

Make a beaded bead using Right Angle Weave Stitch!

By Amanda Crago at Bowerbird Jewellery

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Right Angle Weave or RAW for short is a great stitch to learn! You can stitch it with a single needle or a two needle (crossweave technique). This project is suitable for beginners to intermediates. For more experienced beaders, you can let your imagination run wild and embellish the beaded bead over the base rows if you like!

Materials to make one simple beaded bead:

12 x 6mm or 8mm Czech firepolished crystals or pressed round glass beads

(Search online for suppliers – Tiddly beads, Jilly Beads and Robin's beads have a great range of colours & finishes)

Fireline bonded thread or Wildfire (made by Beadalon, Hobbycraft sell this brand)

A big eye needle or size 12 beading needle

A pair of sharp scissors

Terminology

RAW/R.A.W – Right Angle Weave

Unit – a circle or square of beads, in this project it's one crystal on each side (total of 4).

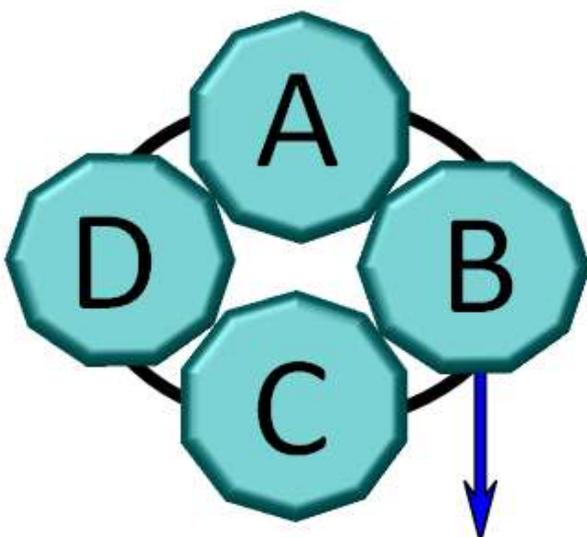
Go through – go through the required number of beads in the same direction

Go back through – go back through the required number of beads in the opposite direction

Zip Up – to connect the first bead added from step 1, with the last bead added from step 3.

Step 1

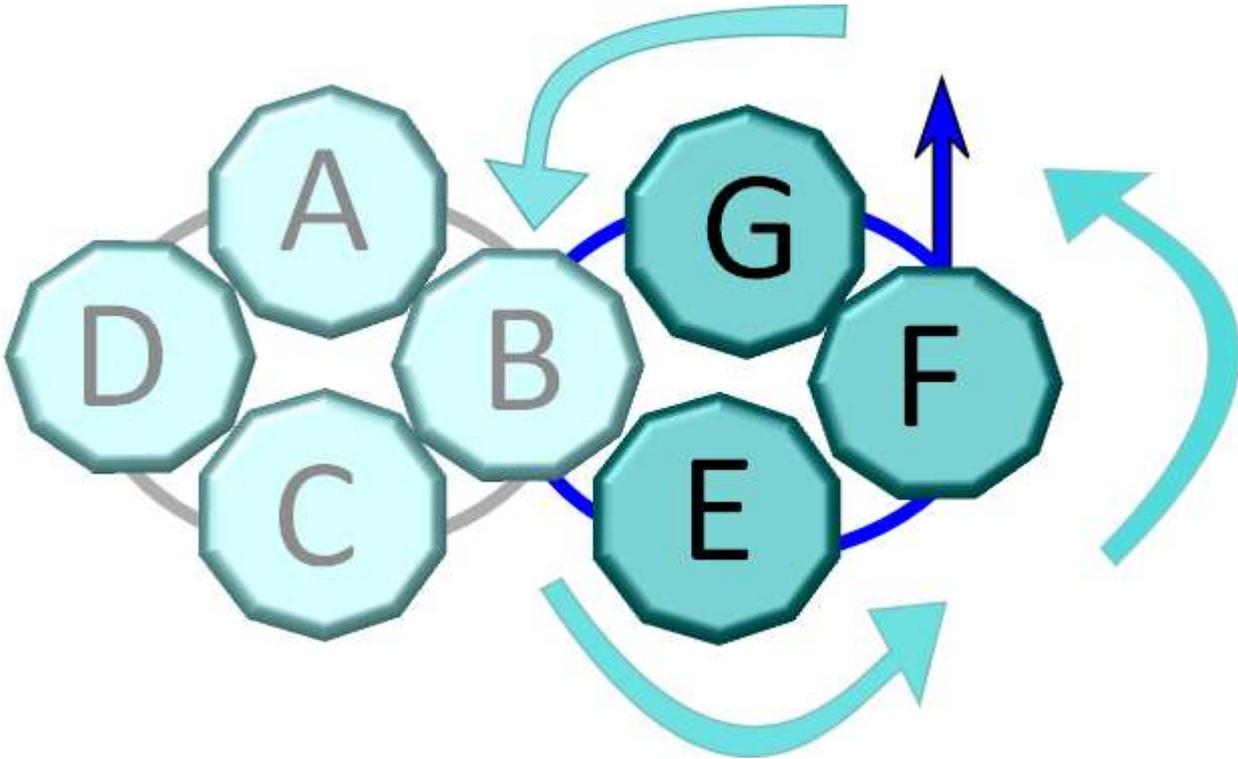
Using an arms-length of fireline, thread on your needle. String on 4 crystals (A B C and D), leave approximately a 15cm tail and go through all the beads again, forming them into a circle. Wrapping the tail thread around your index finger may be useful to stop the beads from falling off the end of the thread! Tie the threads together with a square knot or two overhand knots and go through the first two beads (A & B). You should have a square shaped circle, but you can nudge the beads to one on each side if they won't behave!



Arrow is the direction of needle and thread at the end of the step.

Step 2

Add another 3 beads (E F & G) and go through the first bead your needle was exiting (Bead B), and then continue through two of the new beads just added (E & F) in the same direction. You are now ready to start step 3.

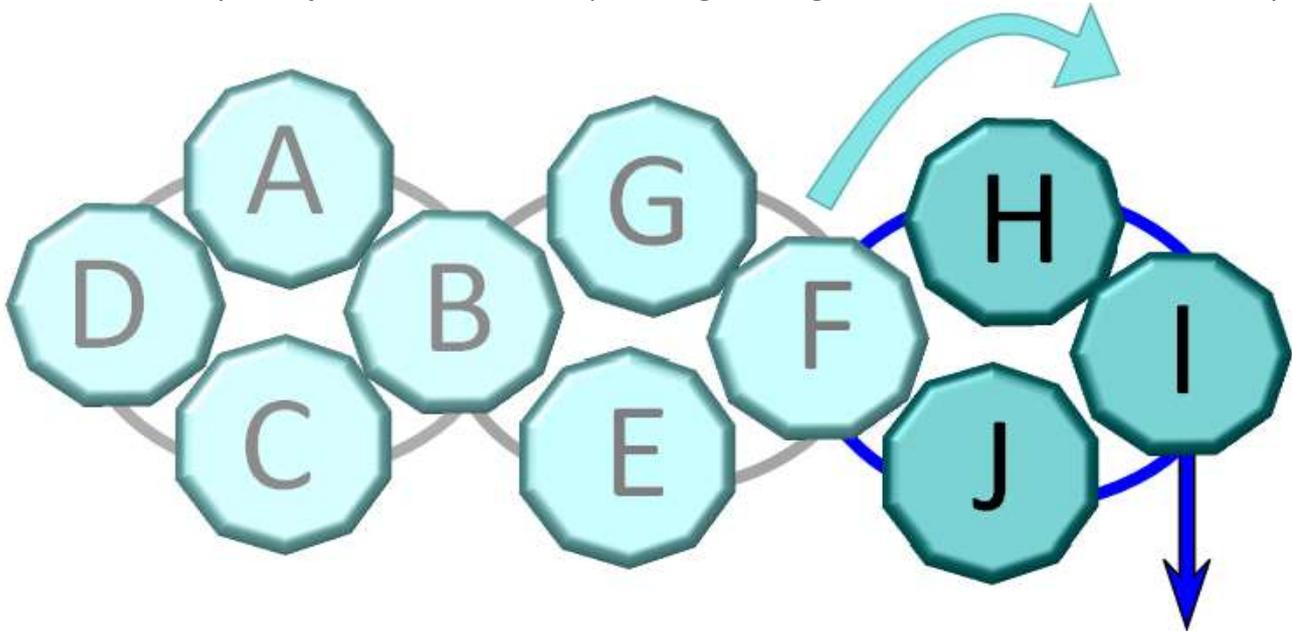


New beads added are in the darker colour



Step 3

Add another three beads (H, I, J) to your thread, this time, going up through bead F and continuing through your three beads you've just added on this step. Next go through bead F, then H and I to finish step 3.

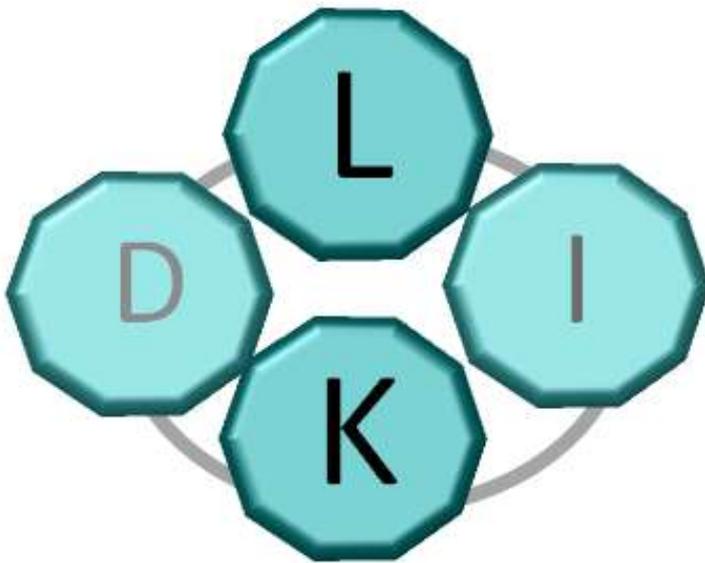


Step 4

Now, we are going to 'zip up' or connect the first bead on the left from step 1 (bead D) with the last bead from step 3 on the right (bead I). Sometimes it's easier to think of the step 1 unit of beads as the left hand 'wall' and the unit of beads from step 3 as the right hand 'wall'. That means the bottom unit (step 2) is the 'floor' and now we'll be adding two beads top and bottom to finish the 'roof' of the beaded bead.



With your thread exiting bead I, add a new bead (K), then go up through bead D. Add another new bead (L) then go down through bead I. Go through all of these beads again to reinforce the thread path.



For simplification, I have only shown the top four beads for the last unit.



Step 5

Now, we'll reinforce the front and back units of beads together.



With your thread exiting Bead D, go through Bead L, go down through Bead H, then across through Bead G and up through Bead A. Continue down through Bead D, then through Bead K.



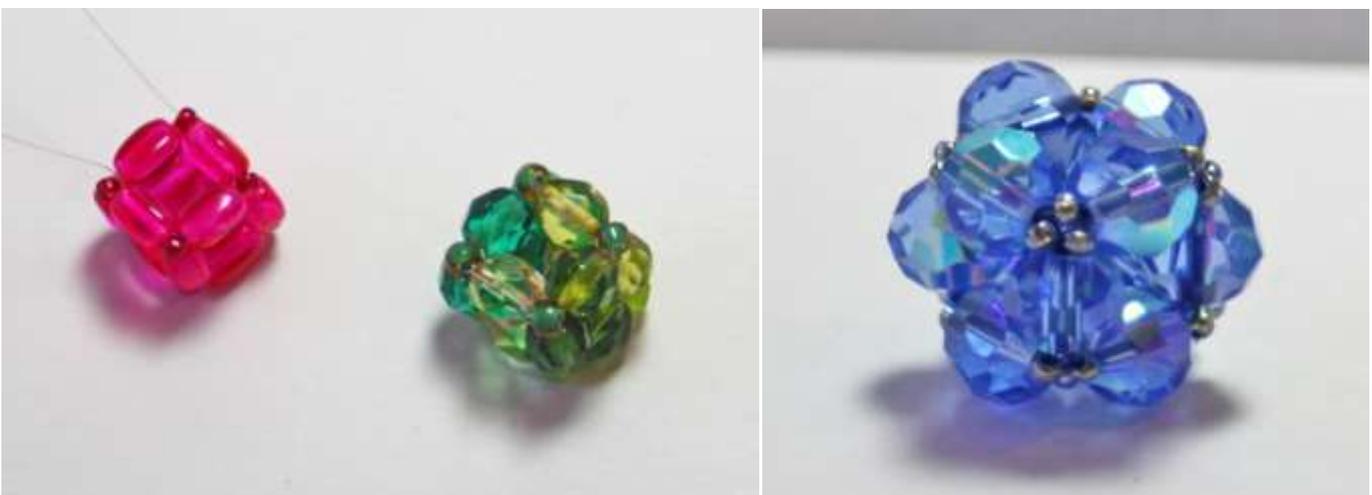
Now we'll reinforce the back unit. Go down through Bead J, through Bead E, then up through Bead C, then go through Bead K again. All the units have now been reinforced and this makes the beaded bead more rigid and stronger.

Step 6

Now, to secure our thread we'll do a half-hitch knot. Go under the thread bridge between Beads K and I, but before you thread all of your thread through, bring your needle back up through the loop you've created with the thread and pull tight. Weave through your beads – remember not straight but at right angles following other thread paths and add a few more half-hitch knots. If you come across your tail thread, you can knot two overhand knots or square knots to secure them together. Weave your thread through and cut your thread – being careful not to cut your working threads of the bead. Do the same with your tail thread – by weaving through the beaded bead and adding half-hitch knots to secure, trim the tail threads and Hey Presto! A Beaded Bead!



For more experienced beaders, you can cover all your exposed threads at each of the corners of the bead, by stringing a size 8/0 seed bead at the corner of each unit all the way around your bead. You can also add three smaller size 11/0 seed beads at each corner by weaving around the bead and adding one 11/0 seed bead at each corner on each side. This means that you'll end up with three 11/0 beads covering the corner threads!



References on history of Right Angle Weave:

http://www.beadwrangler.com/samplers/raw1/raw_history.htm

<http://www.aroundthebeadingtable.com/Tutorials/RightAngleWeave.html>