

John Bead Focal Connectors Guide for Stitched Designs



John Bead
ESTABLISHED 1954

This handy guide introduces a few of the many ways you can turn our focal connector blanks into ends for your seed beaded work. Featured in this guide are two sizes of metal blank connectors:

Best with 11/0 and 10/0 seed beads

2472413101-02 - Metal Blank 20 Gauge Brass Focal Connector, 21 x 10.5 x 0.8mm

Best with 8/0 seed beads

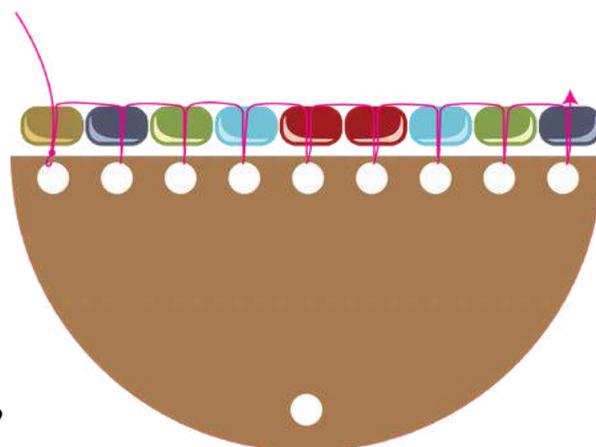
2472413101-03 - Metal Blank 18 Gauge Brass Focal Connector, 30 x 15 x 1mm

These connectors are great for brick stitch. You can also build other stitches from a first row of brick stitch, such as herringbone and peyote. This guide will show you how. These directions work with both connectors using the seed bead size indicated for each above.

Starting with brick stitch!

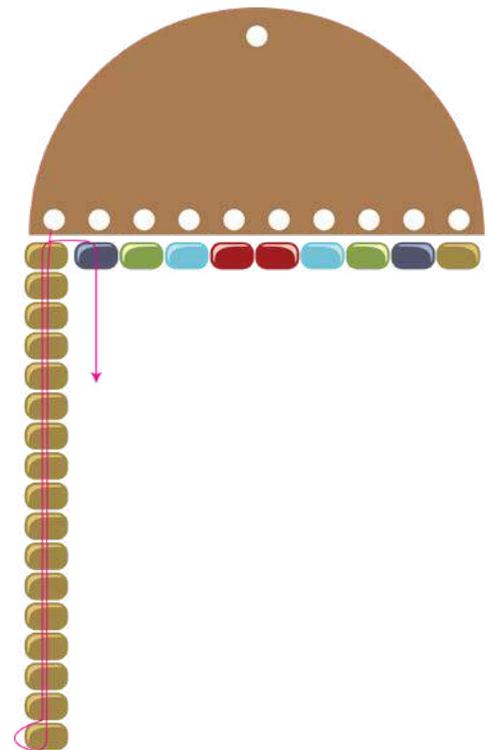
Beginning with a comfortable length of beading thread, tie a double knot into one of the side holes. Leave a 10 inch tail to weave in later. Pick up your first seed bead and slide it down to sit over the knot. Also feed the tail thread up through it. Pull the working and tail threads apart to tighten the bead and hide the knot underneath it.

String a second bead and go through the second hole. Come up through that second bead and tighten. Repeat to the last hole of the connector.



From here you can build fringe from each bead, such as in this Fall-Ready design by @CarolCarmenJewelry.

The fastest way to begin fringe, with your thread exiting from the last bead brick-stitched, string your desired length of beads and then come back up through all, skipping the last bead added. When you reach the top bead, turn and come down through the adjacent bead in the brick-stitched row to start the next strand.



Many variations and personalizations are possible. The metal blanks are also stampable and can be worked in many of the ways a metalsmith might customize a brass blank. In this example, Carol hammered the connectors to add texture using a chasing hammer and block.



Herringbone Stitch

These findings are a gorgeous way to finish bead woven cuff bracelets. We've been creating lots of gorgeous herringbone with them. This section covers how to work with first the 8/0 and then the 11/0 size connector.

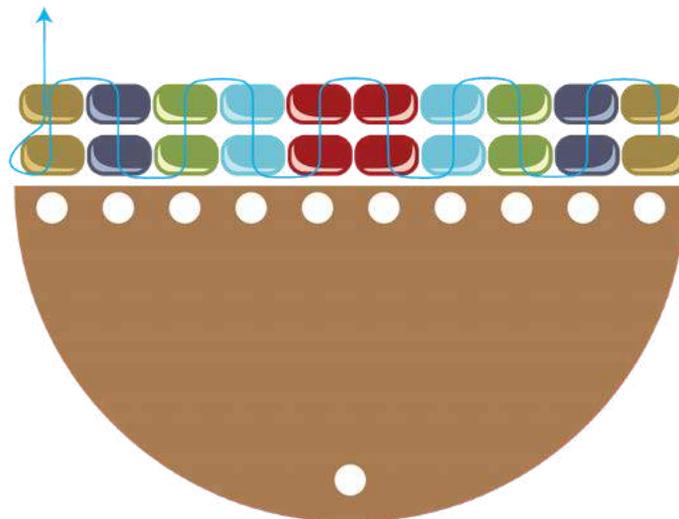


11/0 Seed Beads



8/0 Seed Beads

Working with the 8/0 seed beads connector, after completing your row of brick stitch, begin herringbone stitch. This connector has 10 holes, an even-count for five columns of herringbone to build directly from the brick-stitched row.

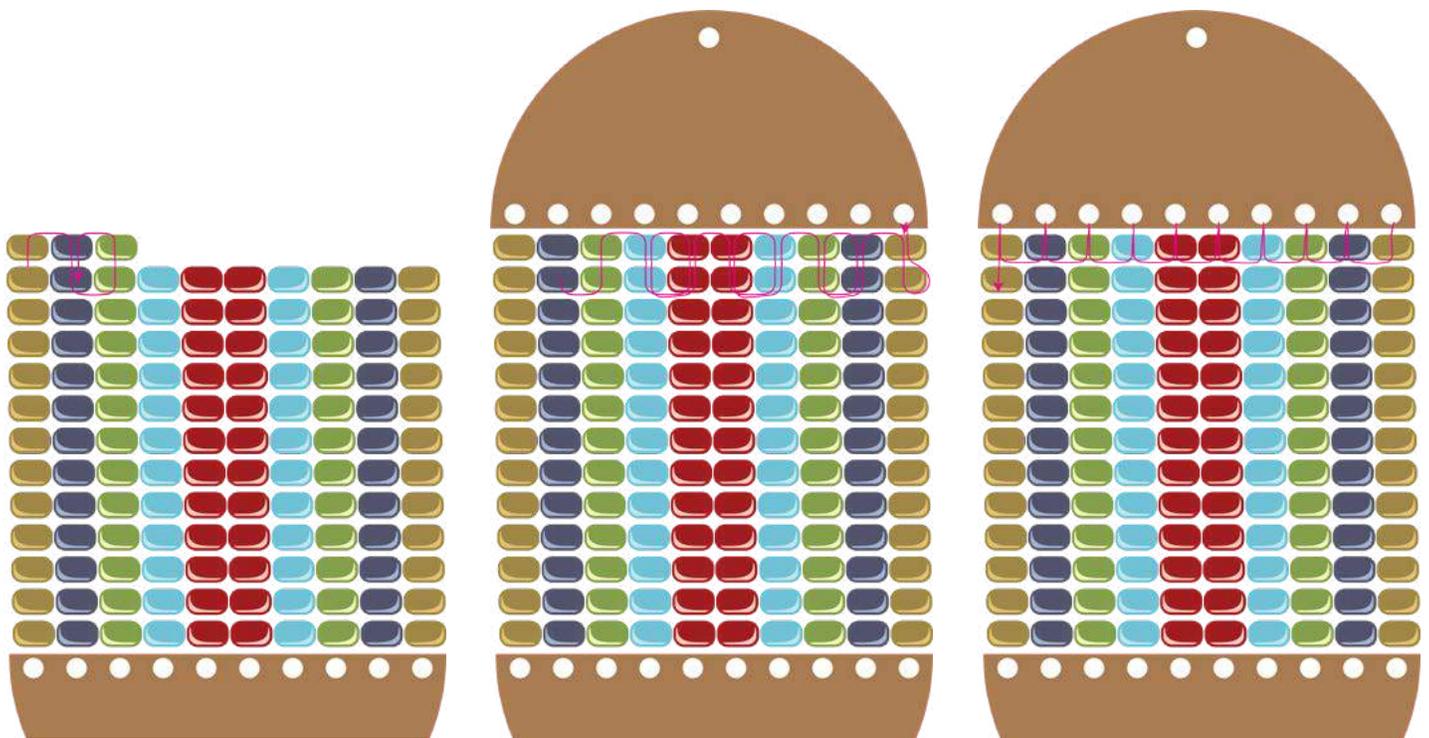


Build rows of herringbone stitch as usual. When you reach your last row, use this method to create a flat edge that will have a thread bridge above all the beads.

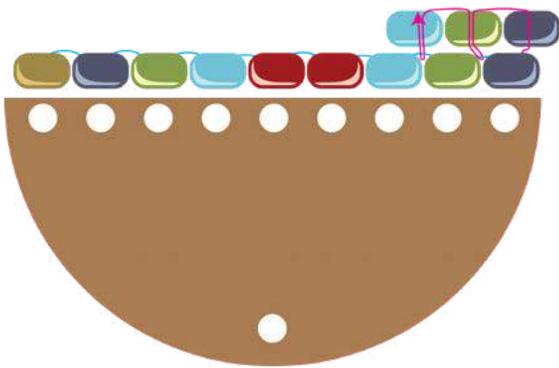
Tip: A normal herringbone row will only have a thread bridge connecting every-other bead. This makes brick stitching onto that last row tricky. In addition, the beads in a herringbone row are tilted. They look nicer sitting flat against the connector. This method will accomplish both.

Start your first column as normal, going down through the bead below and up through the next. String only 1 bead and go back through the last bead added. Continue through the bead below, then back up through the adjacent bead and the bead above, the one added last. From there, add 1 bead again and go down through the bead below. Come up through the adjacent bead, add 1 bead. Loop back through the last bead, the bead below it, and up through the two adjacent. Repeat this method through the end of the row, then step-up through the last bead.

Go through the connector and back through the same bead. Turn and come up through the next bead. Go through the connector and back through that bead. Repeat to the end of the row. Weave in remaining thread and trim.

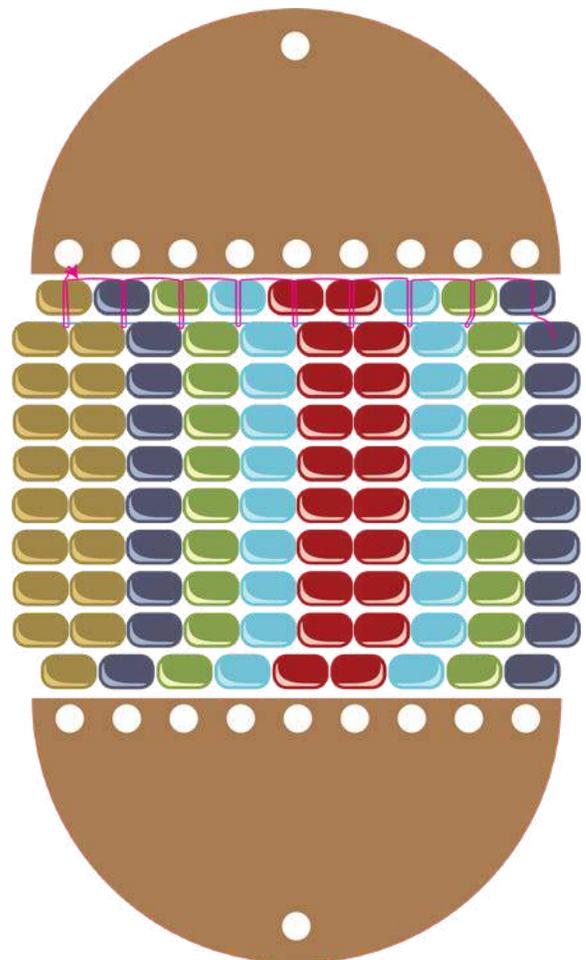


Building herringbone from the 11/0 connector, which has 9 holes, is easiest by adding one row of increasing brick stitch before starting the herringbone rows. This will give us an even-count to work from. Start with 2 beads, then needle under the first thread bridge. Come up through the second bead added. From here, add 1 bead and needle under the next thread bridge. Come back up through that bead. Repeat a total of 7 times. Add 1 more bead, needling under the last thread bridge to connect it. It will share a thread bridge with the bead before it. This should give you a total of 10 beads across.



To finish off the design, refer to the method described on page 4 to complete your last row of herringbone. From there, brick stitch a decreasing row. String 2 beads. Needle under the second thread bridge. Come up through the second bead. If desired, go back through the first bead and anchor it to the first thread bridge.

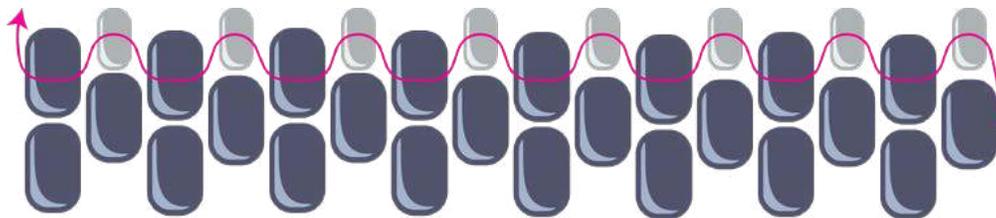
Finish the rest of the brick-stitched row as normal, ending with 1 bead in the last thread bridge for a total of 9 beads. Use the same method described on page 4 to connect each bead to each hole of the connector.



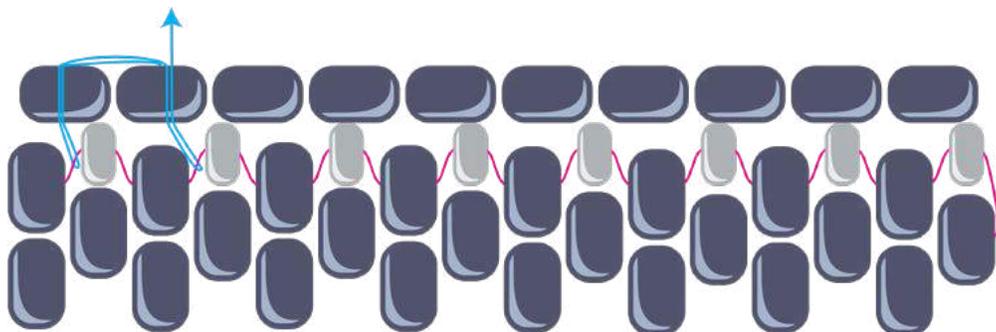
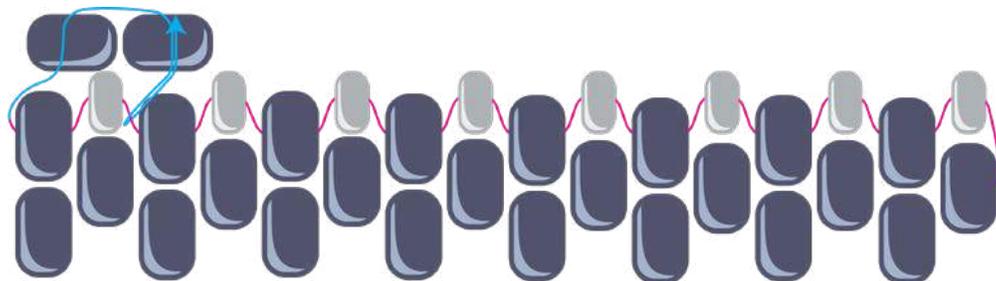
Peyote Stitch

To connect peyote stitch designs, you'll first want to flatten up the edges. One way to do this is to work the last row of peyote stitch with a bead size down. For example, in between each of the 8/0 "up" beads, work an 11/0 bead. In between a design made with 11/0, use 15/0 for the last row. Although the column counts may differ, the process is the same, even for variations like 2-drop peyote.

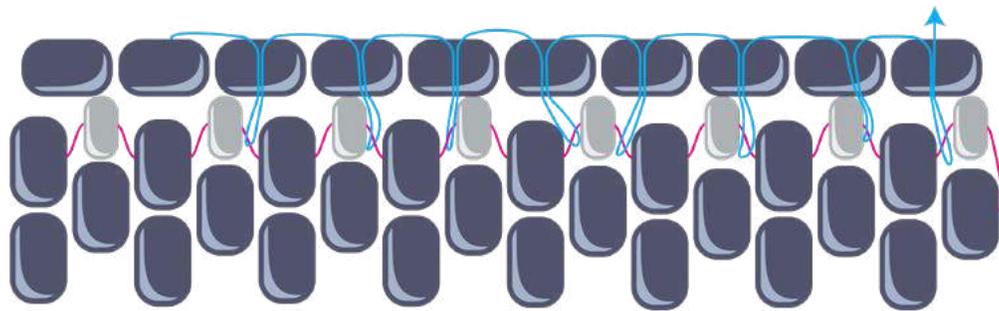
First, complete that last row with a smaller bead.



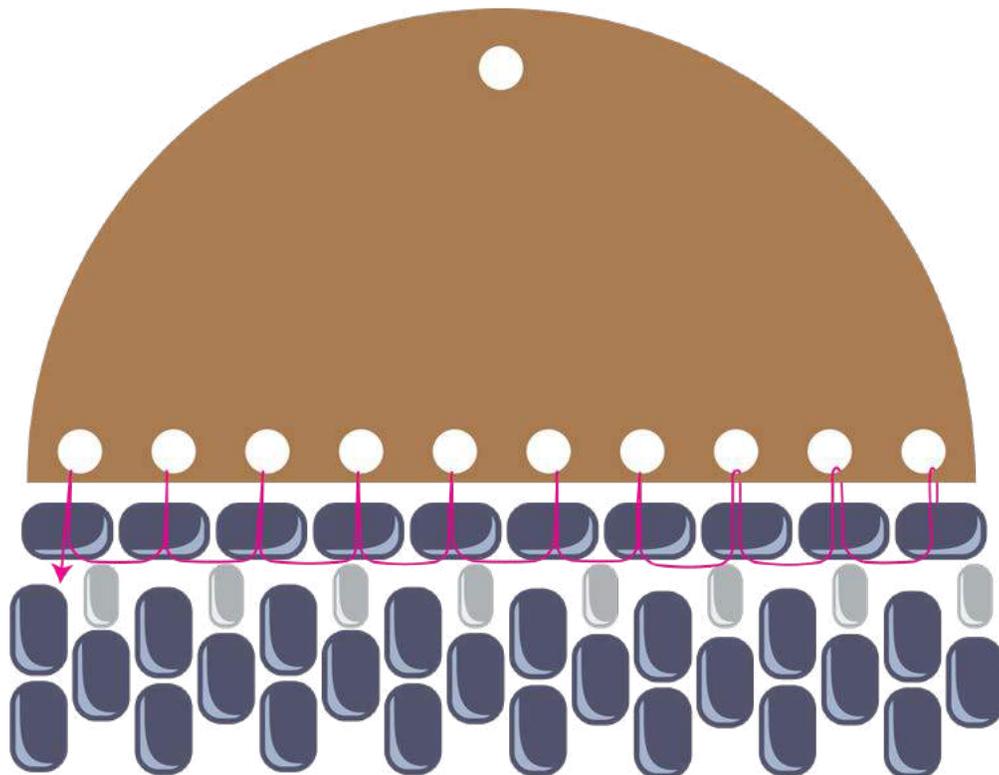
Brick stitch a row using your main size bead. Tip: all the usual tricks we use to straighten out those first two beads work for this technique, too. Shown below: adding the first two beads, then going back through to straighten them out.



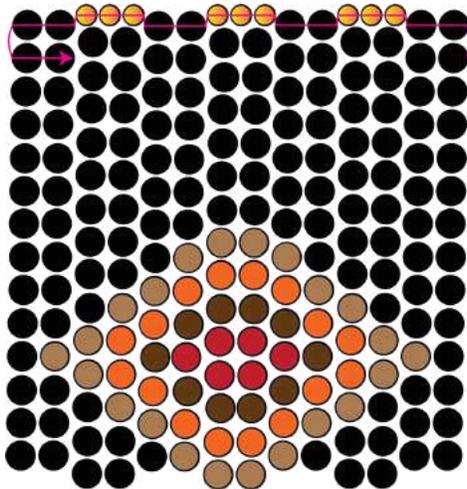
Brick stitch the remainder of the row. If you're working with size 8/0 seed beads, that finding has 10 holes. Work 10 beads across. With the 11/0 finding, you'd want to work 9 beads across. The great thing about brick stitch is you have some flexibility with spacing and counts.



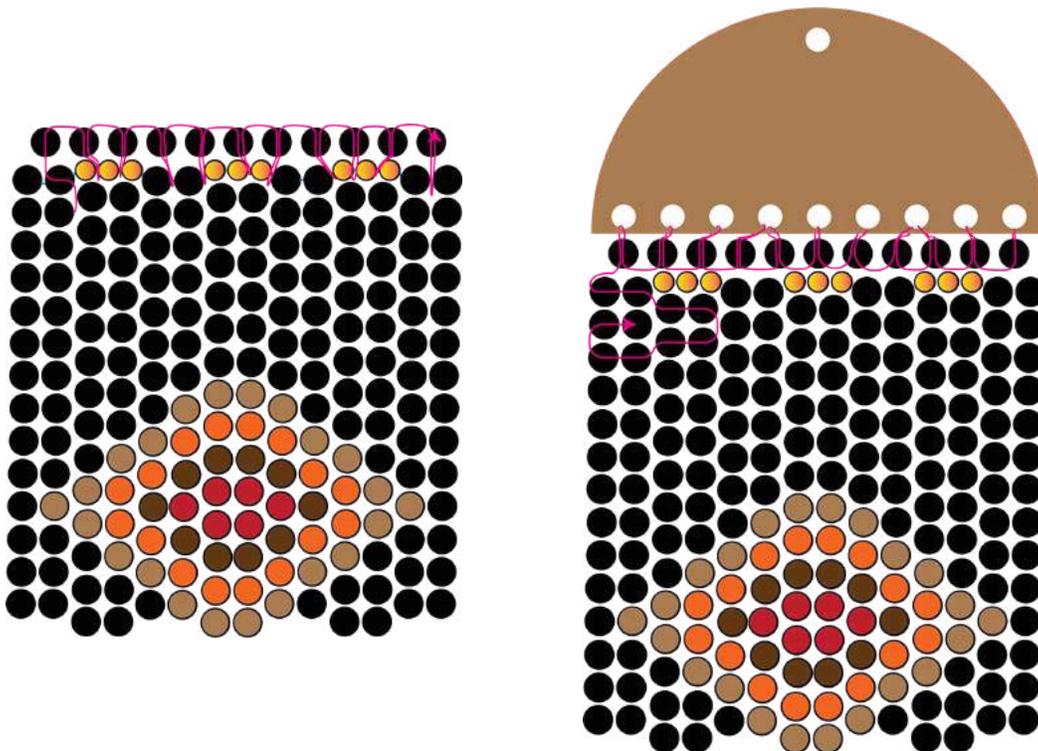
Last but not least, attach the finding by stitching up through each hole and going back down through the bead below it. Turn and come up through the next bead. Repeat to the last hole / bead.



There are lots of variations possible. Here is a design made with 11/0 seed beads. It's a 2-drop, odd-count peyote stitch that is attached to the 11/0 finding. 3 size 15/0 seed beads were stitched in between each of the "up" beads.



Brick stitch was used to create a flat, up-facing edge with the 11/0 beads, and the finding is attached by looping through each bead and each of the holes of the finding.



We hope you have enjoyed this guide and will find it useful in your bead travels! Here's a gallery of glamour shots showing more designs featuring these versatile connectors.



Share your designs with us!
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Seed Bead Colors



8/0 Herringbone, 695SB08O-4560V, 695SB08O-4588V,
695SB08O-4589V, 695SB08O-4590V, 695SB08O-4591V

11/0 2-Drop Peyote, 695SB11O-4560V, 695SB11O-4588V,
695SB11O-4589V, 695SB11O-4590V, 695SB11O-4591V,
695SB15O-0462V



8/0 Peyote, 695SB08O-4574V, 695SB08O-4575V, 4555V, 695SB11O-
4574V



11/0 Herringbone, 695SB11O-4702V, 695SB18-0005V



8/0 Odd-Count Herringbone, 695SB08O-0648V, 695SB08O-4692V,
695SB08O-2021V, 695SB08O-0462V, 695SB15O-4692V



10/0 Czech Seed Beads Herringbone, 65043000, 65043002, 65043001,
65040006