

## Finishing Off the Thread Ends

Pass the needle through the beads into the body of the work (fig 12). Pick up the threads between the beads at that point with the tip of the needle. Pull the needle thread through until you leave a 2cm loop - pass the needle through the loop twice (fig 13) and pull on the needle to tighten the knot drawing it down between the beads to conceal it. Pass the needle through three or four more beads of the block and repeat the knot. Pass the needle through a further three or four beads before you trim the thread end closely.

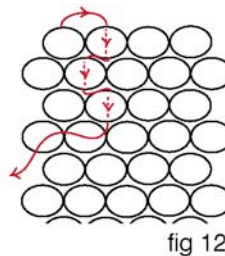


fig 12

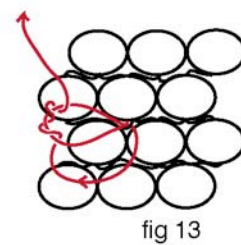


fig 13

Untie the knot around the keeper bead and reattach the needle to this end. Finish off as for the other end of the thread.

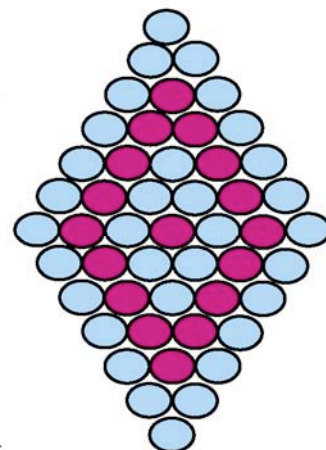
To add a new thread you make the knots in a similar way. Leave the old thread end hanging and prepare the needle with the new thread. Tie a keeper bead 10cm from the end and pass the needle into the work to emerge a ten beads away from the old thread end. Tie the new thread on here as above. Pass through a few more beads and repeat the knot. Pass through to the old thread end and continue the beading. When you have worked a few rows return to the old thread end and finish off as above. Remove the keeper from the end of the new thread and trim to neaten.

## Advantages and Disadvantages With Brick Stitch

- 1, Advantage - brick stitch is strong and sturdy - brick stitch is ideal for making amulet purses, little beaded boxes, pendant shapes, 3D etc.
- 2, Advantage - it is easy to add a fringe or tasselled finish to the lower edge as the beads already line up in the right direction for the needle.
- 3, Advantage - it is easy to shape by reducing and increasing on the end of the row.
- 4, Advantage - as the beads line up in a brick pattern it makes it easier to plan patterns with swirls, curls and more natural motifs.
- 5, Advantage - you can flip a Peyote pattern 90° and work it in brick stitch instead
- 6, Disadvantage - you need to plan ahead when increasing and decreasing so you can always start the row with a double bead stitch - if you do not the thread will show as a wrap around the first bead of the row.
- 7, Disadvantage - it grows quite slowly but you can try 2-drop or 3-drop brick stitch

## Making A Stepped Edge

The grid on the right shows a diamond shape worked in brick stitch - the shape could be used for a pendant or an earring or a decorative element in another design. This shape is easy to make in brick stitch and is a quick introduction to decreasing on the start of a row. The foundation row is the longest row across the centre of the shape - it is seven beads long. The brick stitch is then worked up to the top of the diamond. The work is then turned and using the other end of the thread you work down to the bottom of the shape.



a, Label the main colour bead A and the contrast colour B. Prepare the needle with 1.2m of single thread. Thread on 1B and bring down to 50cm from the end of the thread. Tie a single overhand knot about the bead to keep it in place and form the keeper bead. Putting the keeper bead near to the centre of the thread leaves enough length on the far side of the keeper to complete the lower half of the shape.

b, Work the foundation row as before - this time the foundation row is only one bead high (fig 14).

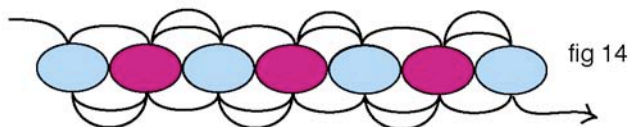


fig 14

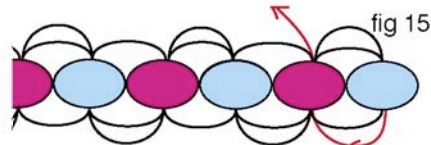


fig 15

c, If you look at the grid you will see that the first bead of the next row is half a bead width in from the edge of the foundation row. If you start the new row with a 2 bead stitch the first bead will overhang by half a bead so you need to reposition the needle before you start. Pass the needle up through the last but one bead of the foundation row (fig 15)

d, Thread on the first two beads for the new row as shown on the grid. Pick up the next thread strap along the foundation row with the needle and pass the needle back up through the second bead just added (fig 16). This completes the first two bead stitch of the row - you will see that you have stepped the edge in by half a bead's width. Work to the end of the row.

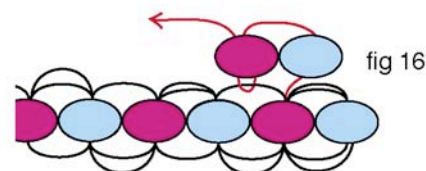


fig 16

e, At the start of the next row you will need to reposition the needle so once again it is emerging through the second bead in from the end of the row just completed. You will need to pass the needle through the beadwork to emerge correctly (fig 17). By taking the needle through the beads of the previous row as well as the row just completed you can turn the needle without the thread showing on either side of the work. Work to the top of the grid.



fig 17

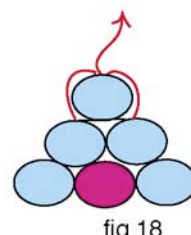


fig 18

NB - the thread will show on the outside of the single top bead of the shape - this cannot be avoided - try to make two straps of thread one to either edge of the work to make the effect balanced (see fig 18).

f, Once you have reached the top remove the needle and return to the keeper bead. Remove the keeper and rethread the needle onto this end - you can now work to the bottom of the shape. If you wish you can add fringe strands or a hanging loop and finish off the thread ends.