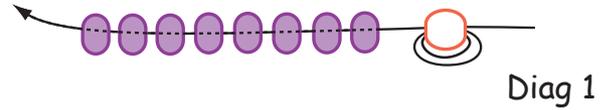




Basic Beadwork Stitches

SQUARE STITCH

1. Put on a stop bead at least 15 cm (6") from the end of the thread, by passing through the bead twice, being careful not to split the thread. Thread on beads for the desired width, here shown as 8 beads across (Diag 1).



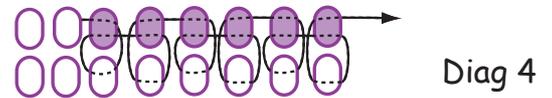
2. Pick up one bead. Go through the last bead of the 1st row, pointing away from the work. Turn and go through the new bead again, pointing towards the tail of thread. (Diag 2).



3. Pick up one bead, go through the next bead in the previous row in the opposite direction. Turn and go through the new bead again, pointing towards the tail of thread. (Diag 3).

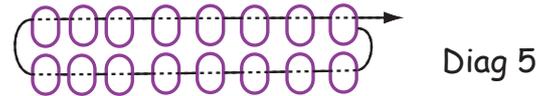


4. Repeat step 3 across all beads. Remove the stop bead. (Diag 4)



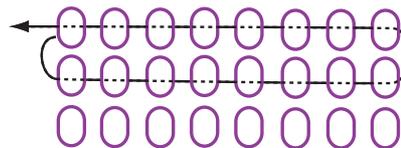
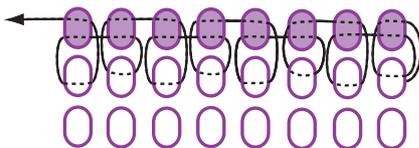
Optional

5. Reinforce the beadwork by passing through all of the beads in rows one and two again. (Diag 5).



This last pass through is optional - it serves to bring all the beads neatly into line and makes for a firmer fabric. Whether you choose to do this will depend on your tension.

Now work back in the opposite direction, attaching a bead to each of the beads in the previous row. Reinforce with a final pass through if desired.



Continue working in Square Stitch, going backwards and forwards across the piece.



Basic Beadwork Stitches

SQUARE STITCH

Some Tips

1. DIRECTION OF WORK

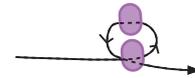
Experience has shown that fabric produced in Square Stitch has a 'nap'. If you work a section in one direction and then inadvertently turn it over and work the next section from the other side, the beads of each section will lie at a different angle from each other. This will show as a straight line across the work because the two sections will reflect the light quite differently.

Give yourself a marker so that you always pick up the work in the same way. So, for example, leave the tail of thread in place and always pick up the work with the tail of thread in the bottom right-hand corner.

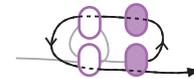
2. ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF STARTING

Some people prefer to start Square Stitch by adding pairs of beads until the required width is reached.

Pick up 2 beads and go through the first of them again.

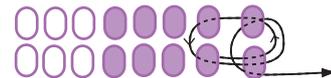


* Pick up 2 beads and go back through the 2nd bead of the previous pair, turn direction and go through the 1st bead of both pairs of beads.



Repeat from * until the strip is the width you require.

Finally, when the last pair of beads is added, go back through the 2nd bead just added, turn and go through the 1st bead of the same pair again.



3. HOW TO HOLD THE WORK

You can hold the work horizontally and go backwards and forwards across the rows, as we have shown in the diagrams. However, some people find it more comfortable to hold the work so that they are adding rows vertically, i.e. working from top to bottom. Either way is fine, just so long as you are consistent.

4. THREAD MATTERS

Square Stitch is a very hungry stitch and uses a lot of thread, even if you do not work the optional extra pass through. So make sure to give yourself plenty of thread each time you join in a new length.

The thread will also show in Square Stitch, so choose the colour with care.