



# Basic Stitch Instructions

## Brick Stitch

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).

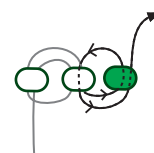
### Foundation Method 1 - Ladder Stitch

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)



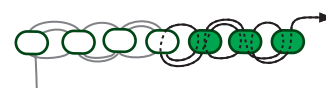
Diag 1

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



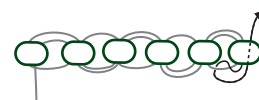
Diag 2

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 along to it as you work the Brick Stitch 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 of it.**

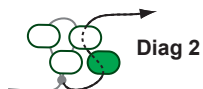
### Foundation Method 2 - Two-bead deep strip

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)



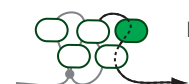
Diag 1

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



Diag 2

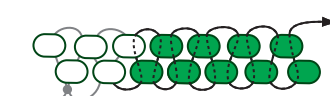
3. Pick up one bead and pass through the last bead just added. (Diag 3)



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 of it.**

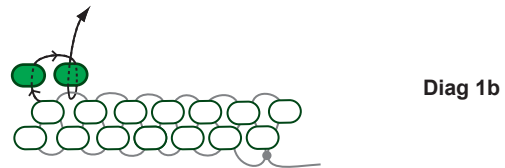
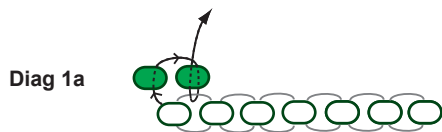
# Basic Stitch Instructions



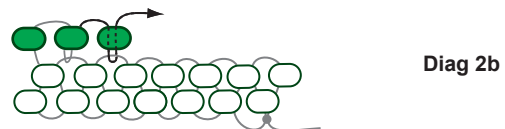
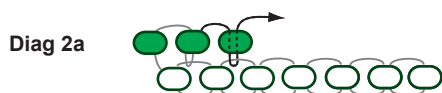
## Brick Stitch

### Working In Brick Stitch

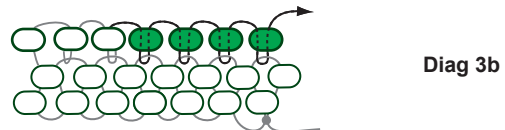
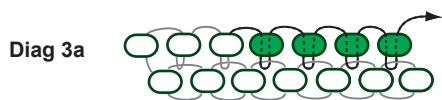
1. Pick up two beads and pass the needle under the loop of thread which joins the first two beads of your Foundation strip, and then up again through the second new bead. (Diag 1a shows Foundation Method 1; Diag 1b shows Foundation Method 2)



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)



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

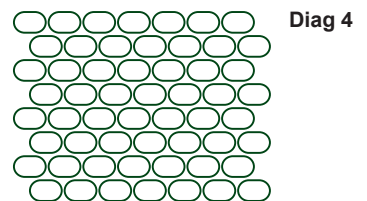


**Every subsequent row of Brick Stitch is the same, just repeat Steps 1 to 3 above.**

As you will have 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)



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

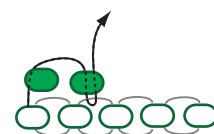
Our Brick Stitch diagrams show the work progressing from left to right. However, if you find it more comfortable to work the first row of Brick Stitch from right to left, simply turn your Foundation around so that the working thread is at the top right.

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 or instructions for shaping, then you should work rows alternately from right to left and then from left to right.

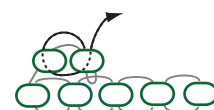
## Shaping in Brick Stitch

### To decrease on the edge by one bead

1. At the beginning of a row, pick up two beads and put the needle under the second loop rather than the first; go up through the second bead. (Diag 1)
2. When decreasing at the beginning of a row, you must reinforce the link between the first two beads or the bead on the edge will not sit correctly. Do this by going down through the first bead and then up through the second bead - give a good tug to make sure they are sitting flat against the previous row. (Diag 2) The bead on the edge should now be half a bead inside from the previous row.
3. At the end of a row, just stop short and turn where required.



Diag 1



Diag 2

### To decrease on the edge by more than one bead

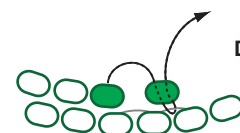
1. At the beginning of a row, weave through the beadwork to bring your needle out through the bead where you want to start. You can choose whether to go under the first or second loops, depending on exactly where you want the beads to sit: if it's the second loop, you must reinforce the first stitch (see Step 2 above).
2. At the end of a row, just stop short and turn where required.

#### To make a Triangle

Make a Ladder stitch Foundation the width of the base of the triangle.  
Decrease by one bead at the beginning of every row until two beads remain. Stitch one bead into place at the top of the triangle, between the last pair of Brick stitch beads

### To decrease in mid-row

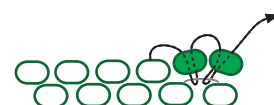
1. Start the row as normal and then do not work on to the connecting loop where you want the decrease to be. Make the next stitch on to the next loop along. (Diag 3) Pull everything up as tight as you can. The beadwork will start to bend slightly at the decrease point.



Diag 3

### To increase on the edge by one bead

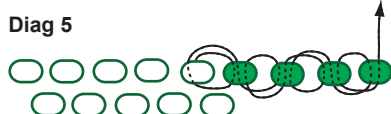
1. At the beginning of a row, just go under the first loop as normal. As already discussed, the bead on the edge will extend beyond it for half a bead.
2. At the end of a row, work two beads, one at a time, on to the final loop. (Diag 4) Do not be tempted to pick up two beads at the same time – you will find that the first bead will not sit straight and you will be short of a loop on the next row.



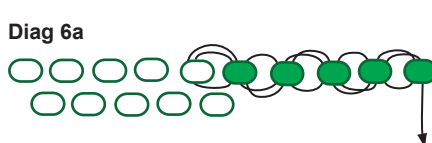
Diag 4

### To increase on the edge by more than one bead

Use ladder stitch to add the number of beads required. You can do this off either the right or left hand edges of a flat piece of brick stitch. Diag 5 shows increasing by an even number of beads. Diags 6a and 6b show increasing by an odd number of beads.



Diag 5



Diag 6a



Diag 6b

### To increase in mid-row

To increase in mid-row: work two beads, one at a time, on to the same connecting loop. Do not be tempted to pick up two beads at the same time – you will find that the first bead will not sit straight and you will be short of a loop on the next row. (Diag 7)



Diag 7