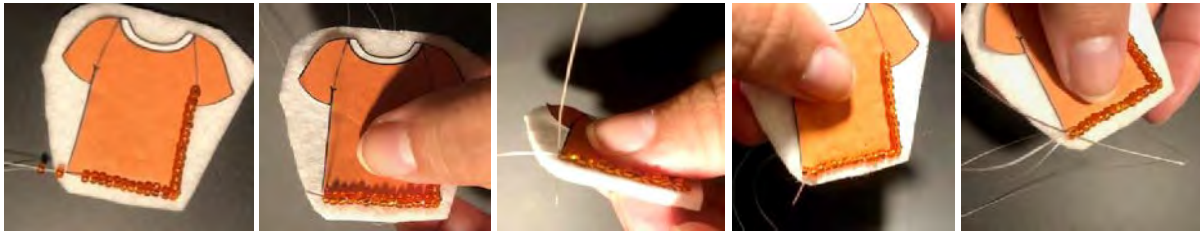


**STEP 7:** Continue using the same technique until the bottom. As shown in the images, the last section of beads, use 4 beads in order to complete the row. Tack down and complete your row.





**STEP 8:** Start your new row by pushing the needle up through the base of the orange shirt going in the direction of the bottom of the shirt. Follow the same technique as above, to complete this row.



**STEP 9:** When you've completed the final side of the shirt, tack down that row. Start a new row with your needle where the bottom of the shirt sleeve is. Put on 4 beads and tack them down. Push your needle through 2 of the beads and pull your thread through. Complete that row. Start your new row, and complete the shoulder part of the sleeve. End your row where the white neck line starts.



**STEP 10:** For this part, you will initially be covering the white part of the neckline with the orange beads. Using the same tack down technique, complete your neckline. Use your finger to hold the beads in place as they curve.



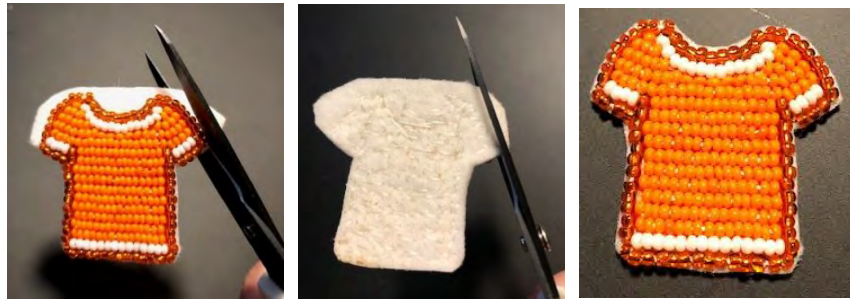
**STEP 11:** For the next part, you are going to start filling in the shirt from the bottom up; starting with the white line at the bottom of the shirt using the same stitching technique as the outline.



**STEP 12:** Continue filling in with the orange beads, going line by line until you get closer to the sleeves. When you run out of thread; tie it off on the back and start a new thread. Complete your line of white on one of the sleeves. Then you will complete your white neckline. Then the white on the following sleeve. This is where the lines you drew in pencil will come in handy – following those lines, fill in your sleeves before moving on to fill in the rest of the shirt.



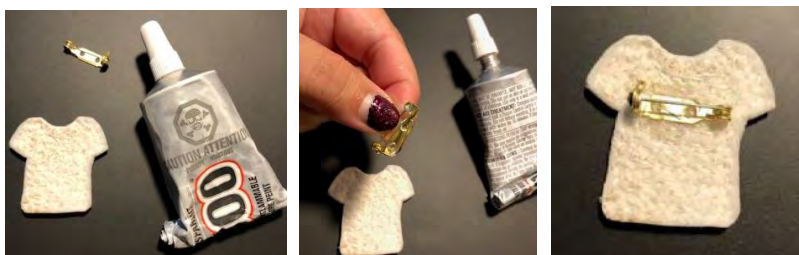
**STEP 13:** Once the sleeves and the rest of the shirt are filled in, cut off the excess pellon/beading stabilizer. You want to make sure you are not going too close to the threads otherwise some beads will fall off.



**STEP 14:** using a lighter, burn the ends of the threads to secure them. If you do not have a light, use a very thin layer of the E6000 glue to secure and harden the knotted thread. If you are using glue, make sure you do not go right up to the ends as we need the needles to be able to go through that area for the edging later.

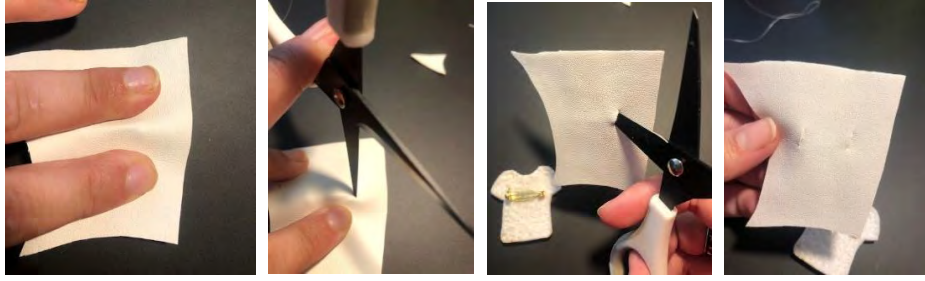


**STEP 15:** put a thin layer of glue onto the pin back and secure it in place. If glue is coming up through the 2 holes, take a scrap piece of pellon to spread it around.

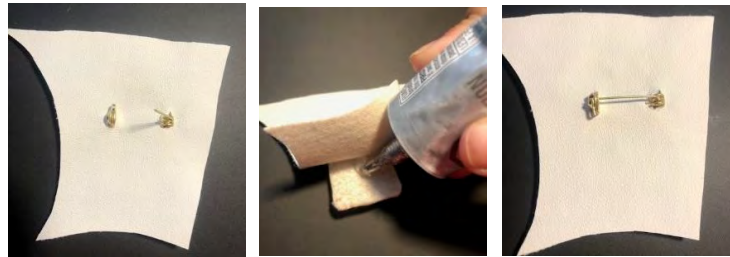


**STEP 16:** To put on your backing, check to see where the pin edges are. Poke little holes to mark where you are going to put your slits. Using one side of your scissors, gently push the fabric up the blade to make a slit. If your scissors are not sharp enough to stab a hole through, gently snip off a small section and then push the fabric up the blade to create the slit. You should have 2 small slits.





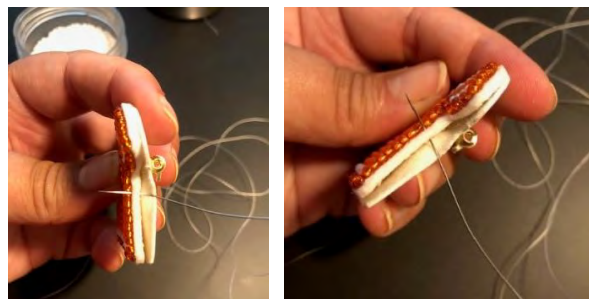
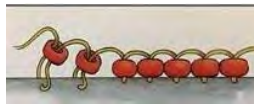
**STEP 17:** push the pin through the slits in the material. Glue the material in place and close your pin. Remember to make sure you do not glue right to the edge of your piece as we need the needle to go through the edge of the piece for the edging. Put your piece aside for approx. a half hour to dry and set.



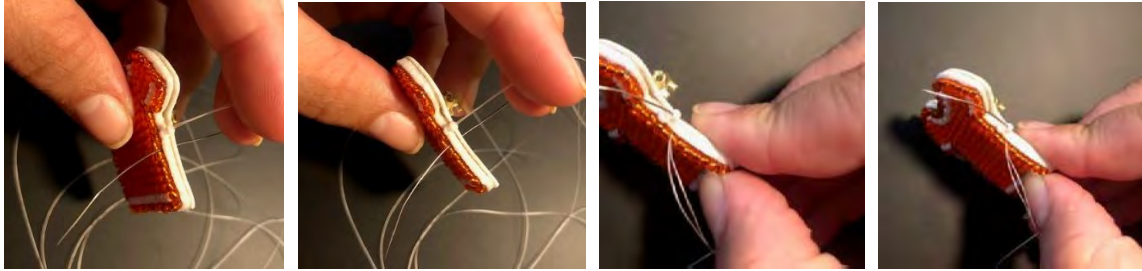
**STEP 18:** Once your piece has set for approximately 30 minutes or more, cut off the excess backing material.



**STEP 19:** Using a single picot stitch, complete your edging. For your first stitch, you are going to fold back a part of the backing material in order to push the needle up through the peltion to have the needle coming through to the top of the piece. I begin the edging under the right sleeve of the piece.



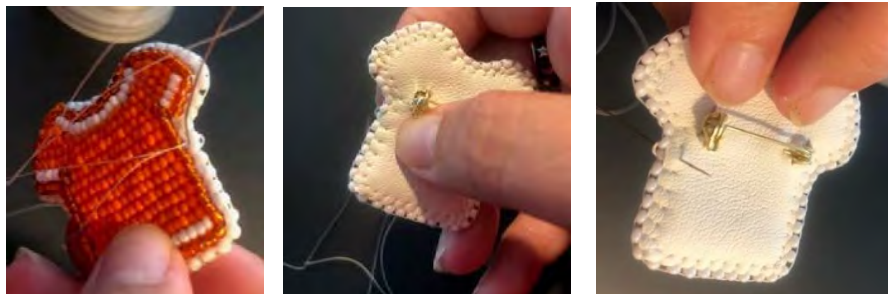
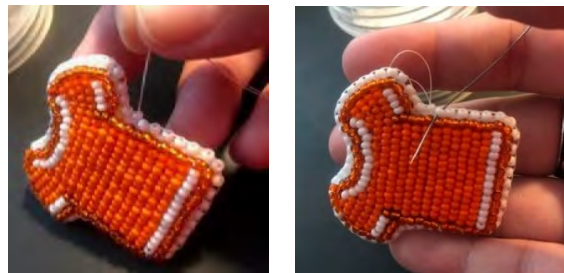
**STEP 20:** Push the needle all the way through and pull the thread. String on 2 white beads. On the back, push the needle through, 2 bead spaces over from where you put your first stitch. Pull the thread all the way through. Take your needle and push it through the bottom of the second bead and pull the thread through and taut.



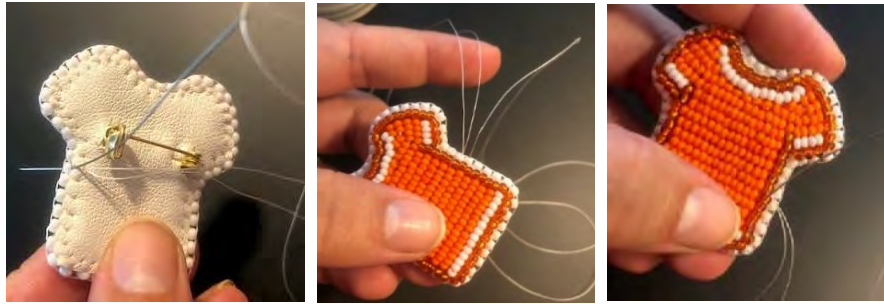
**STEP 21:** Thread on one white bead. As shown in the image below, push your needle through the back of the piece just slightly away from your first stitch on the back of the piece. Pull the thread all the way through. Continue this technique all the way around the piece.



**STEP 22:** On your last bead, pull the thread through the very first bead that was put on the edging but this time instead of your needle facing up, you are going to push the needle down that first bead. Pull the thread all the way through. From the top of the beadwork, and under that final bead, push the needle through to the back of the piece where there should be one last space between the threads. ( If not, you can wiggle the needle to stick on one of the existing stitches). Pull the thread all the way through.



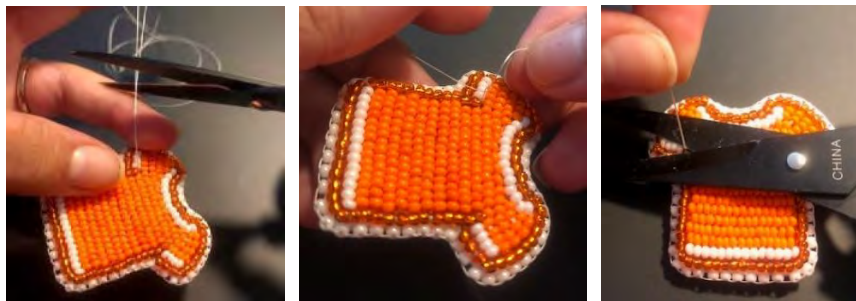
**STEP 23:** push your needle up and through the bead to complete the stitch. Go down the bead beside it and wiggle the needle so that it comes up through the left side of your beaded outline.



**STEP 24:** go around the outline of your bead work with the excess thread until you get to the sleeve or until you are almost out of thread ( give yourself enough of a tail to be able to tie off your thread). This allows you to reinforce your piece but also provide a buffer for the thread so it doesn't come loose when you tie it off and cut it.



**STEP 25:** cut off excess thread and knot it into your bead work once or twice. Cut off the excess thread as close to the beadwork as possible.



**STEP 26:** Admire your pin! You've completed it!





