



Basic Stitch Instructions

Herringbone Spirals

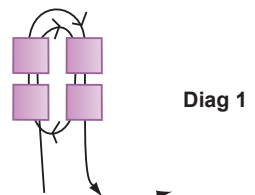
Herringbone weave produces a very characteristic 'V' shaped alignment of beads. A pair of beads is added with each stitch, each pair sitting in a 'V' shape.

Herringbone needs to be started from a foundation of beads with holes arranged 'North-South', so a foundation of ladder stitch is ideal. Herringbone Spirals are worked continuously and, unlike with Tubular Herringbone, there is no need to 'step up' at the end of a round.

Foundation

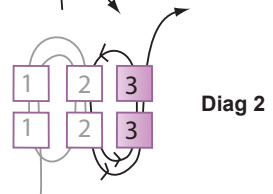
Using 2 beads per stack, make a row of ladder stitch an even number of stacks wide, as follows. (There are occasions with this stitch when you might prefer to use a single bead per stack, but it is more fiddly)

1. Pick up 4 beads and join them together by going through the first 2 beads again (from the tail of thread) and then through the next 2 beads. (Diag 1)



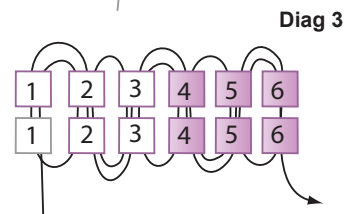
Diag 1

2. * Pick up 2 beads and go through the stack of beads the thread is coming out of, from the opposite side of it, and then through the 2 beads just picked up. (Diag 2)



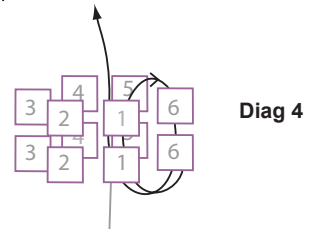
Diag 2

3. Repeat from * until the row is as long as required and has an even number of stacks. The diagram here shows a row of six stacks. (Diag 3)



Diag 3

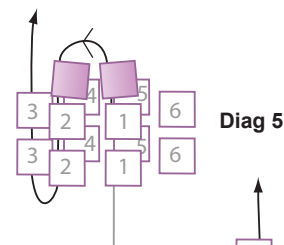
4. Turn the little strip of beadwork into a ring by joining the first and last stacks together: go into the first stack from the same side as the tail of thread and back through the last stack. Finally, go through the first stack again so that the working thread and tail of thread are on opposite sides of the foundation. (Diag 4)



Diag 4

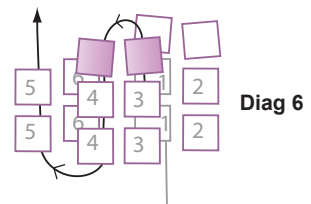
1st round

1. Pick up 2 beads and go down through the next stack of beads along; bring the needle up through the next stack of beads. (Diag 5)



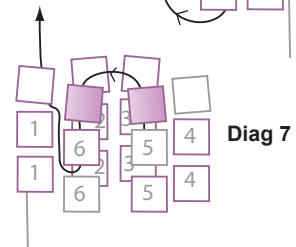
Diag 5

2. Pick up 2 beads, go down through the next stack and up through the next. (Diag 6)



Diag 6

3. Pick up 2 beads, go down through the **top bead only** of the next stack along and then go **directly up through the first bead picked up in this round**. (Diag 7) The thread will show a little, so pull it up as tight as you can.



Diag 7

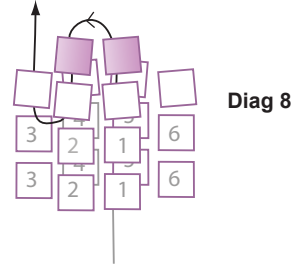
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Subsequent Working of the Herringbone Spiral

* Pick up 2 beads. Go down through the next bead along and up through the next bead. (Diag 8)



Repeat from * until the Spiral is the length you require. These instructions make a gentle spiral which you will begin to see after about an inch, depending on your tension. See the notes below about making Spirals with a more pronounced twist.

Experiment with different combinations of bead to see what variations you can discover. See also the notes below about tightening the tension.

Exaggerating the twist of a Herringbone Spiral

You can exaggerate the twist of a Herringbone Spiral very easily.

1. Work a little way as established: pick up 2 beads, go down 1 bead and up the next. Then switch to: pick up 2 beads, go down 2 beads and up 1 bead. Or you could try: pick up 2 beads, down 3 beads and up 1 bead.

2. To further exaggerate the twist, place a larger bead in the same position up the length of the spiral as you work. For example, start a 4-bead spiral with 1 size 8 Hex (H) and 3 cylinder beads (C). Having ladder stitched them together, bring the thread out of the Hex. The 1st combination to pick up is 1 x H, 1 x C. The 2nd pick up is 2 x C. Repeat from * until the spiral is the length you want. Work as 'down 2, up 1' (see above).

Tightening a Herringbone Spiral

You may find that a Herringbone Spiral can be a little loose and tiny gaps appear in it. (This doesn't seem to be a problem with Tubular Herringbone, which may have something to do with the 'step up'.) This is perfectly normal, but can annoy some people who like their beadwork to have a tight tension. If this applies to you, try this:

Join in a new length of thread to the beads at the beginning of one column of the Spiral and pass it through all the beads of that column. Pull the thread through firmly as you go and you will find the beadwork will tighten and the Spiral will become more pronounced. It will also get shorter, so you may find you want to do some more herringbone, and then pull the extra thread through the new section to tighten it up. If you prefer, you could attach the extra thread when you have approximately 3" of Spiral, and tighten it every 2" or 3" as you work.