

Shibori Silk Ribbon Cuff Bracelet



Tutorial images and Jewelry Designs, Serena Di Mercione
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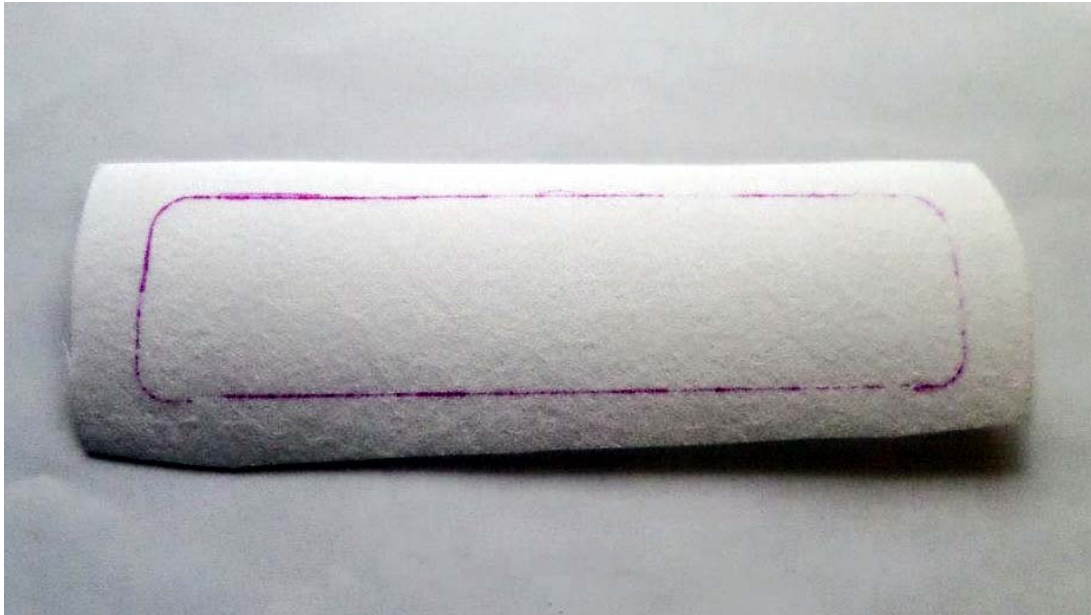
This tutorial was created by Serena Di Mercione, who is a talented jewelry artist from Italy. With her permission, I have created this tutorial using her images. Serena did not include any written instructions, only the images of the steps she took to create this bracelet. I wrote to her to ask a few questions on what she used and she did reply, so I will add text based on the images and what they show and my own crafting experience.



Serena starts with a metal cuff bracelet blank. A blank is a plain foundation that is meant to be decorated by a jewelry artist. The bracelet blank above appears to be 2 inches wide.



A piece of craft felt is used to create the base that the ribbon and beads will be attached to. Lay a piece of felt on the bracelet and then trace the outline onto the felt. The felt will be covered, so the outline won't be visible when completed.



The outline around the bracelet can be done with a felt marker or you can use a pencil. It doesn't have to be a perfect outline since it will be trimmed to the shape of the metal bracelet.



I have tried to simulate this next step since there is no image showing it, but Serena used a watercolor spray dye, Ranger Adirondack Colorwash, which has been discontinued by the manufacturer. This same effect can be done using Jacquard Alcohol inks with their Claro Extender to thin it down. The inks will soak through, so use some type of barrier like the non-stick craft sheet or a piece of aluminum foil.



With the felt completely dry, begin to sew the ribbon down to the felt. It only requires a tack across the ends.



Fan out the sides of the ribbon in a shape you like and tack down the edges. These edges and stitches will be hidden with beading later.



Begin laying out the jewels and beads and stitch the ribbon around.



String some bicone beads to cover the edges of the ribbon and tack the string down between each bead.

Individual beads look like they have an eye pin with a seed bead on the end. Make a loop at the other end of the eye pin. These will make it easier to attach to the ribbon. You can also use thread and the seed bead allow the bead to be attached individually.



A variety of different beads will add texture, depth and interest. You can use old pieces of costume jewelry for a unique look. Place them around the ribbon to get an idea of where to attach.





Stitch beads over the ribbon tack line to conceal the edge of the ribbon.



The entire felt area has been covered with a variety of beads and stones. Trim the excess felt following the outline. You can see just a trace of the outline in pink.



Serena uses a piece of suede for the back side of the bracelet where it's in contact with the skin. Using the metal bracelet, do the same step as with the felt. Trim the edge of the suede slightly larger.

Use a strong adhesive to attach the felt to the bracelet. Serena used E6000 glue to attach. Make sure your glue can bond to metal.



Begin to add beading around the edge, looping it over both edges of felt and suede.



Each bead is stitched to the base and interwoven to the next bead making for a straight, uniform row.



With the edge completed, you can fill in any bare spots of the felt with additional beads.

I hope you enjoyed seeing how Serena creates her unique jewelry using Shibori Ribbon.



Suede pieces can be obtained from eBay or any local leather store. Get leather that is thin enough to pass a needle and thread.

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