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Introduction

Right-angle weave’s not just about rectangular designs. In fact, variety’s the name of the game when it comes to the right-angle weave projects included in this second volume of the *Stitch Workshop* series.

First, there’s a variety of skill levels represented in this book. Using the simple techniques explored in the “Right-Angle Weave Basics” section (p. 5), you’ll find yourself working through 28 projects — organized by difficulty level — that explore this popular stitch, from the simplest right-angle weave designs through more complex tubular, cubic, and spiral versions of the stitch.

That variety can also be used to create nearly any jewelry piece, including necklaces, bracelets, and earrings, in any style. Try your hand at bracelets like Shelly Nybakke’s in “What’s Your Bangle” (p. 56) or saucer earrings, like Deborah Stachel’s in “Cosmic Crystals” (p. 28). The projects utilize a multitude of materials — right-angle weave isn’t limited to seed beads! It can be worked in crystals, pearls, and fire-polished glass beads, for wide range of stunning looks.

And the finished products featured, though all created in the same stitch, will astonish you with their differences. Check out the curves of Lesley Weiss’s “Mandala Medallions” (p. 71) or try the open latticework of Abby Cobb’s “Crystalline Bracelet” (p. 44) for just a small sampling of the eye-catching mix of designs.

Whether you’re new to right-angle weave or an experienced beader, you’ll love the variety — of all kinds — that right-angle weave offers you!

Right-Angle Weave Basics

**Right-angle weave is an** off-loom beadweaving technique in which the beads of each stitch form a small square. Each stitch forms a new square that shares a side with the previous square. In its most basic form, each side of the square is made up of one bead, though many projects use more than one bead per side. In right-angle weave, the beads sit at right angles to each other (thus the name of the stitch), and create a beautifully flexible, slightly airy fabric. Because you pick up several beads per stitch, it can work up quickly, especially when you use larger beads.

Beadwork made in right-angle weave is evident in several cultures. Some of the beadwork dates as far back as the 1600s. David Chatt’s development and expansion of this technique beginning in the 1980s is largely responsible for the widespread interest in and use of right-angle weave today.

**Flat right-angle weave**
The following instructions are for basic right-angle weave using one bead per side. For projects that use more than one bead per side, the thread path is essentially the same as for the basic stitch; treat each set of beads on each side of the square as a single bead.

1. To start the first row of right-angle weave, pick up four beads, and tie them into a ring. Sew through the first three beads again.

2. Pick up three beads. Sew through the last bead of the previous ring (a→b), and continue through the first new bead (b→c).

3. Continue adding three beads per stitch until the first row is the desired length, alternating direction with each stitch.

4. To begin row 2, sew through the last stitch in row 1, exiting the end bead at the edge of one long side.

5. Pick up three beads, and sew through the bead your thread exited in the previous stitch (a→b). Continue through the two new beads and the next top bead of the previous row (b→c).

6. Pick up two beads, and sew through the next top bead in the previous row and the bead your thread exited in the previous stitch (a→b). Continue through the two new beads and the next top bead of the previous row (b→c).

7. Pick up two beads, and sew through the last two beads your thread went through in the previous stitch and the first new bead. Keep moving your thread in a circular motion, and pick up two beads per stitch for the rest of the row. Continue adding rows for the desired length.
This bracelet works up quickly, and it is a great way to learn right-angle weave. It can display any color scheme — just choose two of your favorite crystal colors and pair them with metal accent beads.

**step by step**

**Bracelet band**

1. On 4 yd. (3.7m) of Fireline, pick up a repeating pattern of a 15° seed bead, a color A 4mm bicone crystal, and a 15° four times, leaving an 18 cm (66cm) tail. Sew through the first six beads again (figure 1).

2. Working in right-angle weave (Right-Angle Weave Basics, p. 5), pick up a 15°, a 7 x 5mm double-cone bead, two 15°, a color B 4mm bicone crystal, two 15°, a 7 x 5mm, and a 15°, and sew through the last three beads your thread exited in the previous step and the first six beads picked up in this step (figure 2).

3. Pick up a repeating pattern of a 15°, a B, and a 15° three times, and sew through the last three beads your thread exited in the previous step and all of the beads picked up in this step (figure 3).

4. Pick up a repeating pattern of a 15°, A, B, and a 15° three times, and sew through the last three beads your thread exited in the previous step and the first three beads picked up in this step (figure 4, a–b).

5. Pick up a 15°, a 7 x 5mm, two 15°, an A, and a 15°, and sew through the 15°, 7 x 5mm, and 15° in the previous row (b–c), the 15°, B, and 15° from the previous step (c–d), all six beads just added (d–e), and the next 15°, A, and 15° in the previous row (e–f).

6. Pick up a repeating pattern of a 15°, an A, and a 15° twice, and sew through the next two 15°–A–15° groups, and all six beads just picked up (f–g).

7. Repeat steps 4–6 19 times for a total of 21 rows, but alternate As and Bs to place them in their appropriate columns.
In this variation on right-angle weave, offset, interlocking rows create a band with interesting texture that is enhanced by the addition of drop beads in the center. Either sew a peyote toggle to the top of the band or the shank of a button into the band as you stitch for a complementary clasp.

**Step by Step**

**Band**

1. On 2 yd. (1.8m) of Fireline, pick up four color A 11\(\frac{1}{2}\) seed beads (figure 1, a-b), leaving a 24-in. (61cm) tail. Sew through the four As again and continue through the next A to form a ring (b-c). Snug up the beads.
2. Work five stitches of right-angle weave (Right-Angle Weave Basics, p. 5), using As (b-c).
3. Pick up a color B 11\(\frac{1}{2}\), and sew through the next three beads in the end stitch (figure 2, a-b). Pick up a B and sew through the next A (b-c). Continue across the row, adding a B between each pair of As (c-d). Pick up a B, sew through the end A in the previous row, and sew through the B again (d-e). Flip the beadwork after every row to be in position to work the next row.
4. Pick up three Bs, and sew through the last B added in step 3 and the three Bs just added (figure 3, a-b). Continue working in right-angle weave across the row (b-c).
5. Pick up an A, and sew through the next B (figure 4, a-b). Continue across the row, adding an A between each pair of Bs (b-c). Sew through the end stitch of Bs in the previous row and the last A added in this step (c-d).
6. Pick up three As, and sew through the last A added in the previous step and the three As just added in this variation.

**Materials**

- bracelet 7 in. (18cm)
- 33–36 3mm drop beads, color A
- 11\(\frac{1}{2}\) seed beads
- 5g color B
- 4g color A
- button for clasp (optional)
- Fireline 6 lb. test
- beading needles, #12
- drinking straw (optional)

**Editor’s Note:**

In the original bracelet, the middle row of drops is slightly off-center. To make it symmetrical, modify the center stripe of the band (step 12) by replacing the middle As in the cluster with drops (photo above). Use seven, rather than six, drops across the stripe. Begin the stripe by repeating step 5 of the band. To sew the clusters, pick up As and drops in the following order: a drop, an A, and a drop. For the remaining five clusters, alternate picking up a drop and an A, and an A and a drop.
A sprinkling of crystals shimmers in a modified right-angle weave band

In pale aqua, this airy bracelet of seed beads and matching crystals brings to mind wintery images of sparkling ice and snowflakes. If you’d rather think of spring, try a brighter color, like lilac. Whichever season you choose, keep your tension loose for a more fluid-looking bracelet.

**step-by-step**

**Clasp button**

[1] On 1 1/2 yd. (1.4m) of Fireline, pick up four 11° seed beads and, leaving a 6-in. (15cm) tail, tie them into a ring using a square knot (Basics, p. 8). Sew through the next 11° in the ring (figure 1, a-b).

[2] Pick up an 11°, and sew through the next 11° in the ring (b-c). Repeat to add three more 11°s around the ring, and step up through the first 11° added (c-d).

[3] Pick up two 11°s, and sew through the second 11° added in step 2 (d-e). Repeat to add two 11°s per stitch around the ring, and step up through the first two 11°s added (e-f).

[4] Pick up an 11°, a 4mm bicone crystal, and an 11° (figure 2, a-b). Skip the last 11°, and sew back through the 4mm. Pick up an 11°, and sew through the next pair of 11°s from step 3 (b-c and photo a). Pull tight to form a crystal picot.

[5] Repeat step 4 to add three more crystal picots. After adding the fourth picot, sew through only one 11° (f-g). Pick up six 11°s, and sew through the 11° at the end of the picot you just completed (figure 3, a-b).

[6] Pick up six 11°s, and sew through the three 11°s at the base of that picot (b-c and photo b).

[8] Continue around the loop you’ve just created and the three 11°s at the base of the previous picot (e-d).

[9] Work as in step 6 to begin a loop around the next crystal. Pick up four 11°s, and sew through the last two 11°s of the previous loop, the three 11°s at the base of the picot, and the next two 11°s of the loop just created (d-e).

[10] Make a loop around the fourth crystal (e-f).

[11] Sew through the first two 11°s of the first loop. Complete the loop around the fourth crystal, and continue through the loop just created (f-g).

[12] Exiting at point g, pick up two 11°s. Skip the next bead of the loop your thread is exiting and the adjacent bead of the next loop, and sew through the next seven 11°s of the next loop (photo c), exiting the loop’s second-to-last bead. (Rotate your beadwork to match the figure, and exit where point g would be if it were on each loop.)

[13] Repeat step 12 around the button, adding two 11°s where each pair of loops joins. Don’t pull too tightly, or you’ll distort the button. Retrace the thread path, and end the threads (Basics).

The number of crystals in these bracelets could be overpowering, but a monochromatic palette creates a subtle flash that’s more eye-catching than over-the-top.