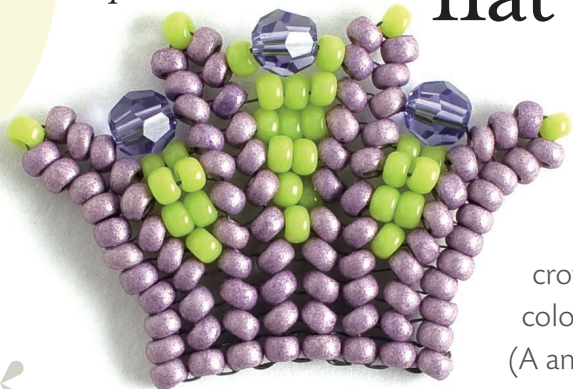


# stitch pro

Jean Campbell

## flat herringbone stitch



### TECHNIQUES

- :: ladder stitch
- :: herringbone stitch
- :: picot

See p. 94 for helpful technique information.

### PROJECT LEVEL



See p. 2 for more information.

**Row 1:** Work a strip of ladder stitch 8A long (Photo 1).

**Row 2:** String 2A and pass down through the second-to-last bead and up through the third-to-last bead added in Row 1 (Photo 2a); repeat twice. String 2A; pass down through the next bead in Row 1. To turn the needle around in preparation for the next row, pass the needle only through the loop of thread that connects the first and second beads of the previous row (Photo 2b), and pass up through the first Row 1 bead and the last bead added in this row (Photo 2c).

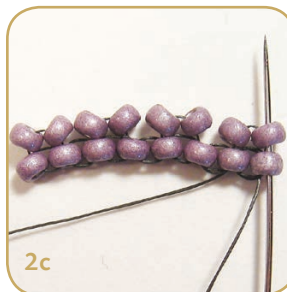
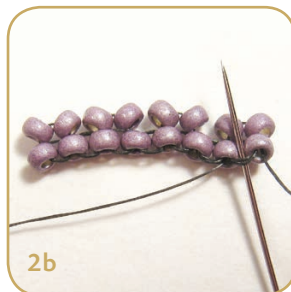
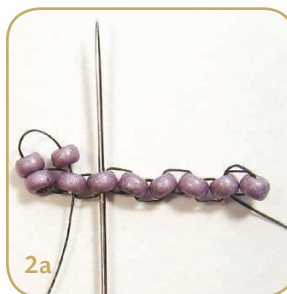
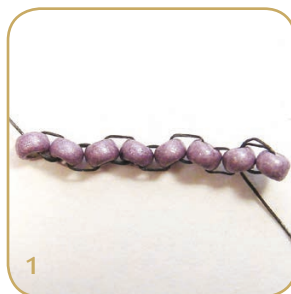
**Row 3:** String 2A and pass down through the second-to-last bead added in the previous row (Photo 3a) and up through the third-to-last bead added (Photo 3b), pulling tight; repeat twice. For the final stitch, string 2A, pass down through the first bead from the previous row, pass the needle only through the stitches made between the previous two rows, hooking the thread (Photo 3c), and pass back up through the last two beads exited (Photo 3d).

This issue, we'll tackle flat herringbone stitch—a quick, strong stitch. Got herringbone down? Then expand your skills by learning how to make both subtle and extreme increases, creating this pretty crown shape. All you need to follow along is two different colors of size 11° seed beads (A and B), a few 4mm round beads, a beading needle, and some thread.

**Rows 4 and on:** Repeat Row 3. As you continue to add rows, you'll see how the stitches create straight columns made up of V-shaped bead formations. ♦

### ARTIST'S TIPS

- *It's best to work the ladder-stitched row (Row 1) more on the loose side so that when you start herringbone stitch, the ladder-stitched strip will give a little, allowing the two stitches to blend into one another better.*
- *When reinforcing herringbone stitch, it'll be tempting to just weave through the columns. That's totally fine, but when you do so, you risk losing the signature slant of the beads, and the work could end up looking like square stitch instead.*



## What Would Happen If?

You've got this easy stitch down now, right? So your next challenge will be to form increases. To do so, string 2A as usual and pass down through the next bead of the previous row. Before you pass up through the following bead of the previous row, add a bead; in this case, 1B (Photo A). Pass up through the next bead as usual, and pull tight to form the increase (Photo B). You can start out with one bead between the columns for a slight increase, then add more to splay the columns apart. For this crown shape, I've increased by one, then two, then three, and at the end even added some 4mm crystal rounds. *Tip:* For a more gradual increase, use size 15° accent beads in place of B.

To cleanly finish off the points of the columns with picots, work regular herringbone stitch, adding three seed beads per stitch instead of two (Fig. 1).

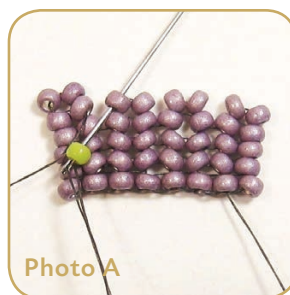


Photo A

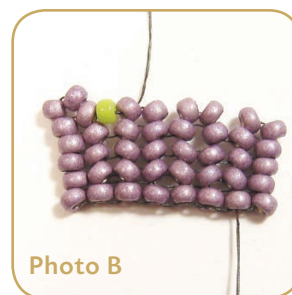


Photo B

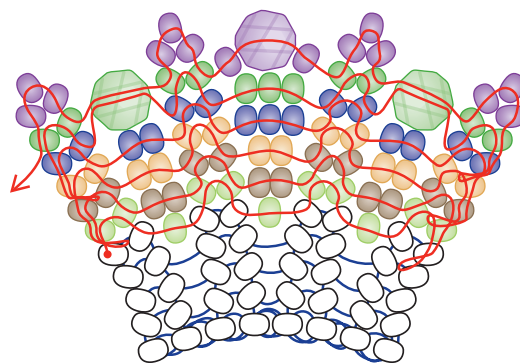


Fig. 1

**JEAN CAMPBELL** is a jewelry-design artist, teacher, writer, and author of the recent book *Steampunk-Style Jewelry* (Creative Publishing International, 2010). Find out more about what's on Jean's mind on [beadingdaily.com](http://beadingdaily.com) and on her website, [www.jeancampbellink.com](http://www.jeancampbellink.com).