

Michael's

Made by you™

Technique Workshop *Advanced Square Stitch*



John Bead
ESTABLISHED 1954

Materials

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

John Bead Czech Seed Beads, Size 6/o, Agate Mix, SKU 10627193

John Bead Czech Seed Beads, Size 11/o, Emerald, SKU 10627232

John Bead Czech Seed Beads, Size 10/o, Iris Brown, SKU 10479044

John Bead Czech Bugle Beads, Aqua, SKU 10627340

Wildfire Beading Thread .006, SKU 10104818

Size #12 Beading Needle, SKU 10348545

Lobster Claw Clasp, SKU 10443265

6mm Jump Rings, SKU 10399486

Ear Wires, SKU D295211S

Chain Nose Pliers, SKU 10121794

Thread Scissors, SKU 10591717

Beading Mat, SKU 10348546

Beginner Bead Weaving

1 hour class

In this workshop we will build on square stitch technique basics to create rounded shapes and combine bead sizes. The foundations built in this class will lead to many innovations and ideas in your bead weaving creations. Please review our Intro to Square Stitch Class to get ready.

Abbreviations used in these instructions include:

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

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

S8C - Size 8/0 Czech Seed Bead, Color C, select any color

S8D - Size 8/0 Czech Seed Bead, Color D, select any color

S6 - Size 6/0 Seed Bead, select any color

S10 - Size 10/0 Seed Bead, select any color

S11 - Size 11/0 Seed Bead, select any color

Bugle - Czech Bugle Bead, select any color

Project 1

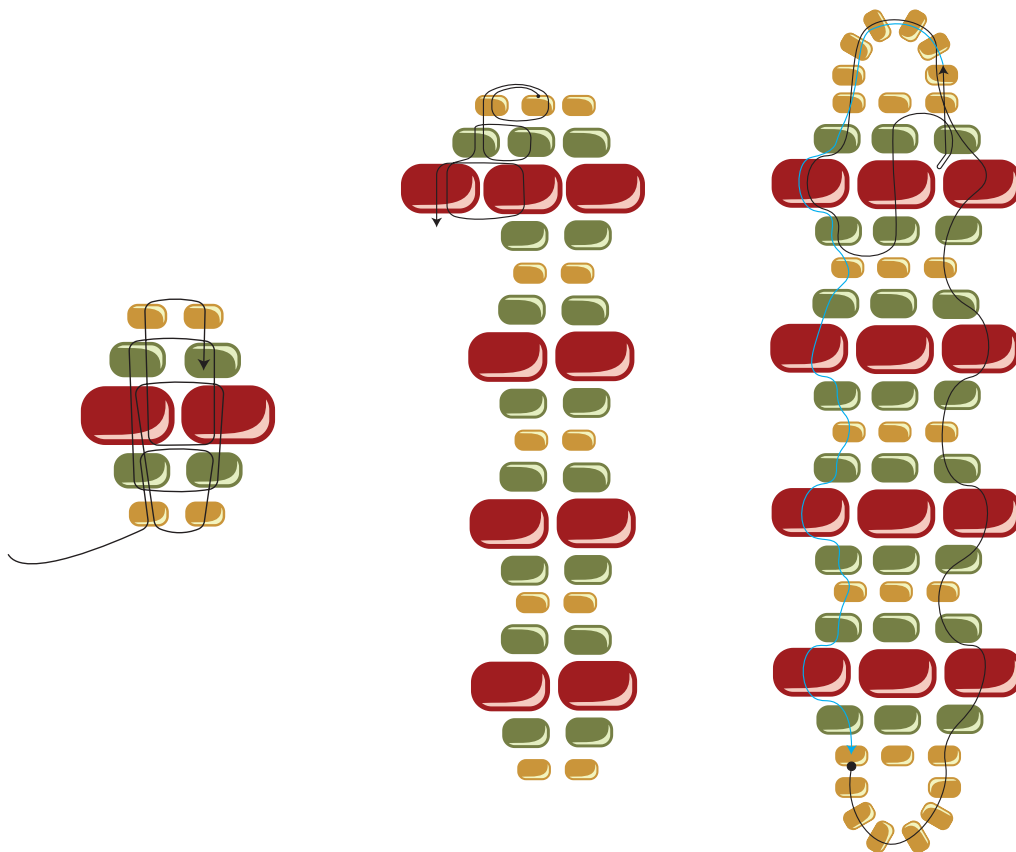
Square stitch is useful to add on and expand designs and can be used with any bead sizes and combinations of bead sizes. A good demonstration of this can be shown with this wavy stitch bracelet.



In several of our previous classes, we have created a wavy herringbone rope. You can use square stitch technique to build a third column onto the design. This trick really comes in handy for future designs I will share a sneak preview of in class.

The sample bracelet was built by starting with a single column herringbone rope built with S10, S8A, and S6 beads. We will review this in class. Build a single column herringbone rope, varying the bead sizes with each row, until you reach the desired length. Then begin building along one side using square stitch to add the corresponding bead.

At the bottom, add a loop of (6)S10. Weave back up through the design and mirror that loop on the other end. Use a thread bridge to turn, then weave back down the new side to reinforce.

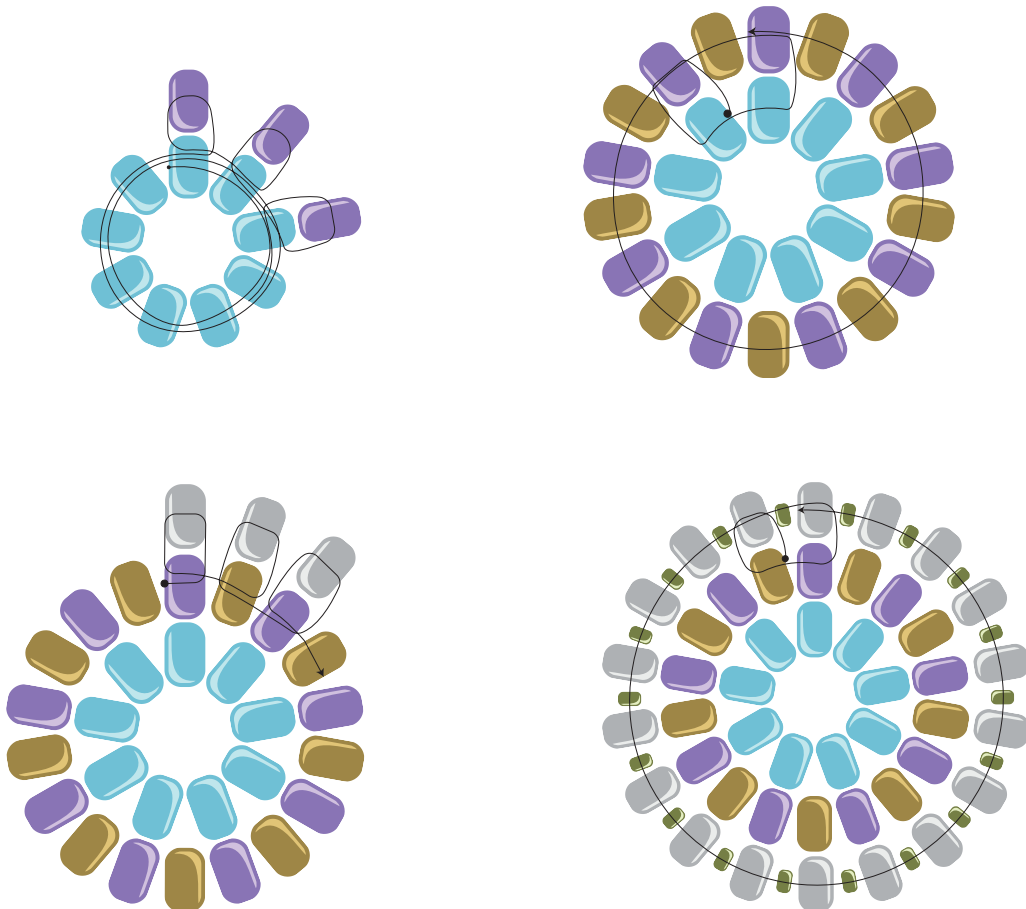


Project 2 - Round Shapes

Square stitch is especially handy for creating rounded shapes. You can create a circle of any size and with any bead size without needing a pattern. Simply string a ring of seed beads and square stitch a bead onto each one. In the sample, I used Retro Blue Mix in Czech 8/0. I changed colors at every step to highlight the steps.

String any number of S8A. Reinforce and knot if desired. Begin building square stitch around, adding an S8B and going back through every bead and then stitching through the next S8A until you reach the first. Then step up through the last S8B and add an S8C in between each S8B.

You can create another layer if desired. I find that subsequent rounds will stay flat if the "in between" bead on ring 2 is a size down. In the sample an S11 was used in between each S8D.

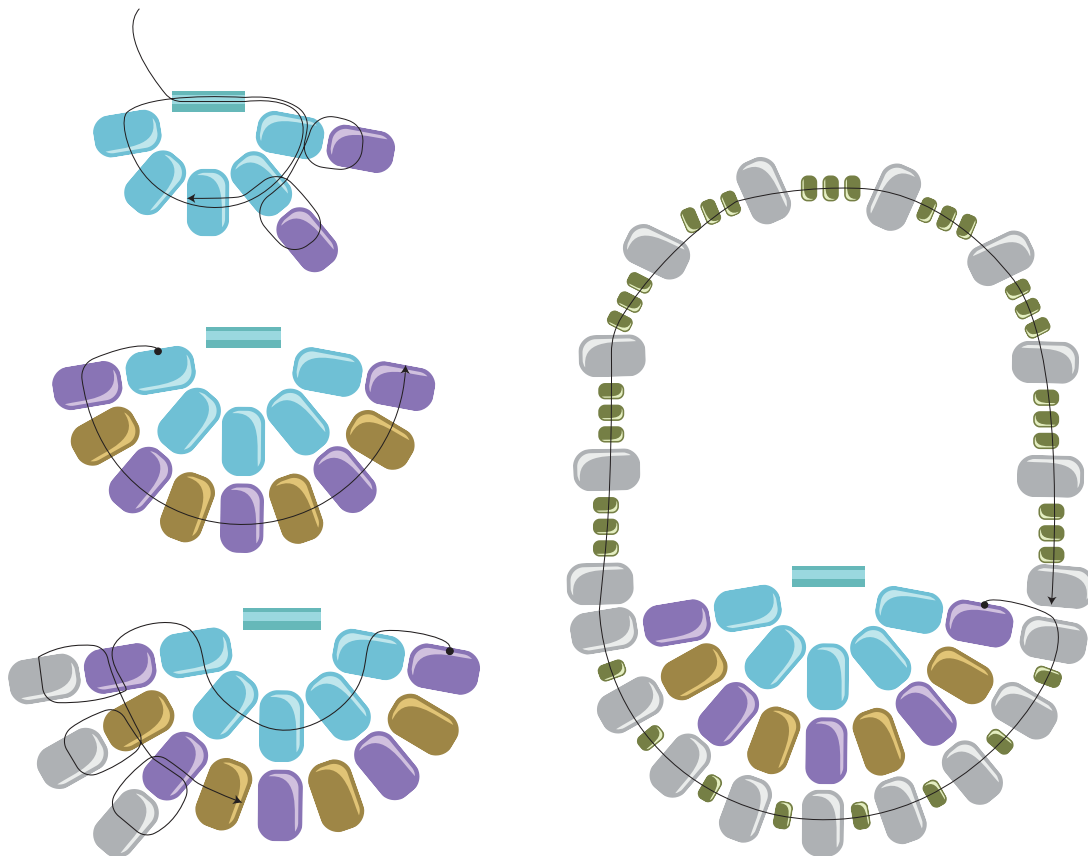


Project 3 - Half Moon

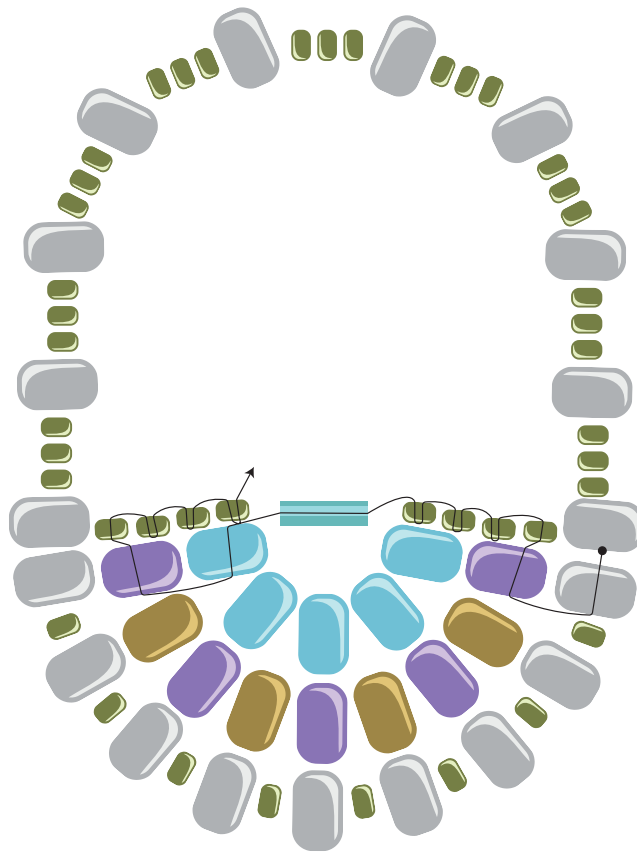
Here is an experimental idea that I am still playing with. This element can become many things! In addition to an earring, turn it round side up and it can become a component to build fringe earrings or an end bar finding for a bracelet. I'll have some ideas ready to share in class.

To make this design, I started with (5)S8A and a Bugle strung into a ring for step 1. Square stitch in a new color, (1)S8B to each S8A. Turn and go through the first S8B and string (1)S8C in between each S8B.

Square stitch (1)S8D to each of the S8B. Turn and go through the last S8B and add an S11 in between each. If desired, you can string a loop of decorative S11 and S8 to suspend it as an earring. It looks like a cute basket shape for a spring design, and you could add some beads or charms in the basket.



If desired, you can finish the top and fill up space next to the bugle by brick stitching a row of S11.



It would also be neat to replace the S8D with SuperDuo. There are so many ideas we can try!

I hope you have enjoyed this workshop! Please share your creations with us and tag #JohnBead and #MakeItWithMichaels!