

# BRICK STITCH

## STARTING THE BRICK STITCH

The brick stitch does a natural decrease at the start and end of each row. To take advantage of this natural decrease, start the brick stitch at the widest point in the pattern. The technique to start the brick stitch described below will actually put two rows of brick stitch on at the same time.

### Steps to start the brick stitch

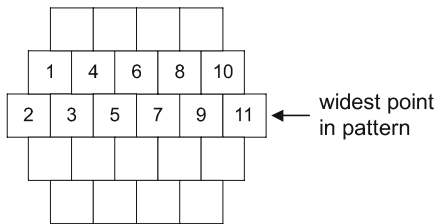


Fig. 1

1. Pick up three beads (those marked 1, 2 and 3 in the diagram shown in Figure 1). Figure 1 shows the order the beads will be added when starting the brick stitch. Notice that you alternate between the two rows.

2. Bring the needle back through the first bead, coming from the bottom of the bead to the top. The working thread will be on the same side of the bead as the tail. Pull the beads snug so they are positioned as shown in the diagram on the right in Figure 2.

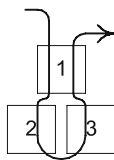


Fig. 2

3. From this point on you will add the beads one at a time, alternating between the two rows. Pick up the bead on the top row (marked 4 in Fig. 3) and go through the end bead (marked 3) on the bottom row going from the top of the bead down. Pick

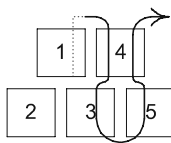


Fig. 3

**Note:** When you are finished the thread will be extending from the top of the second (the shorter) of the two rows. You are now positioned to continue working the brick stitch on the upper section of the pattern. To complete the lower section of the pattern, thread up a new piece of thread and position it so it is coming out the appropriate bead to start the lower section

up the next bottom bead (marked 5) and go through the end top bead (marked 4), going from the bottom to the top. Continue this pattern until all the beads of these two rows are added.

## REGULAR BRICK STITCH

### Starting a New Row

You start a normal row (one that is naturally decreasing from the side) by attaching two beads at the beginning of the row. This prevents the thread from showing at the edge of your work.

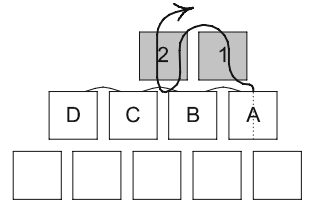


Fig. 4

1. With the thread extending from the edge bead of the just completed row, pick up the first two beads of the next row (Fig. 4).

2. Loop the thread under the thread between the second and third beads (marked B and C) of the previous row.

3. Bring the needle up (from the bottom) of the second new bead (marked 2).

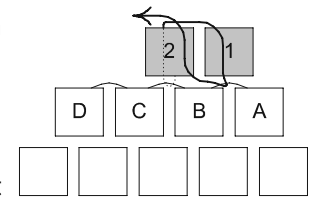


Fig. 5

4. Bring the needle down (from the top) of the first new bead (marked 1 in Fig. 5).

5. Loop the thread under the thread between the first and second bead (marked A and B) of the previous row.

6. Bring the needle up (from the bottom) the second new bead (marked 2) on the current row.

### Regular Brick Stitch

For the rest of the row only one bead will be added at a time. The thread will be extending from the top of the second newly added bead.

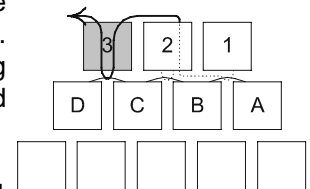


Fig. 6

1. Pick up the next bead (marked 3 in Fig. 6).

2. Loop the thread under the thread between the next two beads (marked C and D).
3. Bring the needle back up (from the bottom) the newly added bead.

### Increasing a Single Bead at the Beginning of a New Row

1. Pick up the first two beads (marked 1 and 2 in Figure 7) of the new row.
2. Loop the thread under the thread between the first and second beads (marked A and B) of the previous row.

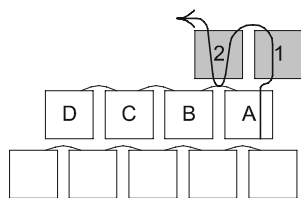


Fig. 7

3. Bring the needle up the second new bead (from the bottom).

### Increasing a Single Bead at the End of a New Row

Work the row as usual until you get to the very last bead.

1. Pick up the last bead of the row (marked 4 in Fig. 8).
2. Loop the thread under the thread between the last two beads of the previous row (marked C and D). This is the same thread that the previous bead was attached to.

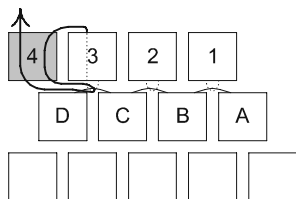


Fig. 8

3. Bring the needle up (from the bottom) the newly added bead.

### Increasing Two Beads at the Beginning of a New Row

1. Pick up the SECOND and THIRD bead of the next row (marked 2 and 3 in Fig. 9) and attach them following the instructions for adding a single bead at the beginning of a row described above.

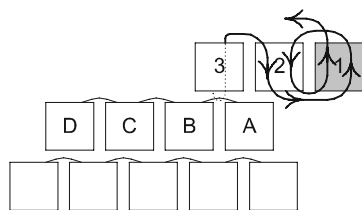


Fig. 9

The thread should be extending from the second of the two beads you start a new row with (marked 3).

2. Bring the needle down (from the top) the first of the two newly added beads (marked 2).
3. Pick up the first bead of the row (marked 1) and bring the thread back through bead 2 going from the top down.

4. Loop around, bringing the needle up (from the bottom) the first bead (marked 1 in Fig. 10), then down the second bead (marked 2).

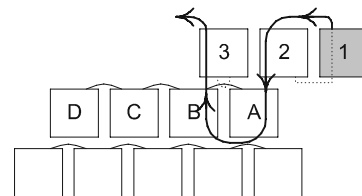


Fig. 10

5. To add strength, bring the needle down the end bead of the previous row (marked A) and up the second bead from the edge of the previous row (marked B) and, finally, up the third bead of the current row (marked 3). Work the rest of the row as normal.

**Note:** To add even more beads to the beginning of the row simply attach them by looping through the new bead and the previous bead twice. When all the beads have been attached, bring the needle back through all the beads until you get to the end of newly added beads. You might have to bring the needle down into the previous row in order to position the needle to continue the row.

### Increasing Two Beads at the End of a New Row

1. Work the row as normal, adding the second-to-the-last bead as described in the instructions for "Increasing a Single Bead at the End of a New Row". The thread will be extending from the end newly added bead (the first of the two increase beads, marked 4 in Figure 11).

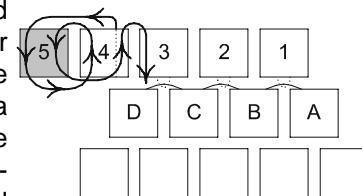


Fig. 11

2. Pick-up the last new bead (marked 5) and loop through the previous bead (marked 4), going from the bottom to the top.
3. Loop and through the last bead (marked 5), going from the top, then back through the previous bead (marked 4) going from the bottom.
4. Bring the needle through the third bead from the end (marked 3), going from the top.

- Bring the needle down (from the top) the end bead of the previous row (marked D in Figure 12).
- Loop around, bringing the needle up (from the bottom) of the second-from-the-end bead of the previous row (marked C).
- Finally, if the next row does not decrease by more than one bead, bring the needle through the last 3 beads of the current row, bringing the needle up (from the bottom) of third-to-the-last bead (marked 3), down (from the top) of the second-to-the-last bead (marked 4) and then up (from the bottom) of the last bead (marked 5) or position it at the start of the next row.

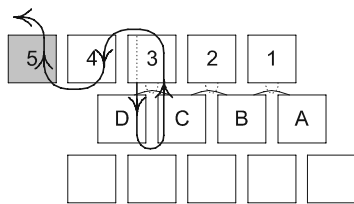


Fig. 12

Figure 14 shows how to move over by two beads. With the thread extending from the top of the first bead of the just completed row (marked A in Fig. 14):

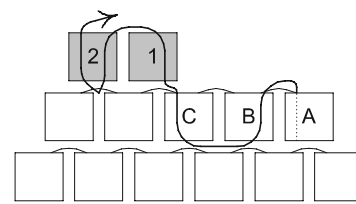


Fig. 14

- Bring the needle down (from the top) the second bead (marked B).
- Loop around, bringing the needle up (from the bottom) the next bead on the current row (marked C) and pick up the first two beads of the next row and work as normal.

## OPTIONAL BRICK STITCH (THE COMANCHE STITCH)

The basic brick stitch works off of the threads between the beads of the previous row. The Comanche Stitch works through the beads of the previous rows.

Start the pattern the same way as the regular brick stitch, working the first two rows of the pattern at its widest point.

### Starting a New Row

- Pick up the first two beads of the next row (marked 1 and 2 in Figure 15).
- Bring the needle down (from the top) the second bead from the end (marked B) of the previous row.
- Loop around, bringing the needle up (from the bottom) the end bead (marked A) of the current row.
- Bring the needle up (from the bottom) the first of the newly added beads (marked 1).
- Loop around, bringing the needle down (from the top) the second newly added bead (marked 2 in Figure 16).

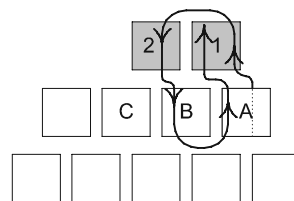


Fig. 15

- Loop around, bringing the needle up (from the bottom) the first of the newly added beads (marked 1).
- Loop around, bringing the needle down (from the top) the second newly added bead (marked 2 in Figure 16).

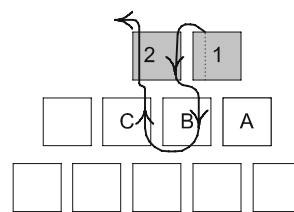


Fig. 16

**Note:** To add even more beads to the end of a row, simply loop them to the previous bead twice. Once all the required beads are added, work the thread to the desired point in the pattern. You might have to bring the needle down into the previous row in order to position the needle at the desired point in the pattern.

### Decreasing Two or more Beads at the Beginning of a New Row

Use the beads of the just completed row and the previous row (if needed) to move your thread to the desired position to start the new row.

Figure 13 shows how to move over by one bead. With the thread extending from the top of the first bead of the just completed row (marked A):

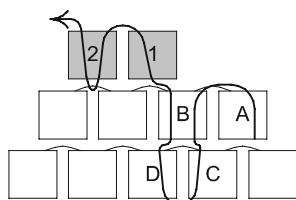


Fig. 13

- Bring the needle down (from the top) the second bead (marked B).
- Go down (from the top) the bead on the previous row that is to the right and below the current bead (marked C).
- Loop around, bringing the needle up (from the bottom) the bead to the left on the current bead (marked D).
- Finally, go up (from the bottom) the second-from-the-end bead of the top row and pick up the first two beads of the next row and work as normal.

