



Tubular straight herringbone is a great stitch to use in necklaces, bracelets and as a base for more elaborate embellished beadwork. Below are the basic instructions for both two ladder and three ladder tubular straight herringbone.

This herringbone start is a little different than the more commonly used ladder stitch start. While it can be a little trickier to master initially, it is well worth the effort of learning because it has a couple of great advantages:

- There is no "irregular row" where the beads are not sitting in herringbone formation, as happens with the ladder stitch start.
- The herringbone can be added to this start in both directions. If you are doing a very long section of herringbone and don't like adding thread: start with a very long thread, wrap up half of your thread (the "tail") onto a bobbin. Once you have used up your working thread, unwind the tail and use this to bead in the other direction.
- Two pieces of herringbone started in this manner will zip together seamlessly.

TWO LADDER TUBULAR STRAIGHT HERRINGBONE

1. Begin by threading up one wingspan of beading thread, single threaded, waxed well. String up eight **110A** and pass back through the first bead again to create a circle of beads. Do not tie a knot. **(figure 1)**



Figure 1

2. String up two **110B** and pass through the very next bead. Then skip over two beads (thread on the outside) and go through the bead after that. String up two **110B** and pass through the next bead. Skip over two beads (thread on the outside) and go through the bead after that.



Figure 2

You should now be coming out of the first bead in the circle (the same one the tail is coming out of). If this is not the case, you have done something wrong in the start, so start again. Step up through the first bead added in this step. **(figure 2)**



Figure 3

3. Pull tightly on both tail and working threads and fold the piece of beadwork in your fingers to create the start of tubular herringbone (there are 3 rows). Begin herringbone stitch. Add two **110B** to each ladder. ***Be sure to step up at the end of this round and every round hereafter.*** **(figure 3)**

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Instructions by Laura McCabe, Illustrations by Melissa Grakowsky-Shippee

THREE LADDER TUBULAR STRAIGHT HERRINGBONE

1. Begin by threading up one wingspan of beading thread, single threaded, waxed well. String up twelve **11⁰A** and pass back through the first bead again to create a circle of beads. Do not tie a knot. **(figure 4)**

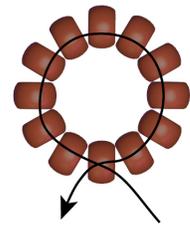


figure 4

2. Pick up two **11⁰B** and go through the very next bead. Skip over the next two beads (thread on the outside) and go through the bead after that. Pick up two **11⁰B** and go through the next bead, skip over two beads (thread on the outside) and go through the bead after that. Pick up two **11⁰B** and go through the next bead, skip over two beads (thread on the outside) and go through the bead after that. Then step up through one more bead (the first **11⁰B** added at the beginning of this step). **(figure 5)**

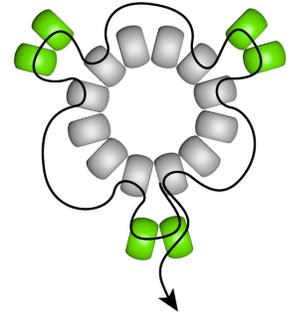


Figure 5

Pull on the tail thread and the working thread to force the beads into a tubular form. The sets of two **11⁰B**s denote the tops of each of the three herringbone ladders.

3. Begin herringbone stitch. Add two **11⁰B** to each ladder. **Be sure to step up at the end of this round and every round hereafter.** **(figure 6)**

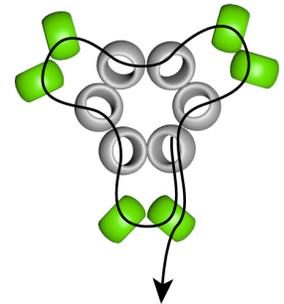


figure 6



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