

stitch pro { SPIRAL HERRINGBONE STITCH }

Jean Campbell



Love herringbone stitch? I do, too! There are so many faces of this stitch, including this really interesting and little-used method that produces a spiraling rope. Play with color, bead types, and the degree of your angle to form countless variations.

MATERIALS & TOOLS

Size 11° seed beads in two colors (A and B)
Size D nylon or 6 lb braided beading thread
Scissors
Beading needle

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Round 1: Place the needle on the thread and string 4A; pass through the beads again to form a circle, then adjust the beads so they sit in 2 side-by-side columns. String 2B; pass through the last 2A exited and the 2B just strung to work ladder stitch (Fig. 1). *Note:* In this example, the A beads are blue and the B beads are yellow.

Continue working ladder stitch by stringing 2A and passing through the last 2B exited and the 2A just added. String 2A; pass through the last 2A exited and the 2A just added. String 2B; pass through the last 2A exited and the 2B just added. Fold the strip in half. Pass up through the 2A at the beginning of the strip, down through the last 2B added, and up through the first 2A (Fig. 2). *Note:* This ladder-stitched base round is a great way to start a herringbone-stitched rope.

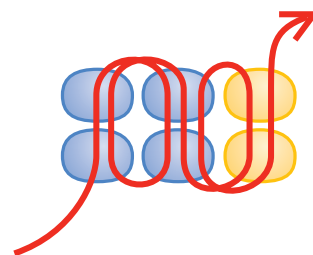


Fig. 1

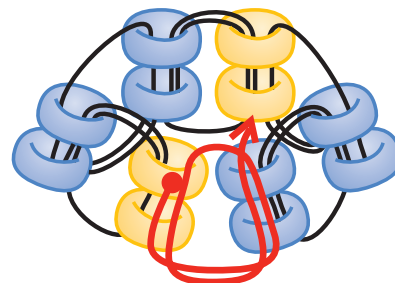


Fig. 2

Try this!

- You can form a less-angled spiral by repeating Round 3. Make a more dramatically spiraled rope by passing down through 1 bead and up through 4 or 5 beads.

- Use size 8° seed beads in place of the B to really accentuate the spiral. You can also substitute the B with 2mm or 3mm fire-polished beads to form a super-sparkly rope.

- Spiral ropes make wonderful bracelets and necklaces just on their own. Simply sew a toggle clasp to the end, or for a more finished look, add an appropriately sized cone or cap to the end of the rope before adding the clasp.

Round 2: String 2A; pass down through the next A of the previous round and up through the following B. String 1B and 1A; pass down through the next A of the previous round and up through the following A. String 1A and 1B; pass down through the next B of the previous round and up through the following A. Step up for this and subsequent rounds by passing up through the first bead added in the current round. *Note:* This is tubular herringbone stitch. See how the beads make like-colored columns? The new beads you add to each column will always be the same color as the columns below.

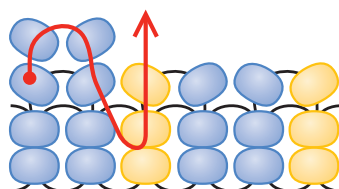


Fig. 3

Round 3: Repeat Round 2, but instead of passing down through 1 bead and up through 1 bead of the previous round in each stitch, as in regular tubular herringbone stitch, pass down through 1 bead of the previous round and up through 2 beads of the previous 2 rounds (Fig. 3). This starts the spiral.

Rounds 4 and on: Repeat Round 2, but in each stitch, pass down through 1 bead of the previous round and up through 3 beads of the previous 3 rounds (Fig. 4). Continue repeating this round to the desired length, making sure to step up after each round.

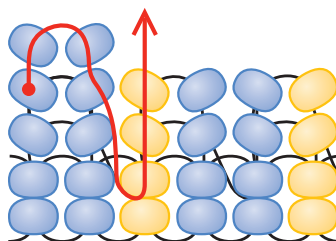


Fig. 4

Finish: The end of the rope will have 3 columns sticking up, a signature of herringbone stitch. Simply weave a herringbone-stitch or ladder-stitch thread path without adding any beads to connect the columns in those last 2 rounds. ♦