

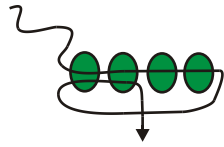
Herringbone (Ndebele) Stitch

This traditional and easy stitch is worked in groups of two beads per stitch, using an even number of beads per row.

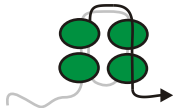
You need: Seed beads size 11 or size 08
Thread to match your beads
Beading needle
Beeswax or "Thread Heaven"

You do:

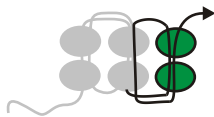
1. Thread the needle with a comfortable length of waxed thread and, leaving a 15 cm – 20 cm tail, pick up 4 beads and stitch down through the first 2 beads picked up.



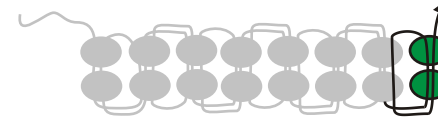
2. Pull tight and stitch back up through beads 3 and 4. The beads should now lie as illustrated in the diagram below.



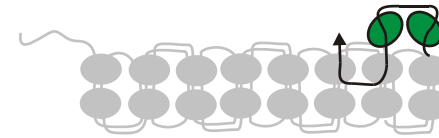
3. Add 2 beads per stitch in this manner, forming a ladder 2 beads tall, following the thread path shown below.



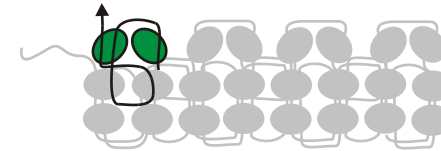
4. Continue in this manner until your work reaches the desired even number of beads for your pattern.



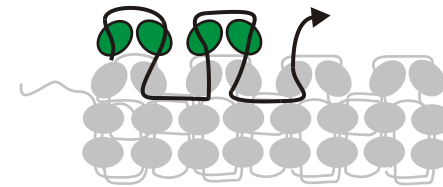
5. To start the "herringbone", flip the beadwork so that the thread comes out of the top of the last bead-ladder. Pick up 2 beads, stitch down through the neighbouring top bead and up the bead next to it (see below).



6. Add in this manner 2 beads per stitch until you reach the end of the row. The diagram below shows the thread path for the turn.



7. Continue beading using steps 5 and 6 as a guide. Keep the tension even to create an even herringbone pattern.



Herringbone variations:

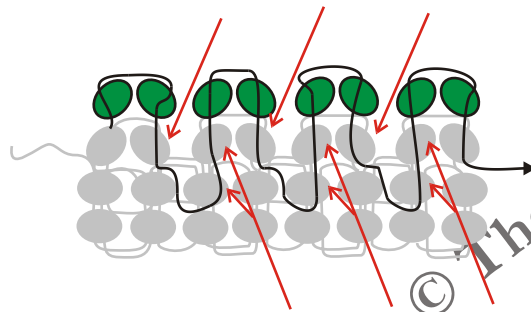
Tubular Herringbone:

Stitch a double ladder as illustrated above using either 4, 6 or 8 beads (2, 3 or 4 bead groups) and join the double ladder into a circle. Continue stitching in the same way as shown above for flat herringbone. You can create stripes using different colour beads per bead group.

Twisted Tubular Herringbone:

For a twisted tube, stitch first 3 rows of normal Tubular Herringbone, then switch to the thread path shown below.

One down after picking up the pair of beads



Two up before picking up the next pair of beads