

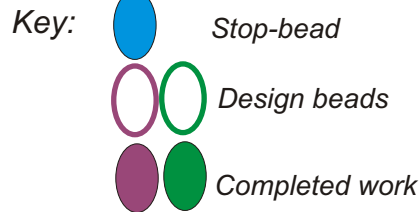
Square Stitch

Pieces woven with this stitch are very similar in appearance as those woven on a loom. Square stitch is very strong and is therefore suitable for projects exposed to heavier “wear and tear”, such as belts, key-rings, bracelets, etc.

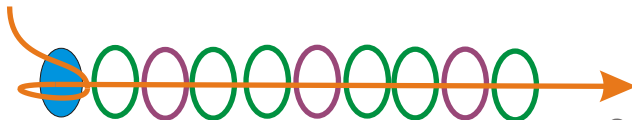
You need: Beads in assorted colours according to your chosen design
Thread to match your smallest bead-size
Beeswax or “Thread Heaven”
Beading needle to match your smallest bead-size

Method:

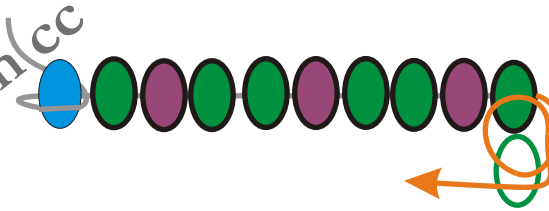
1. Thread your beading needle with $\pm 2\text{m}$ of thread and wax thread. Create a stop-bead, leaving a tail of $\pm 20\text{ cm}$.



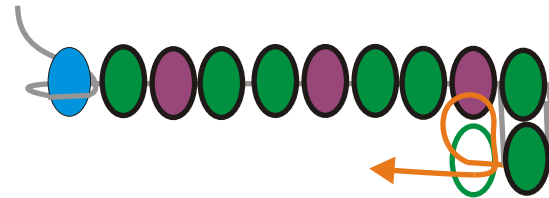
2. Pick up the same number of beads as needed for the width of your finished piece. You have now threaded your first row.



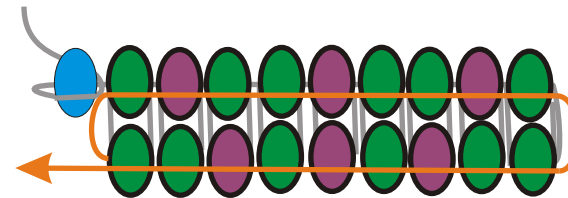
3. Now you are working your second row back along the beads in the first row. Pick up a bead, pass the thread through the last bead in your first row and again back through the bead you just picked up (this sounds more complicated as it really is). Make sure you always pull your thread fairly tight, so that the beads always line up with your beads in the previous row.



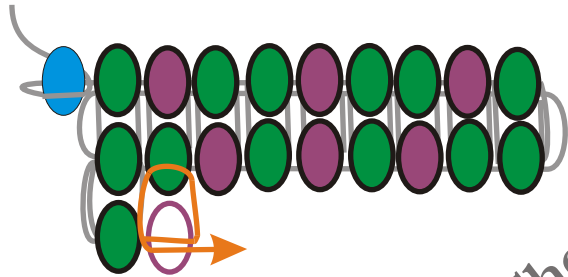
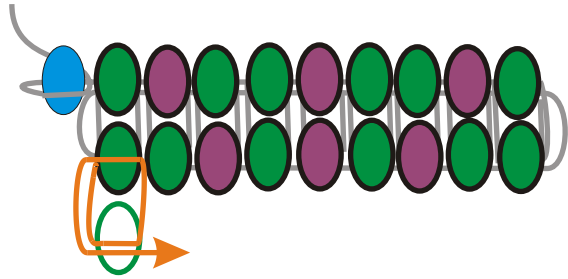
4. Continue picking up and weaving your beads according to your design in picking up a new bead, passing the thread back through the bead above it and again through the bead you just picked up. Keep your stop-bead close to your work to keep it tight.



5. After completion of your second row, pass your needle through all the beads of the first row and back through the second row. This is done to strengthen your piece and keeps it in shape. Repeat this step after completion of every row.

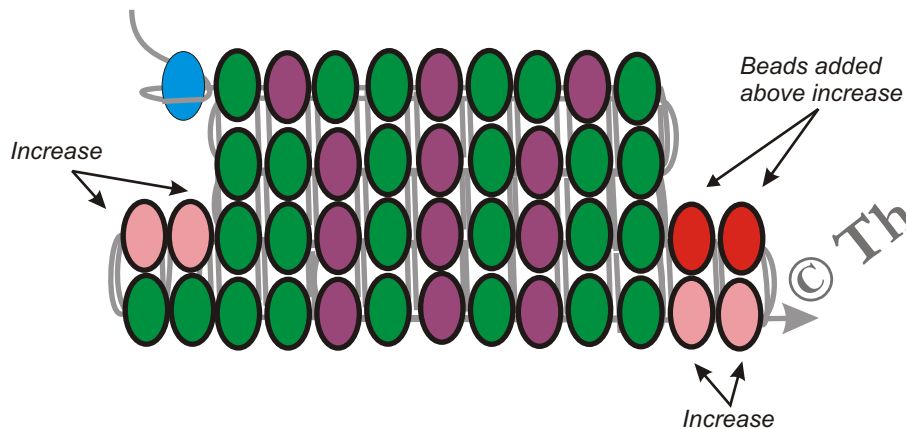


6. Now start the third row and carry on working until you reached the desired length of your beaded piece.



Increasing :

You increase your work-row after strengthening your work (see point 5) by simply picking up the required number of beads for the increase plus the first bead of you next row and continue beading as before. Increasing the row on the opposite side to keep your work symmetrical is one by picking up the required number of beads at the end of the next row and working the equivalent of these beads from above. Only now do you stabilize the last row.



Decreasing:

After stabilizing, you simply exit the last row at your "new" outer bead for the next row.

On the opposite side - if you are decreasing on both ends of the same row, just stop adding beads when you reached your "new" outer bead.

