

If you change the size of the bead along the row the work will curve

Mayur Necklace Kit



Antonia Necklace Kit



Basic Beadwork

Square Stitch for Beginners

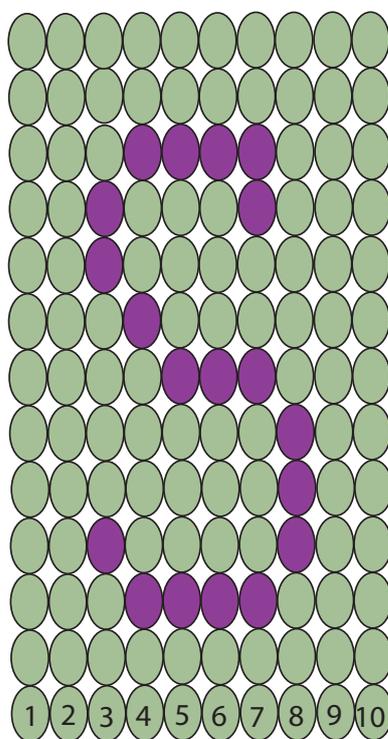
Square stitch is one of the easiest and most versatile of all of the basic beading techniques.

If you have not worked this stitch before it is good to practice a little first. This is especially so if the first row of your pattern contains more than ten beads as it can be difficult to control the tension in your work if the rows are quite long.

If you work all of the stitches in the same size bead the square stitch technique will form straight horizontal and vertical rows.

Making a Practice Square

The grid below shows a grid ten beads across by thirteen rows tall. The simple S motif will give you the chance to follow a pattern as you learn the technique.



To Make the Square You Will Need

- 5g of size 8/0 seed beads in colour A
- 2g of size 8/0 seed beads in colour B
- A length of beading thread
- A beading needle

You can use any size of seed bead or Delica but A and B must be the SAME size. Size 8/0 beads are a good 'happy medium' to learn the technique on.

1 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 1) - 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.

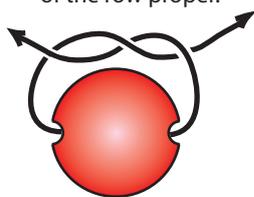


fig 1

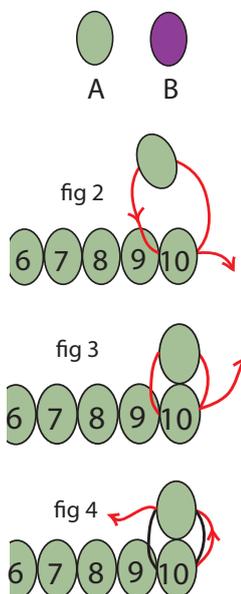
2 Look at the bottom row of the grid - you will see that the beads are numbered 1 - 10. Thread on these 10A beads and push down to the keeper bead to start the panel.



Square Stitch Box kit

3 Refer to fig 2 - Thread on 1A for the first bead of the second row. Pass the needle through the tenth bead of the first row in the same direction as the needle passed before (towards the end of the row) and pull the thread through to bring the new A bead to sit alongside bead number 10 with the holes in the two beads running parallel to one another (fig 3).

To complete the stitch pass the needle through the new bead in the same direction as before (fig 4).



4 Thread on 1A. Pass the needle through bead 9 on the first row in the same direction as before to bring the new bead alongside bead 9. To finish the stitch pass the needle through the new bead (fig 5). This is simple square stitch.

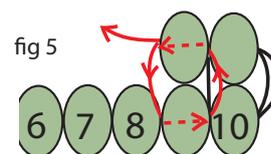


fig 5

5 If you refer to the grid you will see that all of this row is made in colour A beads. Work to the end of the row to add 1A bead, one at a time, alongside each of the remaining eight beads of the first row.

6 To make the row firm pass the needle through all of the beads of the first row and back through all of the second row beads (fig 6) - this will also pull the rows more neatly into line. After each complete row you will need to repeat this firming stitch - passing the needle through the previous row and back through the new row.

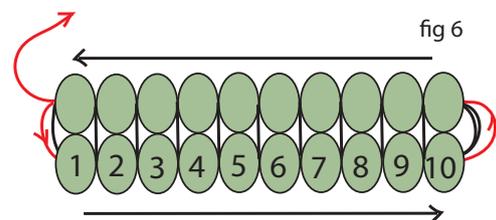


fig 6

7 Start the next row of the grid with 1A (fig 7). You will need two more 1A stitches before you start to add in the B beads.

8 Work to the top of the grid to complete all thirteen rows - use a rule to underscore each row to help you to keep your place in the pattern.

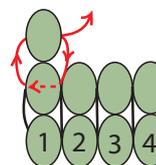
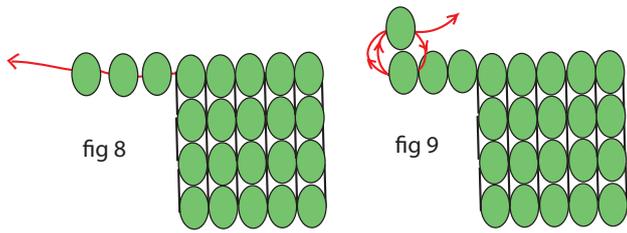


fig 7

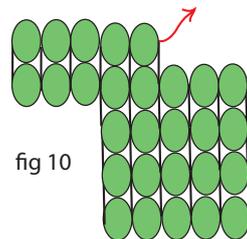
Increasing

You can increase the width of your work at the end of the row or between the beads of the row.



Thread on the extra beads at the end of the row and push them up tightly to the end of the row (fig 8).

Square stitch the first bead of the next row to the last bead added in fig 8 (fig 9).



Continue to square stitch along the row (fig 10). Take care with the tension in the work as you add the beads either side of the increase.

If you increase within the length of the row the shape of the row will change into a curve.

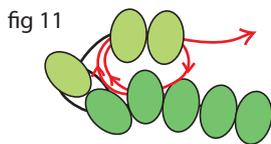
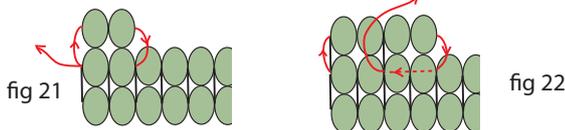


Fig 11 shows two beads being added using one stitch to one bead on the previous row. Work lots of these stitches to get a frilly edge.

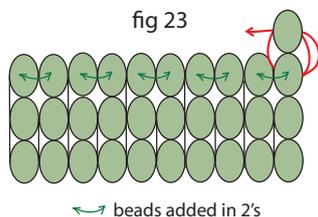
Working On Larger Panels

Square stitch can be slow to grow, especially on a large panel. If you are working with small beads (size 10/0 seeds or smaller) you can add beads in twos rather than singles.

Work the first two rows as normal to give a strong foundation. Start the next row with two beads and pass through the last two beads of the previous row (fig 21) to draw them parallel. Pass the needle through the two new beads and thread on two beads. Pass the needle through the next two beads of the previous row (fig 22) and continue across the row.

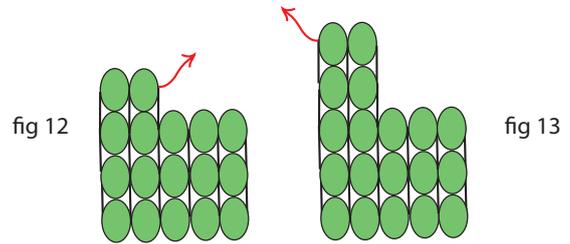


Remember to bring the rows into line by passing the needle up and down the previous row and the row just completed (as fig 6 overleaf). On the next row you will need to stagger the two bead stitches - If you finished the last row with a single bead stitch you can start the new row with a two bead stitch or, if the last stitch on the previous row used two beads, start the new row with a single bead stitch (fig 23) before reverting back to two beads per stitch for the remainder of the row - this will stagger the stitches in relation to the previous row (like a brick wall) to give you a better tension throughout the work.

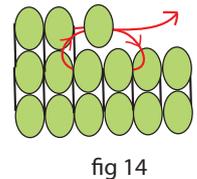


Decreasing

You can decrease the width of your work at any point along the row by just stopping the row you are working on (fig 12) and starting the next row immediately (fig 13).



You can also decrease within the row. Fig 14 shows one bead being square stitched to two beads on the previous row - this distorts the tension in the previous row and will cause the work to bend slightly.



Making Waves

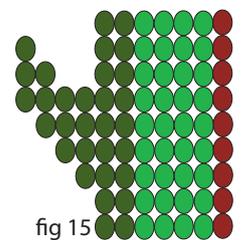
Right - square stitches holding together rows of undulating seed beads.

This is a section of the [Strata Bracelet](#) kit - the fan shaped bracelet above is from the [Square Stitch Box](#) kit which is an ideal way to learn to design with this versatile technique

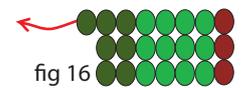


A Practical Problem

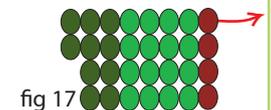
The grid in fig 15 is a shaped spine on a project that makes a Dragon necklace. You can see that it requires the rows to increase along the one edge.



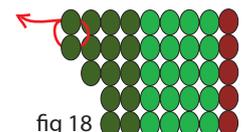
Square stitch stacks the beads in vertical rows but some of these beads have no bead to sit on top of - these extra beads have to be added as a 'drop down stitch' from the next row of the grid.



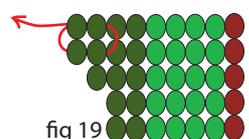
At the end of the first increase row add the single bead required (fig 16).



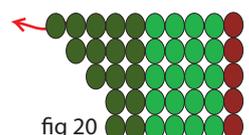
Work back across the next row noting that you are unable to add the very first bead of this new row as it overhangs the previous row and there is nothing for it to attach to (fig 17).



Work across the next row adding one bead to the end of the row. Square stitch one bead to this new bead allowing this new bead to 'drop down' into place at the end of the previous row (fig 18).



Stitch this 'dropped down' bead to the end of the previous row giving you the stepped edge that you require (fig 19).



Continue with the current row (fig 20).