Beading Patterns

from Beading Daily

5 Free Brick Stitch Beading Projects

BeadingDaily

TODAY’S HOW-TO FOR HANDMADE JEWELRY
Beading Patterns from beadingdaily: 5 FREE brick stitch beading projects

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When Round About, our easy bangle project by Dottie Hoeschen was first published, I thought it was funny how many people told me they learned brick stitch just so they could make it. The funny part is that you can learn brick stitch from this project! Even if you never worked in brick stitch before, you’ll find two projects in this collection to teach you—Round About and What’s Your Sign?, my zodiac dog tag pendants.

Brick stitch is a personal favorite of mine. It is sturdy yet flexible, and holds a firm, flat shape but easily curls into cuffs, tubes and rings. It’s adaptable to many bead sizes, and increases and decreases in a logical way. Brick stitch can be worked flat, tubular or circular, as in the fabulous Crystal Radiance Brooch by Tina Koyama.

Brick stitch combines really well with other stitches. Many artists add it to the edge of an even-count peyote strip to make it odd-count. A nifty trick, which works because brick looks like peyote stitch turned on its side—the beads fit together in the same way, but the thread stitching method differs.

Both Nancy Zellers’ stylish Deco Deluxe bracelet and Kerrie Slade’s lovely Periwinkle Choker combine brick stitch with other stitches. These more advanced patterns will challenge beginners but are well worth the learning curve. Start with the bangle and zodiac projects, and grow from there. It’s sure to become a staple in your beadweaving repertoire. Have fun, bead by bead, and thanks for being part of Beading Daily!

Leslie Rogalski
Editor, Beading Daily.com
This easy bangle uses size 8 seed beads and can include your favorite accents. It’s a great first project if you’re new to brick stitch.

**Determining the Length:**

To determine the length of the brick stitch strip: Measure your wrist size and add 3". This will be the total length of the finished bracelet. Line up your embellishment beads (focal, accent, and spacers) side by side, measure their combined length and add ½" (1-1½" is a good combined length). Subtract this embellishment length from the total length of the bracelet to get the length of the brick stitch strip you will weave: For example: 6" (wrist size) plus 3" = 9" (total length) minus 1" (embellishment) = 8". My brick stitch strip will be 8" long.

**Materials:**

- 9-10 grams of size 8 seed beads in color of your choice
- 20"(±) of 20-gauge sterlingwire or 18-gauge plated wire
- 10-12mm focal bead
- 2 accent beads, 9mm
- 2 spacer beads, 5mm
- 4 spacer beads, 9mm
- C-Lon® or SoNo thread
- Charms and jump rings (optional)

**Tools:**

- Size 10 beading needle
- Round nose pliers
- Wire cutters
- Scissors

**Technique:** Brick Stitch

**Getting Started**

1: Cut a length of thread as long as is comfortable, usually a “wingspan” or arm’s length. Leaving a 6" tail, use the basic ladder stitch to create a 4 bead ladder.

2: You will brick stitch a flat strip 4 beads wide by the length you determined for your bracelet. Once you’ve made your ladder stitch row, begin brick stitch by picking up 2 beads (beads 5 and 6) and going under the loop between the beads 3 and 4 in your ladder.
Go back up through bead 6. Pick up bead 7, go under the next loop between beads 2 and 3 and back up through bead 7. Pick up bead 8, go through the loop between beads 1 and 2, and back up through bead 8.

Pick up beads 9 and 10, go under the loop between beads 8 and 7, and go back up through bead 10.

Notice how each time you “step up” to a new row you pick up 2 beads. This creates an in-out pattern along the sides of your strip. Continue brick stitching rows until you reach the length you have calculated (8” for mine).

3: When you’re done, fold the strip lengthwise so that the 2 long sides come together like a zipper. See how the in out pattern fits together? Connect the 2 sides by weaving back and forth, passing through the beads that extend out from each side. Pass through the first and last beads you connect in this row several times to reinforce the edges. Weave the thread back into your work, zigzagging about 1" to secure it. Trim ends.

4: Cut a 14" length of wire and then slide it carefully through the tube you have created. Slide a 5mm spacer bead onto each side of the wire. Using round nose pliers, grasp one of the wire ends about ½" from the tip. Bend the wire to a 90° angle. Grasp the tip of the wire and rotate the pliers so the wire rolls back on itself, creating a nice round loop. Push all the components snugly next to each other. For the other end of your bracelet, grasp the wire just above the spacer bead and bend it to a 90° angle. Trim the bent section to ½" (if necessary) then create a simple loop as before.

5: Using your hands (go slowly), gradually bend the tube into an oval shape to fit around your wrist. Lay this part aside. Focal point beads.

6: Using the remaining 6" of wire, begin a wrapped loop at one end. See basic techniques on page 14 for Basic Wire Wrap. Be sure to attach the simple loop on your beaded tube (created in Step 4) before you complete the wire wrap in this step.

7: Slide the following embellishment beads onto the wire, next to your wrapped loop: 9mm spacer, 1 accent bead, 9mm spacer, the focal bead, 9mm spacer, 1 accent bead, and 9mm spacer.

8: Begin another wrapped loop on the end, being sure to connect simple loop from the beaded tube before you complete the wrap in this step. Trim the excess wire. To finish your wrapped loops, gently squeeze the cut ends into the coil to eliminate any rough edges. If you like, use jump rings to hang one or two charms from the loops for added embellishment.

Dottie Hoeschen began her artistic life as a painter but has been beading almost exclusively for the last six years. She finds beading is not unlike small sculpture! Dottie lives in Pennsylvania where she works and teaches at My Father’s Beads.
What’s Your Sign?

by Leslie Rogalski, designs by Crystal Hudson

Originally published in Step by Step Beads, September/October 2007

Learn brick stitch and how to increase and decrease along the outside edges. Follow the patterns (one for each sign of the zodiac) row by row to create cosmic pendants for everyone you know.

All the signs of the zodiac are here, for a whole year of good fortune! Brick stitch makes these pendants nice and sturdy. Learn brick stitch and how to increase and decrease along the outside edges. Using this technique, follow the patterns row by row to create cosmic pendants for everyone you know. Dog tags begin with a 23-bead ladder across and are 19 rows high when completed.

Brick stitch naturally appears to have an “in” bead at one end and an “out” bead on the other end of each row. For this project, you will control those increases and decreases to create a symmetrical dog tag shape with rounded corners. Look at the photo and you can see that each row has symmetrical ends, either “in” beads or “out” beads, not one of each.

Tip: Print out enlarged copies of these patterns. Cross out the rows and beads on your pattern as you work, noting the number of color A beads you must stitch in each row before you change to color B for the symbols. Count carefully! Write the bead count on each bead—it really helps keep track! Tick off each row and pay attention to when the color changes and when rows increase or decrease.

Materials:
2.5 g color A Delica size 11º beads (background)
1 g color B Delica size 11º beads (symbol)

Bead colors shown: Virgo (top): copper DB340, matte black DB0310V. Libra (bottom): copper DB340, deep water green DB0131.

Tools:
Beading thread
Beading needle
Scissors
Cord of choice
**Getting Started**

1: Create a ladder stitch foundation row 23 beads across in color A. Push the beads into place with your fingers so the holes are vertical. Pull each stitch firmly. The beads sit straighter when you add more rows. End with your needle exiting up through an end bead. Work your piece from bottom to top.

**Increasing**

2: Always pick up 2 beads to start a new row in brick stitch. Pick up 2 beads, then stitch under the thread loop that bridges between the first 2 beads in the previous row, and exit up through the second new bead you just picked up. One of your new beads will extend a little beyond the end bead below.

3: Stitch 4 rows, increasing at both ends of each row to form the bottom corners of the dog tags. To increase by 1 bead at the end of a row, pick up 1 bead and sew under the last thread bridge of the previous row again, sharing this loop with the previous bead added. Exit up through the new bead. Repeat Steps 2 and 3 for a total of 4 rows.

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**Capricorn the Goat**
December 22-January 19

**Aries the Ram**
March 21-April 19

**Aquarius the Water Bearer**
January 20-February 18

**Taurus the Bull**
April 20-May 20

**Pisces the Fish**
February 19-March 20

**Gemini the Twins**
May 21-June 20
Tip: Watch for your color change where the pattern symbol begins in the second or third rows, depending on which symbol you create. (Color change is not accurately shown in our illustration.) The increases form the bottom curved corners of the dogtag shape.

4: After the 4 increased rows, the dog tag sides are parallel for 12 more rows, for a total of 16 rows. The sides should look somewhat like zipper teeth, as every other row will have both ends of the row show an increase or a decrease. Your 16th row will show “out” beads at the end.

Decreasing
5: The 17th row is the first decreased row for the top rounded corners. Pick up 2 beads to begin the new decreased row. Sew through the second thread loop in the previous row and exit the second bead you just added.

6: Continue sewing across the row 1 bead at a time. Remember to end the new row at a decrease on the other side.

7: To end the thread and add new thread: With about 6" left in your working thread, make a figure eight by weaving diagonally down back into 3 beads in the piece, across to an adjacent bead, then up through 3 other beads on a diagonal so your thread paths cross each other. Before trimming your tail, note from which bead the tail exits—this is where your new thread should exit to continue. Trim the tail. Start a new thread in a similar figure eight to secure your tail. Continue stitching.

8: To make the bead bail loop, determine the top end of the dog tag so the symbol hangs correctly. Using a new 12" piece of thread, sew through the space between the middle beads, between rows 2 and 3, leaving a 6" tail. String 15A beads. Sew around through the dog tag and through the loop of beads 2–3 times. Weave the working thread and tail securely back into the beadwork as in Step 6. Trim. Wear on cord of choice!
This brooch of concentric circles of brick stitch requires making gradual increases in each new circle, changing bead sizes as well as changing the number of beads in each round.

**Materials:**

- 5 g green bronze size 15° seed beads
- 5 g bronze size 11° cylinder beads
- 5 g metallic green size 11° cylinder hex beads
- 5 g bronze size 11° seed beads
- 5 g gold size 8° hex seed beads
- 11 erinite satin 4mm Swarovski crystal bicones
- 11 jet nut 2 × 6mm Swarovski crystal bicones
- 1 smoky quartz dorado 10mm Swarovski crystal round
- 1–1 1/2" pin back
- Size D Fireline thread

**Tools:**

- Size 10 beading needle
- Scissors
**GETTING STARTED**

1: **Foundation.** Use 6’ of thread to string the 10mm crystal, leaving a 6” tail. Pass through the crystal again, wrapping the thread along the side of the crystal; repeat, wrapping the thread along the opposite side of the crystal. Pass through twice more so that two strands of thread are on each side of the crystal. Pull tight and tie a half hitch knot to stabilize the threads around the crystal (Figure 1).

2: **Brick stitch.** Work brick stitch around the crystal, anchoring the first round to the foundation thread, and switching bead size for each round.

**Round 1:** String 2 size 11° cylinder beads and pass under the foundation thread and back through the last bead strung. String 1 size 11° cylinder and pass under the thread and back through the bead just strung; repeat all around for a total of 19 beads. Step up at the end of each round by passing down through the first bead and up through the last bead.

**Round 2:** String 2 size 11° seed beads; pass under the loop between the next 2 beads of the previous round and back through the last bead just strung. String 1 size 11° seed bead and repeat from * around, working 1 increase halfway around the circle (20 beads total).

**Round 3:** Use size 11° cylinder hex beads with 11 increases (31 total).

**Round 4:** Use size 11° seed beads with 1 decrease (30 total).

**Round 5:** Use size 8° hex beads with 2 decreases (28 total).

**Round 6:** Use size 11° seed beads with 12 increases (40 total).

**Round 7:** Use size 11° seed beads with 4 increases (44 total).

**Round 8:** Use size 11° cylinder hex beads with 15 increases (59 total).

**Round 9:** Use size 8° hex beads with 15 decreases (44 total).

3: **Crystal picots.** Tie a knot to secure the thread, then exit the top of a hex bead in the last round. *String 1 size 11° seed bead, one 4mm bicone, and 3 size 15°s. Snug the beads close to the work, then pass back through the crystal. String 1 size 11° seed bead and pass down through the next hex bead. Pass up through the following hex bead and repeat from *, alternating 6mm and 4mm bicones. Tie a knot to secure the thread, then pass back through the beads to exit the sixth round.

4: **Pin back.** Open the pin and center it on the back of the work above the center crystal. Weave through the beads to exit near a hole at one end of the pin back. String 3 size 11° seed beads and pass through the pin and to the right side of the beadwork. Pass through 1 or 2 beads and to the back of the work to exit the opposite side of the same pinhole. String 3 size 11° seed beads and pass through the same pinhole to the front of the work (Figure 2). Repeat to secure each hole of the pin back, passing through beads as needed to avoid exposing any bare thread. If the pin back feels wobbly, weave through the beads again to reinforce.


**RESOURCES**
Check with your local bead shop or contact:

**Increasing and Decreasing**

You will need to work a different number of beads in each round to maintain a flat circle; where you place each increase or decrease is not important as long as you spread them around the circumference fairly evenly. For example, if you know you will need to increase the round by four beads, you can place each increase about one-quarter of the way around. Bead counts are provided for this project; to figure your own counts for different beads, try counting the number of beads worked and the number of loops of thread remaining to plan placement of the remaining increases or decreases. With experience, you will know an increase is needed when the loop of thread for the next stitch seems longer than the others (or shorter, indicating the need for a decrease).
Deco Deluxe

design by Nancy Zellers

Originally published in Beadwork, February/March 2007

Characteristic of the Art
Deco era, this bracelet has strong graphic shapes—ovals and squares—in rich colors. A beaded rope snakes through the brick-stitched components, while the rope’s clasp hides under the band to complete the unified look.

**Finished Size:** 7½”

**Materials:**
- 5 g silver-lined dark topaz cylinder beads
- 4 g silver-lined gold cylinder beads
- 3 g black size 12° seed beads
- 1 gold 6mm magnetic clasp*
- 1 metal 5mm snap
- Size D beading thread in colors to match the beads

**Tools:**
- Size 12 beading needle
- Scissors

*Do not use a magnetic clasp if you wear a pacemaker; magnets interfere with the electrical impulses that make a pacemaker perform.

**Getting Started**

1: Squares. Use 4’ of thread to string 1 bead and pass through it again to form a tension bead, leaving a 4” tail. Work the squares with square stitch, using gold beads (Figure 1):

Row 1: String 11 beads.
Rows 2–3: Work 11 beads.
Rows 4–7: Work 4 rows with 3 beads each, then weave through beads to exit the other end of the third row. Work 4 rows with 3 beads each, then string 4 beads and pass through the opposite top 3 beads to form a bridge across the square’s opening.
Rows 8–9: Work 11 beads. Weave back through the narrow rows to reinforce; secure the threads and trim. Repeat for a total of 5 squares.
2: Oval left side. Work the ovals with square stitch and dark topaz beads (Figure 2). Because decreases are easier to work than increases, each oval is worked in two sections, beginning with one of the widest rows as follows:

Row 1: Use 4' of thread to string 1 bead and pass through it again to form a tension bead, leaving a 4" tail. String 15 beads.
Row 2: Work 15 beads. To prepare for a 1-bead decrease at the beginning of the next row, pass through 2 beads of the previous row and the second-to-last bead of this row.
Row 3: Work 13 beads.
Row 4: Work 11 beads.
Row 5: Pass back through the preceding rows to exit the first row. Work 6 beads.
Rows 6–10: Work 5 beads.
Rows 11–12: Work 6 beads. To make a 1-bead increase at the end of a row, string 3 beads, pass through the last stitched bead and the 3 beads just strung; the last 2 beads become the first 2 beads of the new row.

3: Oval right side. Secure a new thread that exits from the right side of the first row (Figure 2a). Work the right side of the oval, increasing and adding bridge beads to connect with the left side, then decreasing the final 2 rows. Weave the tail threads back through each side of the oval to reinforce; secure the thread and trim.

Repeat from Step 2 for a total of 5 ovals.

4: Connecting. Hold one corner of a square centered over 3 rows at one end of an oval. Pass through beads of both pieces several times to secure, then trim (Figure 3). Stitch another square to the other end of the oval in the same manner. Repeat to connect each piece into a strip, placing the squares on top of the ovals.

5: Snap. Sew one half of the snap on top of the last oval, and the other half of the snap on the bottom of the first square, so that they mimic the stitched pieces when snapped together.

6: Rope. Use 4' of thread and black beads to ladder-stitch 4 beads, leaving an 8" tail. Pass through the first and last beads to form a foundation ring for tubular brick stitch. Work 4 beads in each round for about 7½". Attach one half of the clasp, passing through the beads and clasp several times to reinforce. Weave the rope through the squares and ovals to check the length of the rope, then use the tail thread to attach the other half of the clasp so that the clasp is hidden under the snap.

Nancy Zellers is very fond of the Art Deco era and its decorative arts. She has designed several pieces in that style. You can contact her at nzbeads@aol.com or visit her website, www.nzbeads.com.

RESOURCES
Periwinkle Choker

design by Kerrie Slade

Originally published in Beadwork, August/September 2008

Cleverly combine two types of brick stitch to form perfectly shaped flowers. Attach them from petal to petal for a pretty choker-style necklace. This project incorporates ladder stitch and netting, too.

Finished Size: 15"

Materials:
- 30 g purple size 11° Japanese seed beads (A)
- 5 g silver-lined clear size 11° Japanese seed beads (B)
- 2 silver-lined clear size 6° seed beads
- 8–9 amethyst 8mm rounds
- 1 sterling silver 8 × 10mm heart lobster clasp
- 1 sterling silver 1½” head pin
- 2 sterling silver 7mm jump rings
- 3 sterling silver 5mm split rings
- 1½” of sterling silver 4×5mm twisted oval chain
- Purple size D nylon beading thread
- Thread conditioner or wax (optional)

Tools:
- Size 12 beading needle
- Scissors
- 2 pairs of chain-nose pliers
**GETTING STARTED**

1: Flower center. Use 7’ of conditioned thread to string 1 amethyst round, leaving a 12” tail. Pass through the round two more times. Arrange the outside threads so they are on opposite sides of the round. Repeat several more times to make a strong base on each side of the round.

**Round 1:** String 2B and pass under the thread base near the hole. Pass up through the second bead just strung (Figure 1). Use B to continue working circular brick stitch around the base for a total of 14B. Work the last stitch by weaving the last and first beads together (Figure 2).

**Round 2:** Work around using A: Start by working 1 increase. Work 2 regular stitches, then work another increase (Figure 3). Repeat around, working an increase on every third stitch for a total of 19A.

**Round 3:** Repeat Round 2, skipping the last stitch instead of the increase that would logically follow, for a total of 24A.

2: Petals. Work the petals in flat brick stitch:

**Row 1:** Use A to work 4 brick stitches, each stitch stacked 3 beads high (Figure 4).

**Row 2:** Work three 3-stack brick stitches.

**Row 3:** Work two 3-stack brick stitches.

Petal tip: String 1A and pass down through the opposite stack, weaving through the base-round beads to position for the next petal (Figure 5).

Repeat entire step around the flower center for a total of 8 petals. Don’t cut the working or tail threads. Repeat Steps 1 and 2 for a total of 7 flowers (for a larger size, repeat for a total of 8 flowers).

3: Assembly. Line up the flowers in a straight line so all the holes of the amethyst rounds lie in the same direction. Use the working and tail threads of the flowers to ladder-stitch 2 adjacent petals of one flower to the corresponding 2 petals of another flower (Figure 6). Repeat across to connect all the flowers in a straight line. Secure and trim all but the threads at the end of the choker.

4: Clasp. Use the thread at one end of the choker to string 4A, 1 size 6°, and 4A. Pass through the 1A at the tip of the adjacent petal that lines up with the other attached petals. Weave through the beads several times to reinforce. Carefully attach a jump ring to the size 6° (Figure 7). Attach 1 split ring to the jump ring. Repeat entire step at the other end of the choker.

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Figure 1
Figure 2
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Figure 3
Figure 4
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Figure 5
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Figure 6
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Figure 7
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Figure 8
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Kerrie Slade has been beading for about five years and sells her original designs at craft fairs and galleries. Her work regularly appears in several beading publications in the United States and the United Kingdom. Visit her website, www.kerrieslade.co.uk.

**RESOURCES**

Check your local bead shop or contact: Similar seed beads and amethyst rounds: Fire Mountain Gems and Beads, (800) 355-2137, www.firemountaingems.com.
**Basic Techniques**

**Netting** (single thread)
Begin by stringing a base row of 13 beads. String 5 beads and go back through the fifth bead from the end of the base row. String another 5 beads, skip 3 beads of the base row, and go back through the next; repeat to the end of the row. To turn, pass back through the last 3 beads (one leg of the last net). String 5 beads, pass back through the center bead of the next net and continue.

**Ladder Stitch**
Using two needles, one threaded on each end of the thread, pass one needle through one or more beads from left to right and pass the other needle through the same beads from right to left. Continue adding beads by crisscrossing both needles through one bead at a time. Use this stitch to make strings of beads or as the foundation for brick stitch.

**Wireworking**
To make a simple loop, grasp one end of the wire with round-nose pliers. Holding on to the wire with one hand, gently turn the pliers until the wire end and wire body touch. Create a 90° reverse bend where they meet.

For a single-needle ladder, string 2 beads and pass through them again. String 1 bead. Pass through the last stitched bead and the one just strung. Repeat, adding one bead at a time and working in a figure-eight pattern.

**Brick Stitch**
Begin by creating a foundation row in ladder stitch. String 2 beads and pass under the closest exposed loop of the foundation row and back through the second bead. String 1 bead and pass under the next exposed loop and back through the bead just strung; repeat.

To decrease within a row, string 1 bead and skip a loop of thread on the previous row, passing under the second loop and back through the bead. To increase within a row, work two stitches in the same loop on the previous row. For circular brick stitch, work increases as needed to keep the work flat; at the end of each round, pass through the first and last beads to stitch them together, then string 2 beads to begin the next round.