

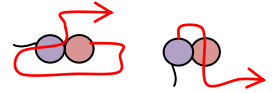
Brick stitch

1. Thread a needle with a length of beading thread.
2. Make a ladder of 8 beads to form your base row.

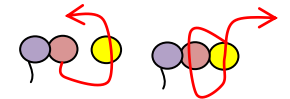
a. Pick up 2 beads (purple then pink in this diagram) and drop them to 6" from the end of the thread.



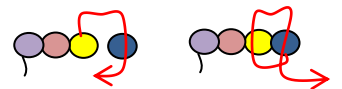
b. Working from the tail, take the needle through the purple bead, then continue through the pink bead and allow the beads to sit next to each other.



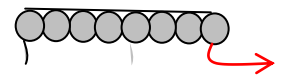
c. Pick up another bead (yellow), take your needle down the pink bead and back up the yellow bead.



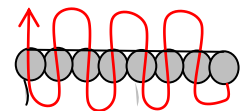
d. Pick up another bead (blue), take your needle up the yellow and back down the blue bead.



e. Repeat steps c and d twice more so you have 8 beads in your ladder.

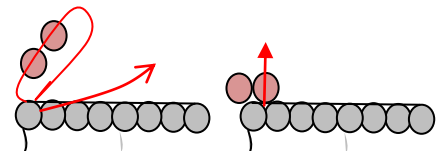


f. Go back through all the beads to the start so that the thread is exiting from the top left-hand side.



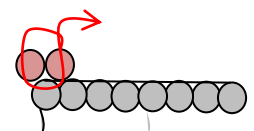
3. Add 2 beads (pink in diagram) and take the needle through the 1st exposed thread that joins beads 1 and 2 of the base row.

Let the beads drop to the last row. Take the needle back up through the 2nd of the beads just added.

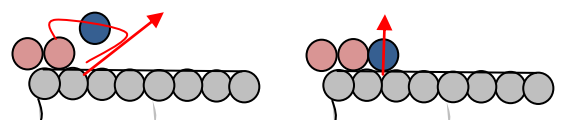


(Note that the new beads sit across the 1st bead of the last row.)

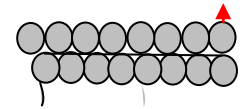
4. At the start of each row only - take the needle down the 1st bead just added and back up the 2nd bead just added, pulling tightly and this will lock the beads side-by-side.



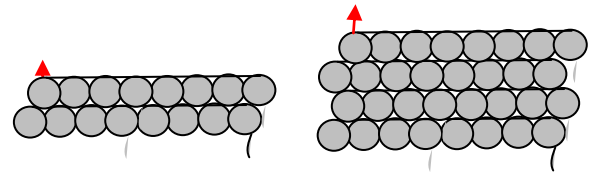
5. Add 1 bead (blue), take the needle through the next exposed thread of the base row. Let the bead drop to the last row. Take the needle up through the bead just added.



6. Continue adding 1 bead at a time along the row until you have added a bead into the last exposed loop.



7. Turn your work so that the thread is again exiting from the top left hand side and repeat from step 3.

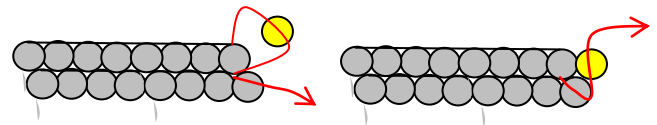


8. Continue to work your sample piece until you are comfortable with the technique.

*Always remember to add 2 beads at the start of each row (step 3) and remember to lock them in (step 4).

Increasing

For a gradual increase at the side edge you can work 1 bead into the last loop and then work a 2nd bead into the same loop.

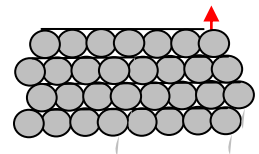


You can also increase at any point in the row.

(Do not try to work both beads at once, always work them separate.)

Decreasing

For a gradual decrease you can skip the first loop, ie when you pick up your 2 beads at the start of the row work into the loop between beads 2 and 3 rather than between beads 1 and 2.



Brick stitch charts

- Start with the longest row and work ladder stitch for the foundation row. You can then work brick stitch above and below this row.
- Use a magnetic board with strips to hold your chart in position and keep track of which row you are working. You can use a Post-It Note or ruler as an alternative.
- Work your foundation row left to right and then work back to the left side to get a good tension.
- Work row 2 and every subsequent EVEN row from left to right.
- Work row 3 and every subsequent ODD row from right to left (even though you may be working the stitches from the left).