

Michael's

Made by you™



*Technique: Intro to
Square Stitch*

John Deard
ESTABLISHED 1954

Materials

John Bead Czech Seed Beads, Size 8/0, Retro Blue Mix, SKU 10549077

John Bead Czech Seed Beads, Size 8/0, Purple Passion, SKU 10549091

Wildfire Beading Thread .006, SKU 10104818

Size #12 Beading Needle, SKU 10348545

Spacer Bars, SKU 10474104

Chain Nose Pliers, SKU 10121794

Thread Scissors, SKU 10591717

Beading Mat, SKU 10348546

Beginner Bead Weaving

1 hour class



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In this class we will introduce the square stitch technique and create a neat pair of earrings in a pennant shape. Square stitch is a great stitch for everything from finishing loom pieces to creating more advanced designs.

Abbreviations used in these instructions include:

S8A - Size 8/0 Czech Seed Bead, Color A

S8B - Size 8/0 Czech Seed Bead, Color B

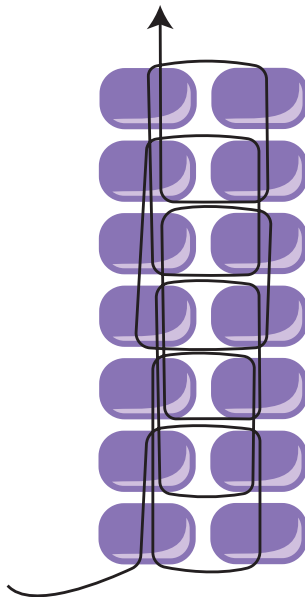
You can use any colors you like. I have pulled colors out of the two mixes shown in the materials list to make the samples.

Step 1 - Build a Base

Square stitch is usually built off of a base to finish or add onto a design. For the sample earrings, the easiest way to get started is to build a base row of single column herringbone 12 beads long.

Cut 65" of beading thread and thread a beading needle. Leaving a 15" tail, string (4)S8A. Go back through the first two S8A.

{String (2)S8A. Go through the right side S8A below, turn, and come up through the left side S8A. Continue through the S8A above} ten times.



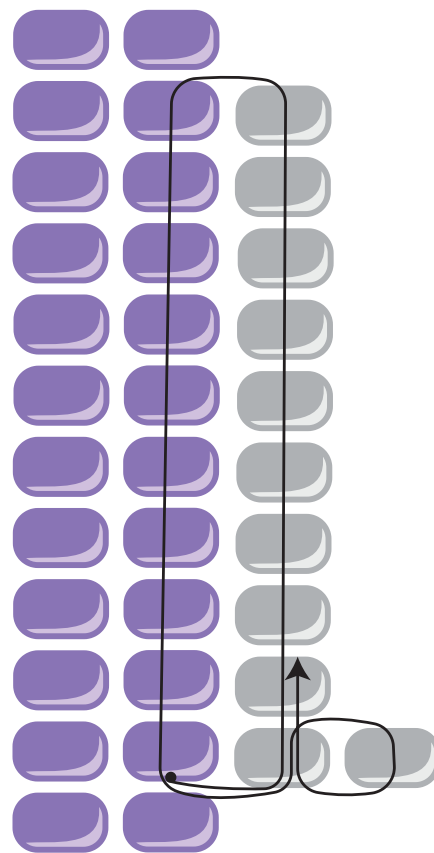
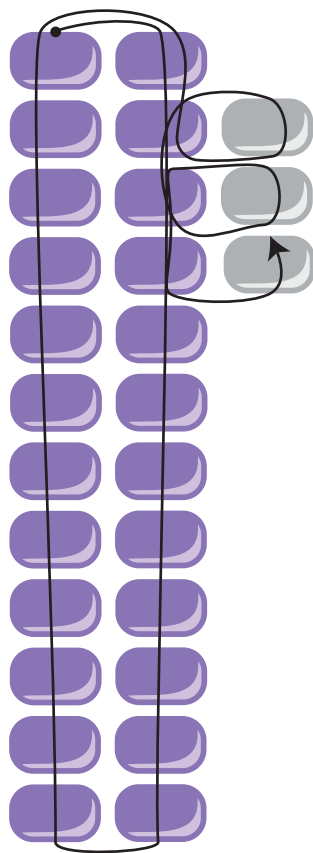
Step 2

With your thread exiting from the left S8A, go through the right S8A and all the beads on the right. Turn and come up through all 12 beads on the left. Turn and go down through the first two S8A on the right.

String (1)S8B. Go back through the S8A your thread is exiting, entering the bead on the opposite side of the exiting thread. Continue through the next S8A and again string (1)S8B, go back through the adjacent S8A, and continue through the next S8A. Repeat this step for a total of (10)S8B.

When you have added the last S8B, turn and go up through all (10)S8B. Turn and go down through the adjacent (10)S8A.

Go through the first S8B. Pick up (1)S8B and loop through the adjacent S8B on the left. Repeat this 10 times.



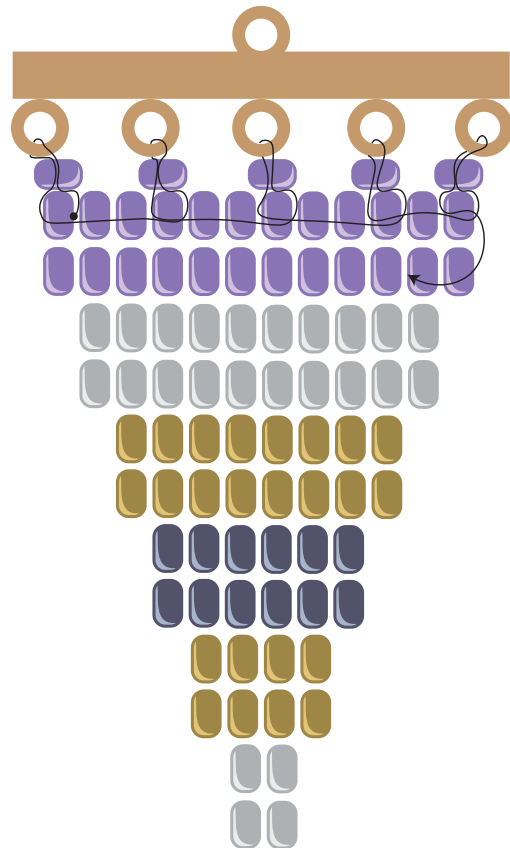
Continue using square stitch to create two rows of each color. Each block of new color should have 2 less S8 than the former. Remember to go through all the beads to reinforce after each new row, as shown in Step 2. Taper down to your last block of 2. Weave in and trim remaining, working thread.

Step 3 Add the spacer bar.

Using your tail thread, exiting from the second-to-last bead in the top row of S8A (you may need to weave back one bead), string (1)S8A. Go through the edge loop of a spacer bar. Go back through the S8A, then go through the edge S8A bead, entering the bead opposite your exiting thread. Continue through three more beads, string (1)S8A, and go through the next loop on the spacer bar. Go back through the S8A and through the S8A your thread is exiting, heading in the opposite side of the exiting thread. Continue through the next (3)S8A. Repeat this step three more times.

When you reach the last loop, you'll only have room to skip one bead if you're using the same counts and findings as the samples. This asymmetry doesn't attract the eye too much, but you can always experiment with different findings and different counts.

To weave in thread, you can stitch through the beads changing direction a few times to lock in the thread. Trim with scissors or a thread burner.



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