

Michael's

Made by you™



Button Cuff
Bracelet

John Bead
ESTABLISHED 1954

What You'll Need

John Bead Size 8/0 Czech Seed Beads, Opaque Black, SKU 10549076
John Bead Size 11/0 Czech Seed Beads, Black Diamond, SKU 10627237
Buy Two - John Bead Size 6/0 Czech Seed Beads, Hawaii Mix, SKU 10627173

Wildfire Beading Thread, .006 Black, SKU 10470337
Size #10 Beading Needle, SKU 10332394

15mm Black Button, SKU 10159801

Beading Mat, SKU 10348546
Precision Scissors, SKU 10591717

Optional but helpful, Bracelet Design Board, SKU 10219446

Intermediate Beadweaving
2 Hour Class



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Creating a button loop closure in your bead weaving designs is a fun way to make a bracelet go all the way around your wrist for a sleek, fitted look! We will quickly review herringbone stitch technique, but will assume students have a familiarity with the stitch. If you're new or would like a refresher, we have some great resources:

Back-to-Basics, Herringbone Stitch with 8/0 seed beads

This class is a very similar design to the one we will follow today. A review of this class, Crystal Cuff, might be helpful as well.

Abbreviations

S8 - Size 8/0 Seed Bead

S11 - Size 11/0 Seed Bead

S6 - Size 6/0 SeedBead

Step 1

Cut 120 inches of beading thread and thread a size #10 beading needle. Leaving a 15 inch tail, ladder stitch a row of (8)S8. If you prefer to work with stacks of two S8 for your ladder row, that will work as well.



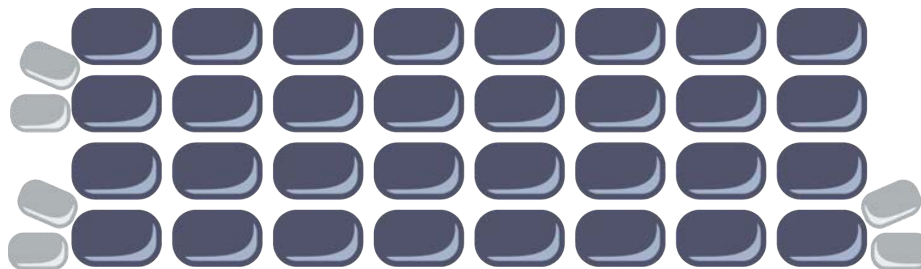
Step 2

Begin herringbone stitch. When you do your step-ups, pick up (2)S11 on the way to embellish the sides.



Step 3

Repeat Step 2 to create a total of 4 rows. If desired, you can stitch down one more bead when you do your step-up to match the side embellishments. We will demo this in class.



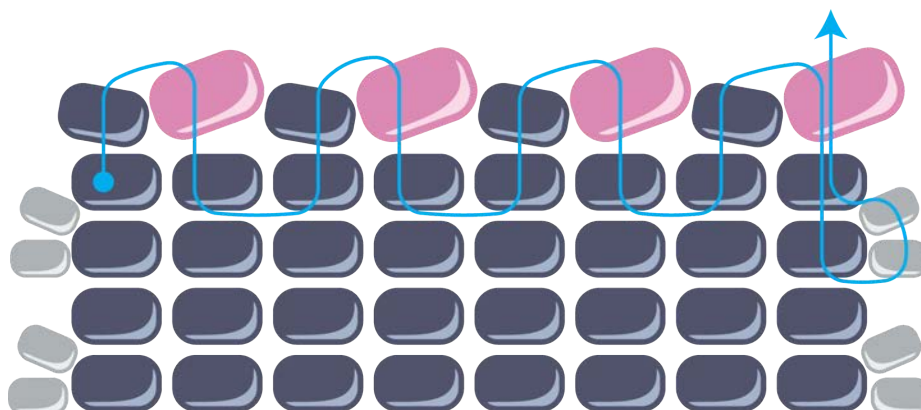
Step 4

Continue herringbone stitch, but switch the second bead you pick up in each column to an S6. Continue to include the (2)S11 on your step-ups. Repeat this step to desired length. This is the main body of the cuff. The final length will need to account for the overlap needed to clasp the button. To determine this, see Step 5.

Pattern:

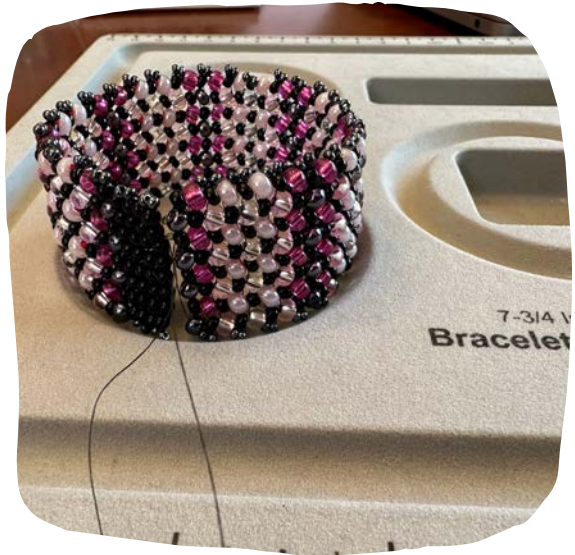
If you're using the Hawaii Mix, or any other mix, dump out the tube and select out five colors. Ombre each row, dark to light and back to dark. I started with the hematite, then fuchsia, silver lined pink, pearl pink, then silver lined crystal. From there the pattern is back to pearl pink, silver lined pink, fuchsia, and then hematite. Repeat this flow to desired length. You can also color block or devise any pattern you like.

Tip: You don't have to use 6/0. The button closure will still work on just an 8/0 design. This idea will also work with 11/0 and other mixes of sizes. The technique is adaptable to most herringbone designs.



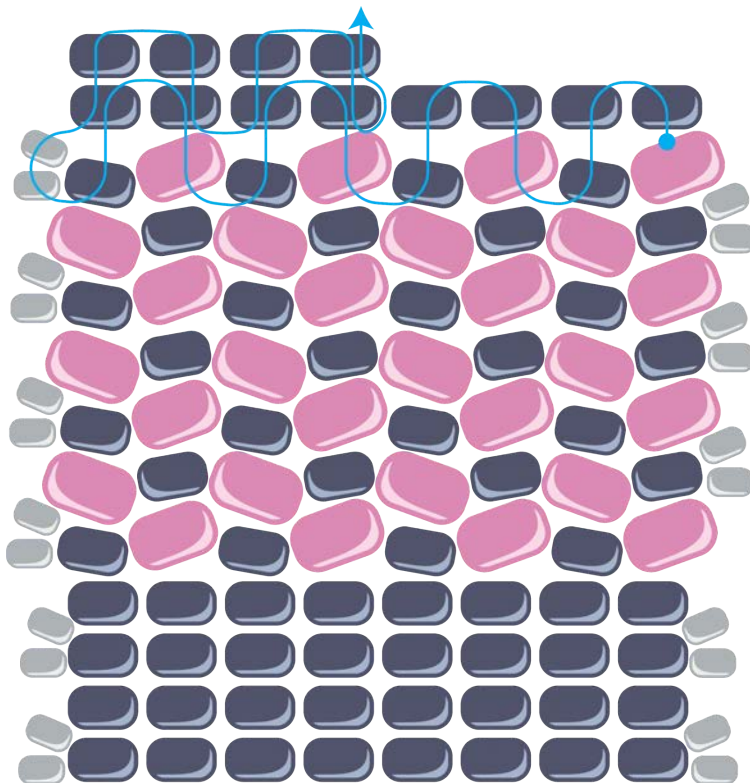
Step 5

Continue stitching Step 4 until you have a main body length that connects as shown in your desired size. This is how it will position on the wrist. It can help to use a bracelet design board, or you can lay flat to measure. Remember to add 1/4 to 1/2 of an inch to account for the width of the cuff. The button will sit above the section of all S8. The button hole we create next will overlap it.



Step 6

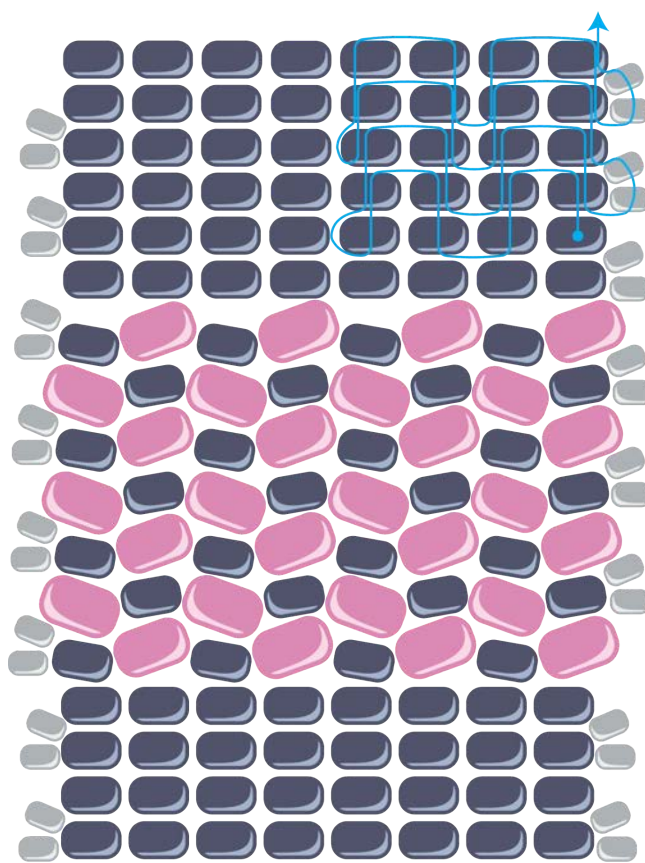
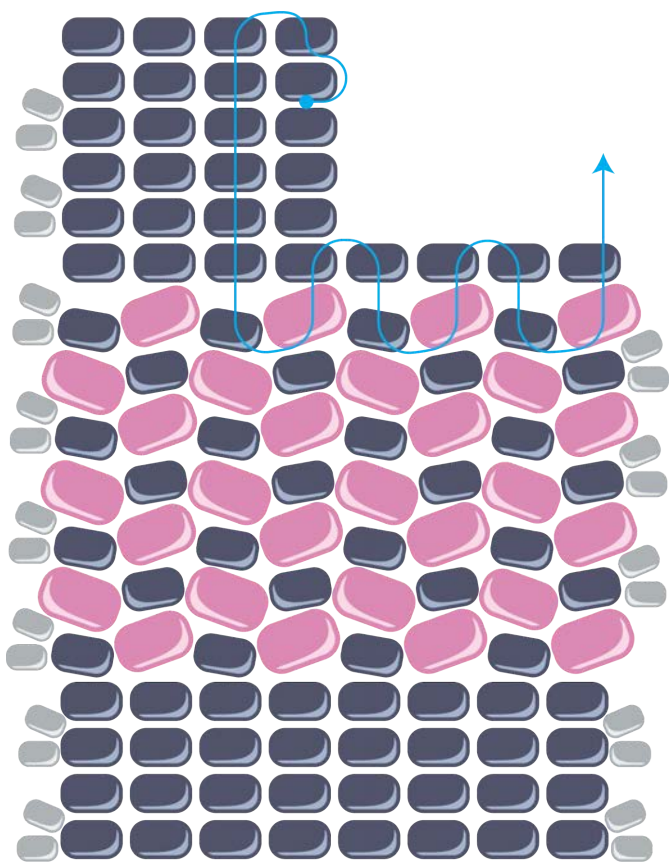
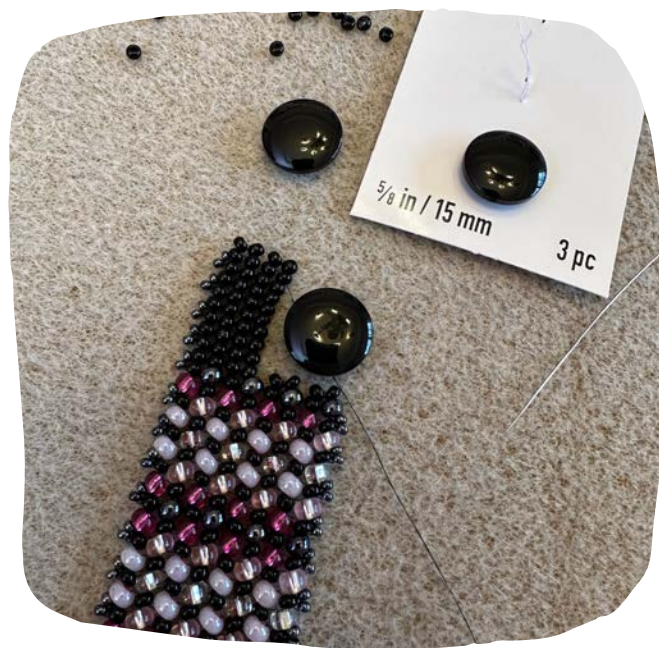
Stitch one row with all S8, stepping up with S11 embellishment as usual. Then begin to create another row, but stop after just two columns. Do a step up without embellishment on the inside turn, but continue to use them on the outside turns.



Step 6 continued

Create a number of rows that is taller than your button. 9 rows high worked well for this 15mm button. Count included the first, full row of S8.

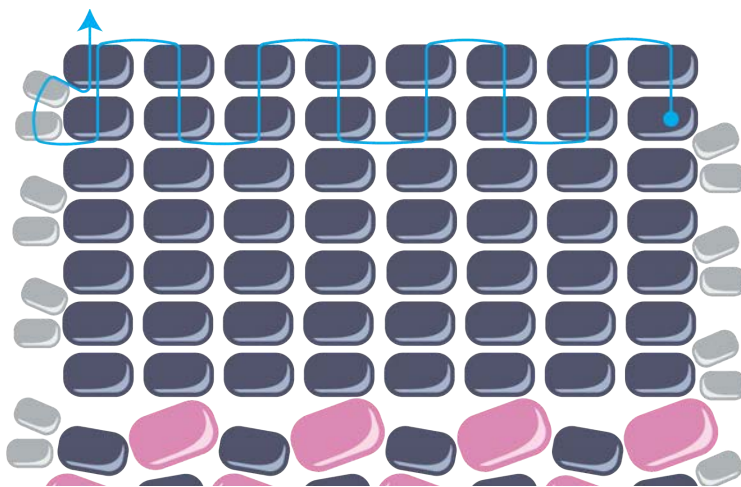
After finishing the last row on the first side, weave down through the work and over to exit from the edge S8. Match the first side with rows of two-column herringbone on this side. Remember to only embellish the step-ups on the outside.



Step 7 - Bring it all together

From where you left off on the last side, simply create two or three normal rows of herringbone stitch with S8. You can ladder stitch the last row if desired. Weave in and reinforce anywhere that needs it. Trim any remaining working thread.

Some Tips: There are a few opportunities to test the button. Button sizes can vary a lot based on more than just their diameters. Testing is the best way to account for things like dome height and shank sizes. After you create the first full row of herringbone joining them together, test the button in the hole. It's still possible to go back now and add another row to each side if needed.



Step 8 - Attaching the button

Thread a needle onto the tail thread. Weave to exit from one of the center, two beads in the design, about five or six rows back from the end. You can adjust this if needed, with the goal of centering the button so that its edge lines up roughly with the end of the beadwork. For example, here with my 15mm diameter button, I stitched the shank into a position that is approximately 7.5mm from the end.

(3)S11 were strung, then the button, then (3)S11. Then go through the other of the two, center beads in the row. Reinforce twice more. You can use the thread bridges above the beads in the next row to make turns and reinforce. Weave in remaining thread and trim.

Tip: Before reinforcing, test the connection using a stop bead to hold everything in place. I will show this in class. Test the bracelet, clasp the button, see how it all lines up. You can pull out the work and redo if necessary.

