Brick Stitch Instructions

In Brick Stitch, as the name suggests, the beads are arranged like a
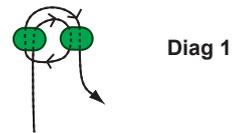brick wall. They are held together by connected loops of thread.
So, to get started, there needs to be something to which
you can connect the first line of loops.
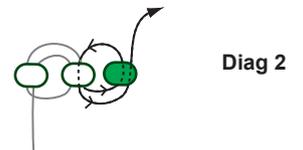This is most usually a foundation row of Ladder Stitch (Method 1).
You can also start by working a two-bead deep strip,
zig-zagging the beads together (Method 2).
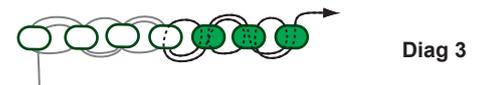
Foundation Method 1 - Ladder Stitch

1. Pick up two beads and pass back through the first bead and then the second bead again.
Do not pull the thread too tightly - you want to have the beads sitting side by side, not one
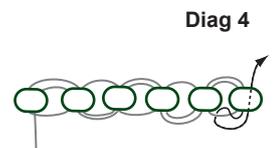on top of the other. (Diag 1)

Diag 1

2. Pick up one bead, pass through the bead the thread is coming from, from the opposite side of
it, and through the new bead again. (Diag 2)

Diag 2

Repeat Step 2 until you have the desired width for your Brick Stitch piece,
here shown as seven beads (Diag 3).

Diag 3

If you have an even number of beads for the Foundation in Ladder Stitch, you will find the thread
exits the bottom of the last bead, instead of from the top which is where you want it in order to start
your Brick Stitch. Just turn the work over and ignore the tail of thread when you get back to the end
of the row. Or, you can pass the needle under the last bottom loop of thread and up through the
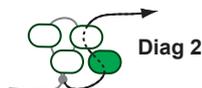last bead added (Diag 4).

Diag 4

**The strip of beadwork you have made forms the foundation for your Brick Stitch
and will become the first row.**

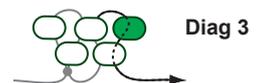## Foundation Method 2 - Two-bead deep strip

1. Pick up three beads and pass back through the first bead, pointing towards the tail of thread.
Tie the two ends of thread together in a double knot. (Diag 1)

Diag 1

2. Pick up one bead and pass up through
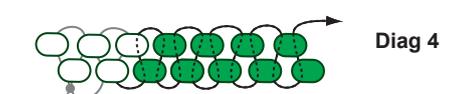either of the beads above. (Diag 2)

Diag 2

3. Pick up one bead and pass through
the last bead just added. (Diag 3)

Diag 3

Repeat Step 3, working up and down, adding to the strip of beads until it is the desired
width for your Brick Stitch piece (here shown as seven beads).
Finish with the same number of beads along the bottom and top of the strip. (Diag 4)

Diag 4

**The strip of beadwork you have made forms the foundation for your Brick Stitch
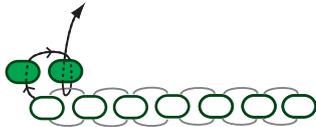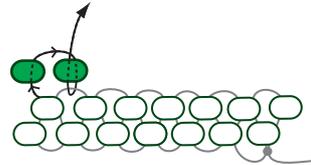and will become the first two rows.**

Working in Brick Stitch

1. Pick up two beads and pass the needle under the loop of thread which joins the first two beads of your Foundation strip, and then up again through the second new bead.
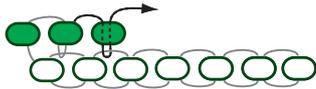(Diag 1a shows Foundation Method 1; Diag 1b shows Foundation Method 2)
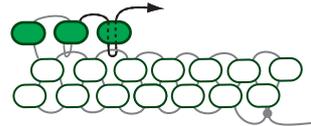
Diag 1a

Diag 1b

2. Pick up one bead and pass the needle under the loop of thread which joins the next two beads, and then up again through the new bead. (Diags 2a & 2b)
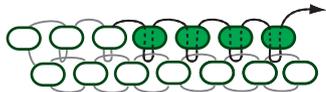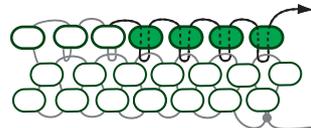
Diag 2a

Diag 2b

3. Repeat Step 2 until you get to the end of the row. (Diags 3a & 3b)
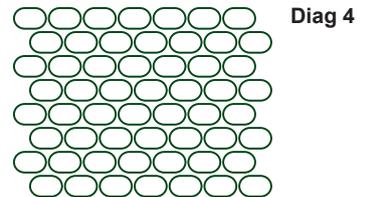
Diag 3a

Diag 3b

Every subsequent row of Brick Stitch is the same, just repeat Steps 1 to 3 above.

As you will have picked up 2 beads and gone under the very first loop available at the beginning of each row, the first bead picked up sits outside the edge of the work by half a bead. The final bead of the row sits inside the edge by half a bead. Repeating this every row creates a flat piece of beadwork with the beads staggered 'half left' and 'half right' to each other. (Diag 4)

Diag 4

If you turn the beadwork around so the top becomes the side, it looks like Peyote Stitch. Charted designs intended for one stitch can therefore be used for the other - just turn the chart through ninety degrees.

Note on direction of work

Our Brick Stitch diagrams show the work progressing from left to right. However, if you find it more comfortable to work the first row of Brick Stitch from right to left, simply turn your Foundation around so that the working thread is at the top right.

You can continue to work Brick Stitch in your preferred direction, by turning the work around at the end of each row. However, if you are following a pattern chart, you should work rows alternately from right to left and then from left to right.