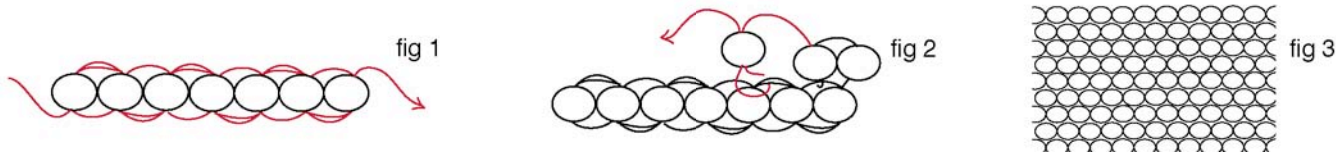


Basic Beadweaving - Brick Stitch 1

Brick stitch is a strong and versatile off-loom beadweaving technique. It can be used to make flat strips, chamfered triangles or rigid boxes. This instruction sheet is an introduction to brick stitch so will concentrate on making a simple panel of brick stitch and show you how you can adapt it to make a triangle or diamond shape.

Brick stitch starts with a foundation row. This row lines up the beads on end with all of the holes running parallel to one another (fig 1). The brick stitch proper starts on row two. To make a stitch the thread passes through the bead, picks up the thread strap between the beads on the previous row and passes back up the new bead (fig 2). The new bead then sits upright on top of the previous row straddling the gap between the two beads below it - when you have worked a few rows you will see the characteristic brick pattern emerge from this technique (fig 3).



There are [PROJECTS](#) on the website for brick stitch but if you have not used this stitch before it is advisable to make a sample square by following the instructions below.

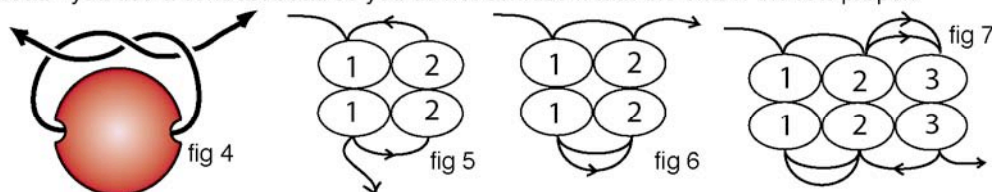
Learn The Stitch - Brick Stitch

Materials Required

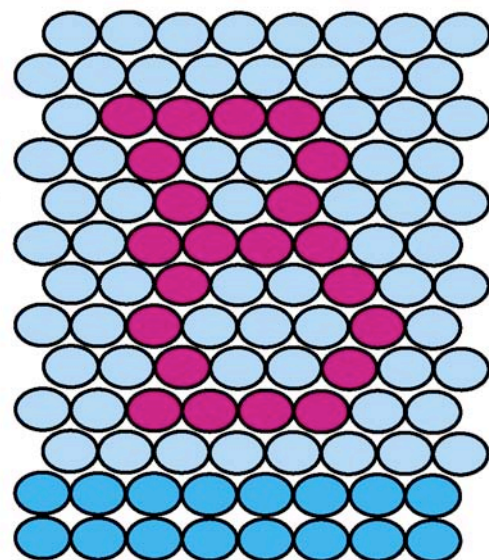
Two contrasting colours of seed beads or Delica beads in the SAME SIZE - Delica bead size 11/0 are a good choice as these lock together easily; a reel of Nymo or Superlon D beading thread (any colour will suffice for a practice square) and a size 10 beading needle. You will also need a pair of scissors and a transparent rule to place across the pattern grid to make it easier to track your row.

a, Label the main colour bead A and the contrast colour B

b, Prepare the needle with 1.2m of single thread. Thread on 1B and bring down to 10cm from the end of the thread. Tie a single overhand knot about the bead to keep it in place (fig 5) - this is the keeper bead. A keeper bead is a temporary bead that acts as an anchor for the end of the thread - you use a contrast bead so you do not confuse it with the end of the row proper.



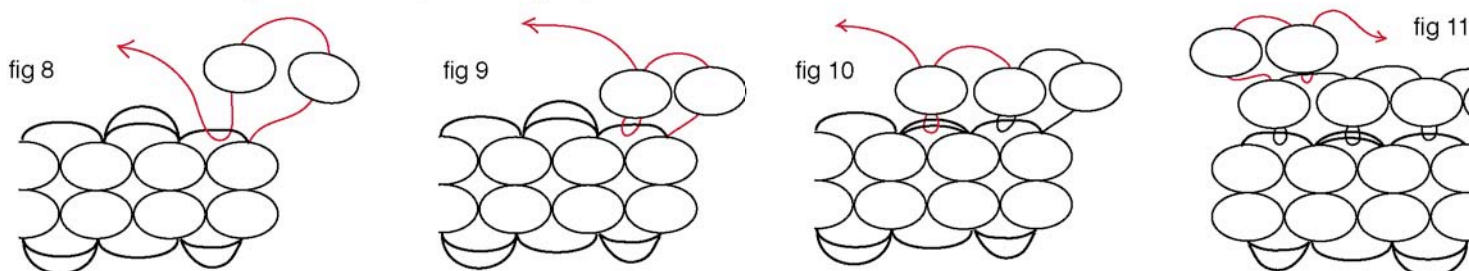
c, You will be making the panel shown on the right. Look at the bottom of the panel and you will see the bottom two rows are shaded a little darker and aligned differently from the rest of the panel. This is the foundation row and is worked in colour A - the beads are shaded darker just to make it easier for you to see. The foundation row is worked double height as it makes the beading easier to hold when you start the brick stitch.



d, Thread on 4A. Pass the needle back down the first 2A beads to draw the beads into two columns of 2A each (fig 5). Pass the needle up the second column of 2A (fig 6). Thread on 2A. Pass the needle up through the second column of 2A and back down the new column (fig 7).

Continue until you have eight columns as you see on the grid to the right.

e, The first brick stitch - The first stitch of any row of brick stitch uses two beads. Thread on 2A. Use the needle to pick up the thread strap between the tops of the last two columns of the foundation row (fig 8). Pass the needle back up through the second A bead of the 2A just added in the OPPOSITE direction than before and pull the thread through (fig 9). The two new beads should sit on top of the previous row with the second A of the 2A sitting above the strap of thread just passed beneath.



f, Thread on 1A. Use the needle to pick up the next thread strap along the top of the previous row. Pass the needle through the new bead in the opposite direction than before (fig 10) to draw this bead down into place. This is simple brick stitch. Work to the end of the row to add five more beads, one at a time, to the thread straps of the previous row. You will find that the last bead pulls into place half a bead width from the end of the previous row as you see on the pattern grid above.

g, Start the next row with a 2A stitch (fig 11). You now need to work one bead at a time across the row as before - the next bead is a B bead. Work to the end of the row following the pattern grid. Work the following nine rows to complete the grid.

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