

# Michael's®

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*Intro to Herringbone  
Stitch*

*John Deard*  
ESTABLISHED 1954

## What You'll Need

John Bead Czech Seed Beads, Size 8/o, White, SKU 10549096

John Bead Czech Seed Beads, Size 8/o, Purple , SKU 10549090

John Bead Czech Seed Beads, Size 8/o, Amethyst, SKU 10549075

John Bead Czech Seed Beads, Size 8/o, Light Blue, SKU 10549086

John Bead Czech Seed Beads, Size 8/o, Aqua, SKU 10549082

John Bead Czech Seed Beads, Size 10/o, White, SKU 10416647

Wildfire Beading Thread, .006 White, SKU 10104818

Size #10 Beading Needle, SKU 10332394

Clasp Option: Lobster Claw, SKU 10442989

Chain Option: Elongated Cable Chain, SKU D295267S (online only)

Optional Embellishment: Light Blue Glass Swirl, 10264506

22 gauge German Style Wire, for headpins, SKU 10121778

Wire Working Tools: Chain Nose Pliers SKU D571873S, Bent Nose Pliers SKU D571874S, Flush Cutters SKU D571872S, Flat Nose Pliers SKU D571875S, Round Nose Pliers SKU D571876S

Beading Mat, SKU 10348546

Beginner Beadweaving  
1 Hour Class

The logo for John Bead, featuring the name "John Bead" in a cursive script font, with "ESTABLISHED 1954" in a smaller, sans-serif font below it.

ESTABLISHED 1954

Back-to-School September 2022! This month we are taking it back-to-basics in bead weaving designs! In this class we are introducing Herringbone stitch technique! This class builds on beading know-how from Class 1, Intro to Ladder.

### Abbreviations

S8 - Size 8/0 Seed Bead, Any Color

S10 - Size 10/0 Czech Seed Bead

### Step 1

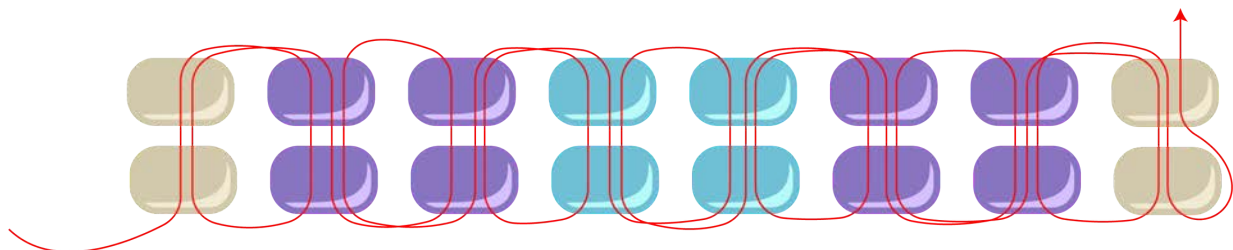
To begin, cut about 90 inches of beading thread. Flatten one end with a pair of pliers to help thread your beading needle. Pull down about 30 inches of it and fold over the needle to make this long strand easier to work with.

Leaving a 12" tail, ladder stitch an even number of stacks of (2)S8. You can ladder with 1 x 1 S8 instead of the stacks of 2, but most beginners feel that the stacks are easier, adding stability to the stitch.

In class, we will use a stripey pattern like the one illustrated here, but you can use any pattern and count you choose.

Note: at the end of this .pdf there is a bonus illustration to show what to do for an odd-count version of this stitch. Class will stick to even-count unless there is extra time.

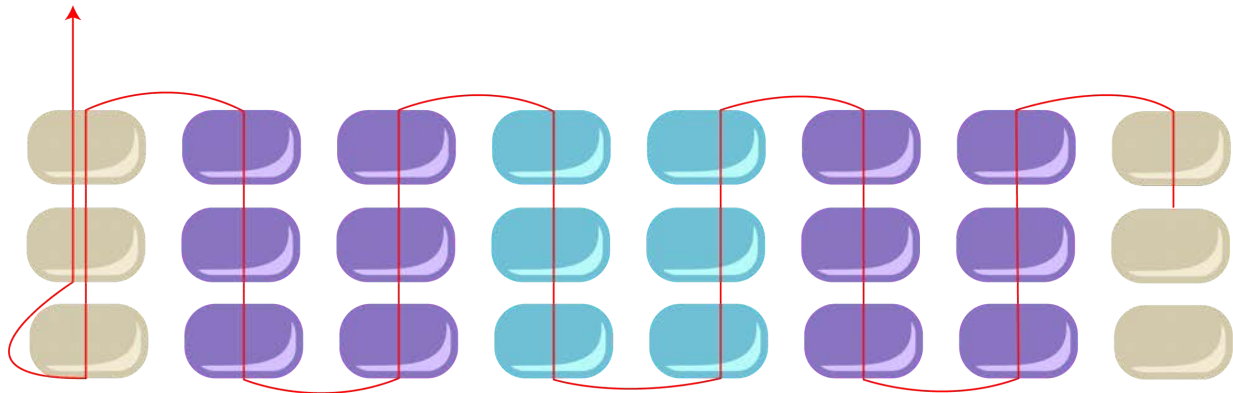
Once you have completed your ladder row, step-up by skipping the last S8 and going through the S8 above it. A little thread will show on the side.



### Step 2

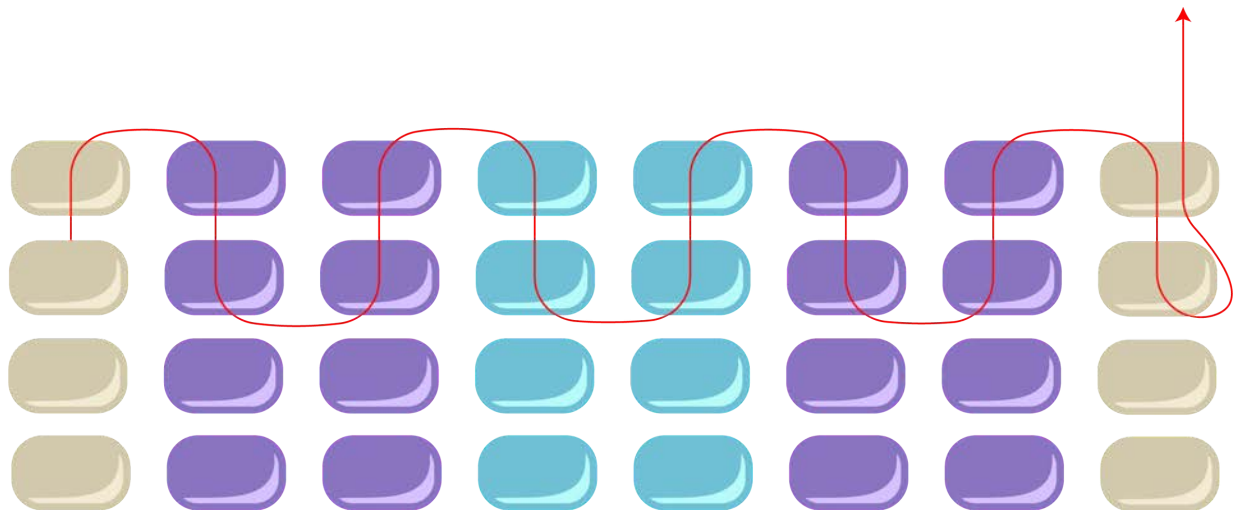
Begin herringbone stitch. Pick up (2)S8. Go down through the next stack of (2)S8 and come up through the next (2). Repeat to the end of the row. Match the color of each new S8 added to the row below. Step-up through the (2)S8 above.

**Tip:** In the first row of herringbone, it's easier to go down through both S8 in the laddered row. Subsequent rows will only go down through the former row.



### Step 3

The following illustration shows the thread path for all subsequent rows. The step-up is the same, with the thread showing just slightly on the side of the bead in every other row.



#### Step 4

There are lots of neat ways to end a herringbone stitch design. One reason they are so loved by beginners is the ends finish hole-side up. Loops and extra beads can continue from the edges seamlessly to add clasps.

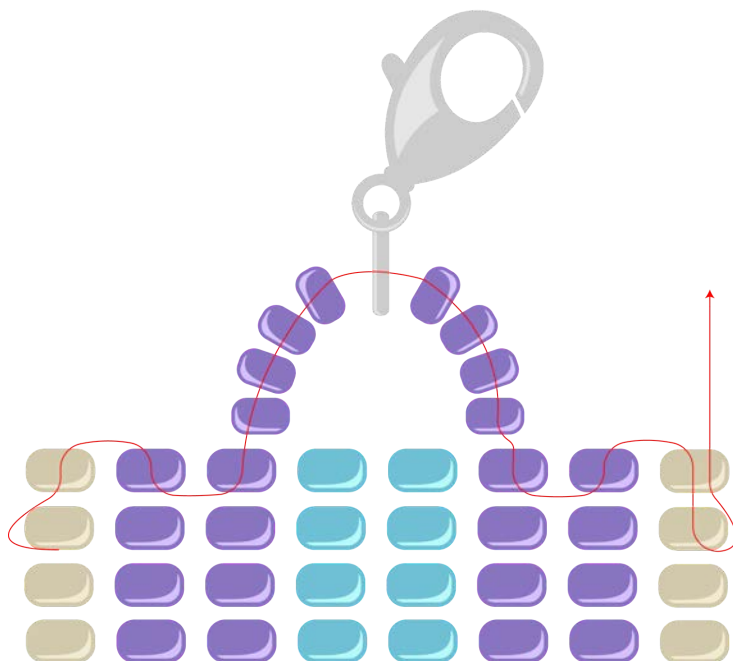
In class we will add a simple loop of S10 to which we can attach chain links and a lobster claw. After completing the last row, weave to exit from a symmetrical center of the beadwork, example, three beads in, with the idea of arcing over the center two. In class we will show tips for weaving around and reinforcing.

Repeat this loop on the starting side using the tail thread left in Step 1.

**Tip:** The chain listed in the materials section above is open and closeable with chain nose pliers. They have been used as jump rings for the lobster clasp and embellishment beads.

#### Step 5

Optionally, you can use wire working techniques to create embellishments for the chain side. Knotted head pins were made with 22 gauge wire. Refer to classes on Michaels You Tube with Beadalon for how to make knotted head pins with wire.



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## Odd Count Herringbone

Herringbone stitch can be worked with an odd-count. To do this, you will need to make a turn on one of the sides. The illustration below shows the steps starting from the laddered row. When the last bead in the first row is reached, pick up (2)S8, go back through the first of those, and pull the thread down to sit above the S8 below. Come up through the next S8 in the row. Finish that row of herringbone as normal. The right hand side of the work will have a normal step-up and the next row above will begin as usual, but each time you reach the left side, you'll need to make the turn, adding the first S8 of the next row as shown.

