

# Beadshop LIVE: 9.4.19

## Silk and Bullion Basics



*With Kate Richbourg on Beadshop LIVE  
Photography by Baranduin Briggs & Karen Marshall  
Episode Notes by Drea Carbone*

Full disclosure: we had a lot of glitches this episode...so sorry! Many thanks for sticking with us through the technical difficulties. We have two different videos and a few start/stops in the video. But, buckle up and stay tuned! Kate has a lot of valuable information to give us on using bullion (AKA Fench Wire) and silk.

To help avoid Minute Marker confusion, our two videos will be color coded, and each "Minute Marker" will be linked to the correct video.

### **Here's the first video, in purple.**

Fast forward to **Minute Marker 5:30** to get to the start of the video.

Skip to **Minute Marker 10:00** to get to the product overview.

### **Here's the second video, in blue.**

Start at **Minute Marker 3:30** to get back to the beading!

## **Minute Marker 10:00**

One more note from me, Drea, before we get started. Since there is no project to go along with this broadcast, these Notes will focus more on any learning techniques, information about the products, and resources, so you can have everything in one spot. I'll also link to any products Kate uses.

[Thread Findings Category](#), and just [Bullion Stringing Materials](#), and just [Griffin Silk Pearls](#) (Kate uses [7mm Soft Gray Potato Pearls](#))

## **Minute Marker 17:00**

Bullion is a small slinky-like coil of thin wire. It's used to protect the stringing material from weakening at the clasp. You can also use it in embroidery as a decorative touch. There are several sizes of bullion, each used with a corresponding size (or sizes) of string.

Beyond Bullion, there are several other types on endings you can use to attach your stringing projects to a [clasp](#):

[Classic End Tips](#)

[Clamshell End Tips](#)

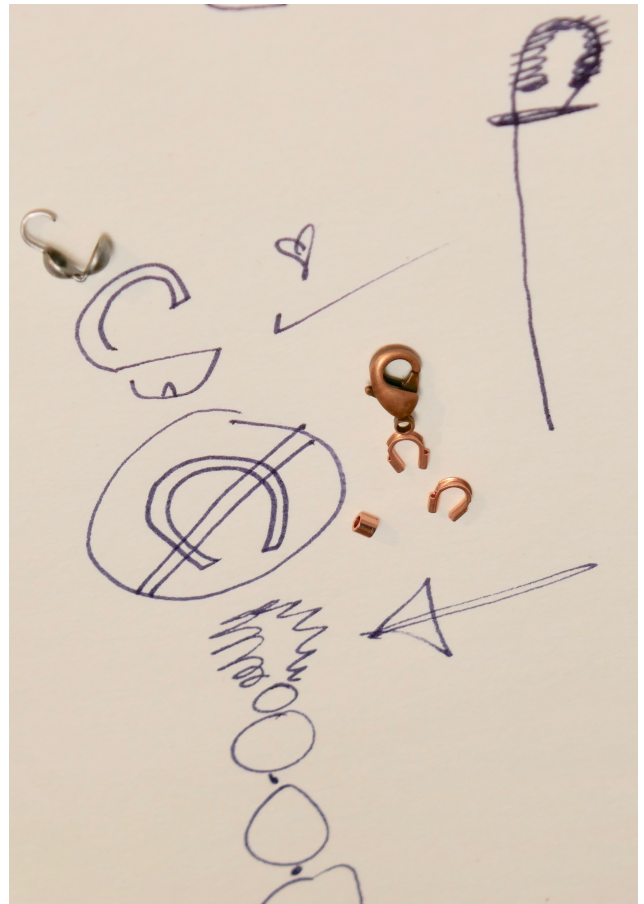
[Wire Guardians](#) (which can also be used with thread, despite the name! See how we've used them in earrings like Samba. For the more traditional usage, find our [Skill Builder](#) here.)

We don't currently have Skill Builders on working with end tips, but you can see them in use in the following projects, along with their LIVE episodes and Notes, and their main Project Page in parenthesis:

[Green Guardian](#) ([Contemporary Bead Knotting](#))

[Mossy Creek](#) ([Silk Float Away](#))

We have shown how to use Bullion before in our LIVE episode when Janice made the [Belvedere](#) necklace.



### **Minute Marker 25:00**

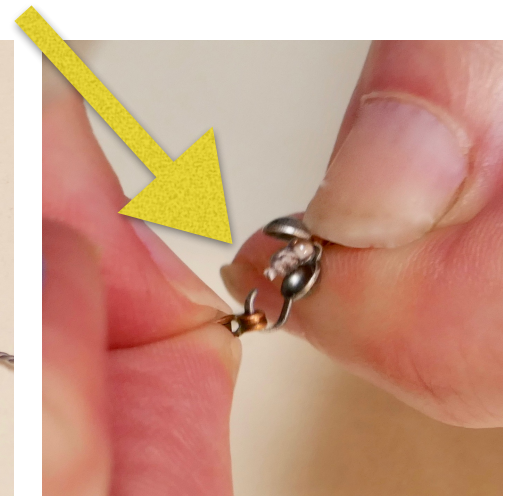
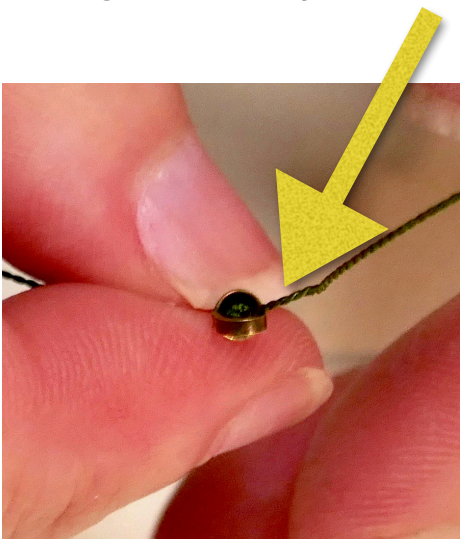
Kate has some great tips and tricks for working with Silk, as well. Whether it's straightening out the attached needle with Nylon Jaw Pliers or straightening the thread itself with a hair straightener...they're both valuable ideas to keep in mind!



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

Addressing a question asked about end tip security, Kate shows that you want to be sure you're using the right size thread for your end tips. Kate suggest tying a surgeon's-style knot, where you tie a knot but loop your thread through the loop twice instead of once before tightening...in this case, Kate actually goes through three times. This creates a nice, bulky, not-budging knot. You can also add a small bead, such as an 11/0 seed bead, and have that live inside the end tip as well. Add a dab of glue, if you like. All these ways will help prevent an end tip failure.

See how these knots live right inside? Bulky enough to not slip out the hole, small enough to still stay inside the end tip itself.



## **Minute Marker 35:00**

Back to Bullion! Be sure to use sharp cutters to snip your Bullion. Kate is using our Old School Thread Clippers, but you can also use Flush Cutters. The important thing is to use cutters that are very sharp.

Kate goes over which sizes of thread work with which sizes of bullion:

**Fine Bullion:** Size 2, Size 4

**Medium Bullion:** Size 6

**Heavy Bullion:** Size 8

Midway through this size exploration, we lose our connection, so let's head on over to the second video: **Part Two!**

## **Minute Marker 4:00**

With a Large Hole Gold Filled 4mm bead, Silk, and Bullion, Kate shows how to use the bullion: she brings her needle through the bead, then the bullion, and finally the clasp, and slides them all the way to the very end of the thread. Remember, with Griffin Silk the needle is attached, so you want to work with the end furthest from the needle so you can use that needle again later on future projects.

Bringing the needle back through the bead, the bullion bends back on itself, going through the ring of the clasp and forming a perfect little protective "U" shape. Take care with your bullion, don't pull it too tight so it's not misshapen, and take care to not separate the coils.

For the bead, try a large holed bead like Kate, or a seed bead works too. At first, she ties an overhand knot just below the bead, using Knotting Tweezers to help place it perfectly. Later, she decides to untie this knot and add a second bead and *then* knot. You do you! Add a dab of GS Hypo Cement and then trim the tail away.



### **Minute Marker 17:30**

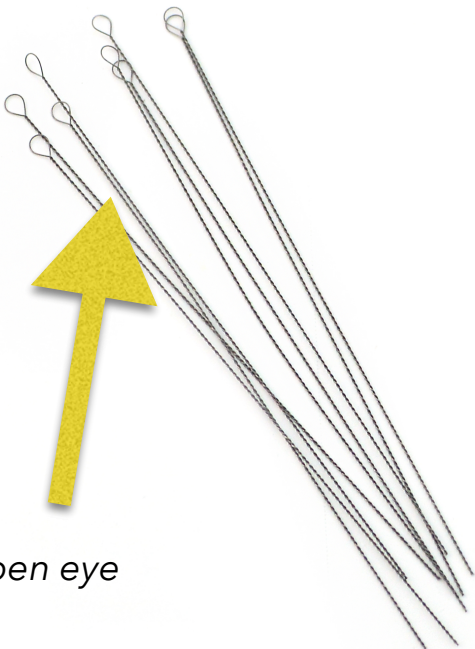
Here's a little compare-and-contrast for you...these are the same 8mm stone beads on Size 6 Silk (grey, top), and Size 8 Silk (purple, bottom).



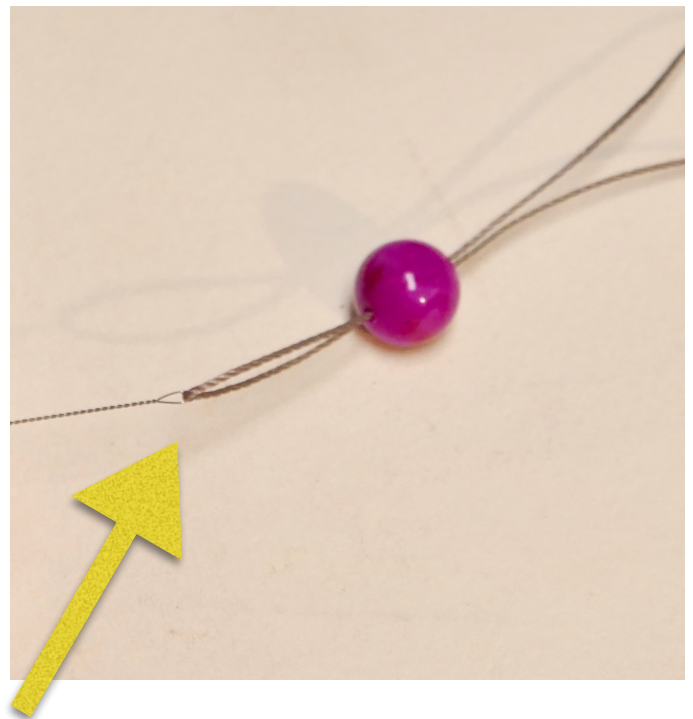
### **Minute Marker 18:45**

Using other threads and needles with bullion...

Kate demonstrates the correct needle to use. You don't want a large eye to expand your bullion coils and run it. The Collapsible Eye Needle is going to be too big to use, but Flexible Eye Needles will work wonderfully. Just close the eye first but running the needle through a bead before you put it through the bullion. This will collapse that eye, making it small enough to enter the bullion. For more on needles, check out our Needlepedia learning resource.



*Open eye*



*Closed eye after going through bead hole*

You can also use a self-needle made with glue, like you see us do all the time!

That was a lot of info! Thanks so much for sticking with us through all our technical difficulties...we appreciate your support! We'll do our best next time, but that's the beauty of a live streaming broadcast, you know?? See you next time...



*Does your work space look like this after a project? Haha!*

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[info@beadshop.com](mailto:info@beadshop.com)

[kate@beadshop.com](mailto:kate@beadshop.com)

[janice@beadshop.com](mailto:janice@beadshop.com)

[drea@beadshop.com](mailto:drea@beadshop.com)

## Links to Events and More...

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