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## Fun with Czech Buttons



*With Kate Richbourg on FB Live  
Episode Notes by Drea Carbone  
Photography by Karen Marshall*

Kate takes a deeper look at one of our most popular products, Czech Glass Buttons. These beauties pack a lot of style into a small package! Kate explores tried and true uses, from wrap bracelets to loomed pieces, as well as interesting new ideas such as bead embroidery and how to quickly turn a button into a charm. We don't make a completed project today, we just have a review of technique and ideas. Links will be throughout the Notes, instead of at the end this week...too many links to list!

Skip the chatter, if you like:  
Fast Forward to **Minute Marker 9:00** to get right to it!

## **Minute Marker 9:00**

To start our show today, Kate introduces us to our latest additions to the Czech Glass Buttons collection on beadshop.com, and gives us a bit of history on them, too. Czech glass is an art form in and of itself! With colorful bases, coatings, stunning designs, and more? They are truly miniature masterpieces, each and every one.

Below, you'll see our latest buttons...from left to right they are:

**Rococo** - Hot Vitrail, Cool Vitrail, Ruby Red and Silver, and Sapphire and Gold

**Wheel** - Purple Pansy with Black, Pacific Blue and Black, Burnt Umber and Black, Vitrail Cool and Black

**Garland** - Cool Vitrail



In addition to the newbies, Kate brings out some old favorites. They are, in order of Kate's announcements:

Daisy Light Peridot, Dragonfly Jonquil Gold, Dragonfly Aqua Matte Gold, Dragonfly Volcano Silver, Daisy Vitrail, Full Moon Emerald AB, Star Volcano, Star Gold Peach, and Flower Star Aqua Gold

## **Minute Marker 20:00**

Grabbing her caliper, Kate measures some buttons. She reminds us that these buttons are made in old molds and are not calibrated to be the exact same size, like we may be used to! Some are off by a millimeter or so, but it's a negligible amount. We currently carry three sizes of these buttons, as you can see below. Most of our new ones are 27mm, Garland is 22mm, and the original Czech button lineup we carried are all 18mm.



Something else we can see are the color-changing Vitrail beads. Karen has started taking multiple photographs, so be on the lookout for those in the product pages. The second photo is taken from a different angle, allowing you to see the range of colors the button has. See the [Garland Cool Vitrail](#) below...that is the same button from two different angles. Amazing!



### **Minute Marker 27:00**

Kate goes over our past [projects](#) using Czech Glass buttons and shows how different buttons could also match these "old faves."

### **Peyote Stitch**

With four samples in this Project, two use Czech Glass Buttons. Kate points out how the buttons can change in both color and shape over time, showing how the same [Star Gold Peach](#) button now comes to us in a lighter gold with a less domed shape. These buttons are not mass-produced and change is to be expected! Remember, glasswork is an art and the techniques are traditional.

Kate shows how some of our other buttons would look great on these colorways, for example try [Daisy Vitrail](#), the [Dragonfly Jonquil Gold](#), or the [Dragonfly Aqua Matte Gold](#) on the [Evening Ombré](#) bracelet, the teal and grey one...pretty!



## **Minute Marker 35:30**

### **Brick Stitch**

Emily's Brick Stitch bracelets also used Czech Glass Buttons, and again, Kate shows how easily interchangeable these buttons are with these designs. They're a bit of a chameleon component, don't you think?

Just look at how gorgeous the Daisy- Sapphire button would be with the pale blue-blue-grey of Shadows in the Mist.



## **Minute Marker 39:30**

### **The Gatsby Necklace**

You can find this project and its sister colorway, Fitzgerald, in Soft Flex 101. Both use Czech Glass Buttons for clasps, both stunners!



## **Minute Marker 43:00**

### **Sprinkles**

A Tricks to Looming project using one of our Monthly Mixes, Sprinkles also makes great use of a Czech Glass Button closure. With this mix of colors you really have your choice of buttons to use...go wild! Try Czech Buttons on some of our other Tricks to Looming samples, too! Stitch a button right on to your UltraSuede, pick one to blend in or stand out...you do you!

## **Minute Marker 46:00**

### **Blue Moon**

Our latest Setting the Mood project uses a Czech Button, unfortunately one that's hard to get in! But with all the colors used in a Setting the Mood you certainly have your choice of buttons to use in its place!



We could chat all day about the bracelets you can add Czech Buttons to! We've also used them in **Tricks to Laddering**, **Color Study**, and **Creamsicle**, another of our **Monthly Mix Projects**.





### **Minute Marker 47:00**

Taking inspiration from our [Bead Embroidery](#) project, Kate shows how you can use a button in place of the [Pi Disc](#). Cut the shank from the back and [glue](#) to your [UltraSuede](#) and bead right around it. Check out the photos to the left to see more about carefully cutting that shank off.

You could also use a button at the *center* of a Pi Disc, as Kate shows. Isn't that simply gorgeous? Imagine the button surrounded by the Pi, and then surrounded by your beautiful beadwork... wowza!

Kate shows how to get started on doing a project without the Pi, though, just using the button as a centerpiece.



## **Minute Marker 57:00**

Kate quickly mentions another fun way to work with Czech Glass Buttons, making rings! She covered this in a past Free Tip Friday episode, [which you can find here](#) (and an accompanying [blog post here](#)). All you need is some thick gauge wire, a button, and your tools! No need for a ring mandrel, grab a highlighter and bend, bend, bend! It's a very quick and easy little project which produces a big impact with glam results !



Today, Kate goes on to work with wire in a different way, though, creating a charm out of a button. With about 6-7" of 20G wire and our large holed metal rounds (we carry in 2, 3, and 4mm, in Sterling and Gold Fill), Kate begins to create a bail, of sorts, for this button to live on. She makes a tight coil in her wire and strings on a couple rounds and then her button. As you'll see, Kate's beads roll about...and we tease her...don't forget to use a Foam Beat Mat!

Kate tries the 3mm beads, but she thinks it's a tad small. The 4mm fits better and takes up enough space to really stabilize her button. She adds two 4mm beads, the button, two more 4mms, and then creates a wire-wrapped double loop to top it all off.



Here are links to the 3mm and 4mm large holed metal beads Kate shows:

[Sterling Silver 3mm Round- Large Hole](#)

[Sterling Silver 4mm Round- Large Hole](#)

[Gold Fill 3mm Round- Large Hole](#)

[Gold Fill 4mm Round- Large Hole](#)

And she uses 20G Non-Tarnish Gold ParaWire and the Dragonfly Aqua Matte Gold button.



## Czech Glass Buttons

That was a lot of info for one episode! Kate knocked it out of the park, as usual. There are so many possibilities to working with these Czech Glass Buttons...from bracelet closures to charms on a necklace or a pair of earrings...a beautiful brooch or even a zipper pull! We hope to have inspired you to make something fun.

While the office unpacks from the Big Move, a special beadshop LIVE from Virginia will be on! Janice and Drea will see you next time for tips on working with Bullion, also called French Wire, in a gem-knotting extravaganza.



### Links to Events and More...

- Last Week's FB Live Broadcast: [The Zen of Fishing](#)
- [Facebook Live Youtube Playlist](#)
- [FB Live Archive Page](#) on beadshop.com
- [Free Tip Friday YouTube Playlist](#)
- [FTF Archive Page](#) on [beadshop.com](#)
- [Kate's 2019 Tucson Classes](#)

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