

Amulet Bag

with Emily Miller



Amulet bags have been around forever, they are small containers to carry a special item or two. For this project Emily has a great new spin on square stitch to create a 3D strap and adapts brick stitch to create the bag with spiky fringe that really accents the triangular shape to perfection. Making an amulet bag was once thought to be a right of passage in beadweaving. This is an intermediate skill level project but determined beginners should be able to complete with a little extra time.

Just getting started with brick stitch or seed beads? Check out these past broadcasts-:

[Heart On My Sleeve](#)

[Subway](#)

[Four Corners](#)

Dimensional Square Stitch

Use square stitch in a brand new way! Stitch a flat ribbon of beads, then fold it to create a dimensional necklace strap for an amulet bag.

Step 1

Thread a 1.5 yard length of Fireline with a beading needle. Lightly wax with beeswax. String on a stop bead.

Step 2

Pick up eight 11/0 beads in a single color, color #1.

Step 3

Pick up eight 11/0 beads in color #2.

Step 4

Repeat this sequence, alternating colors for a strand that is approximately 34 inches. End on color #1.

This is the base row. Work the next two rows off this base row.

Step 5

Pick up 2, 11/0 beads in color #2, stitch up thru the last two beads on the base row and down through these two added beads.

Step 6

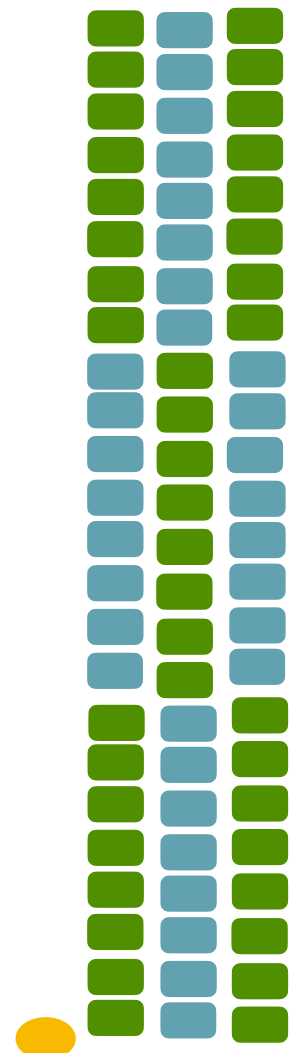
Continue to add 2 beads at a time until the end of the base row is reached. Change colors, so that when stitching against color #1, use color #2, and if stitching to color #2, add color #1. This will achieve a checkerboard effect.

Step 7

Add a 3rd row, repeating alternating colors to complete the checkerboard look.

Step 8

Join this long strip into a triangle shape by folding the strip into shape and stitching two beads together. Repeat for the entire length.



Brick Stitch Amulet Bag

Use one of Emily's favorite stitches to make an amulet bag, perfect to carry that special little treasure. Remember that "Heart on my Sleeve" project back in January 2018? This one is similar, if you are new to brick stitch it's another great source for inspiration and technique.

Step 1

Thread a 1.5 yard piece of Fireline with a beading needle. Lightly wax with beeswax and thread on a stop bead.

Step 2

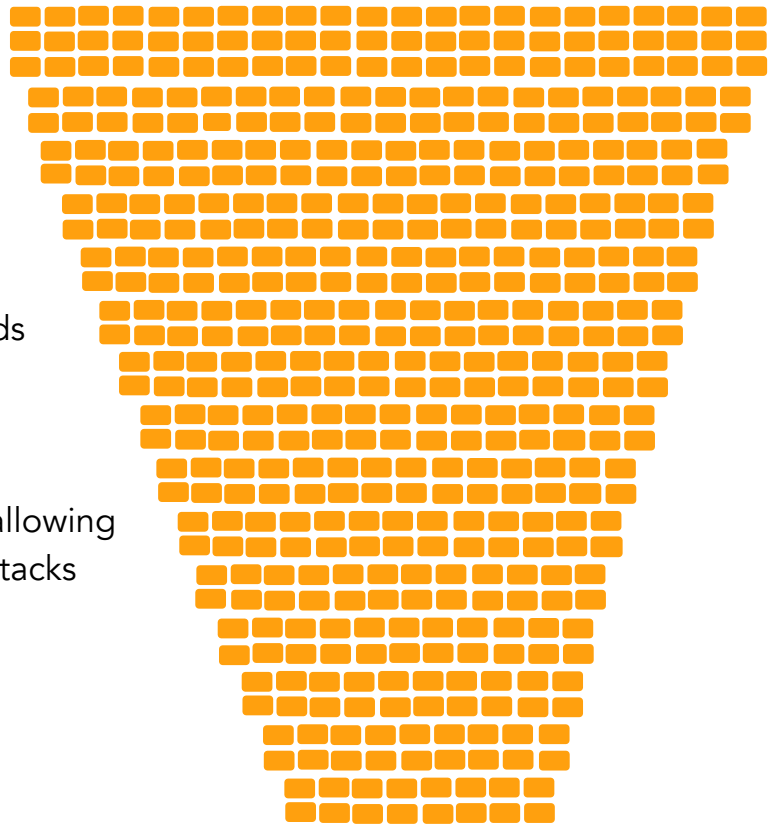
Create base row of size 11/0 beads, 3 beads tall and 23 stacks across.

Step 3

For the next rows, use 2 drop brick stitch, allowing the rows to decrease until they are only 8 stacks wide.

Step 4

Create a second of these triangles.



Joining and Fringe

The simplicity of this amulet bag calls out for some textural fringe with colors that accents the unusual shape.

Step 1

Thread a 1.5 yard piece of Fireline with a beading needle. Lightly wax with beeswax and thread on a stop bead. Secure in the beadwork, and exit at the bottom of the base row on one edge.

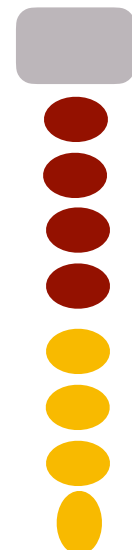
Step 2

Hold the two sides together, and pick up fringe beads in this order:

One 8/0

Four 15/0s in color #1 and

Four 15/0s in color #2.



Step 3

Skip the last bead on the end of the fringe and stitch back up the fringe and up through the base row stack beads on the second edge of the beadwork.

Step 4

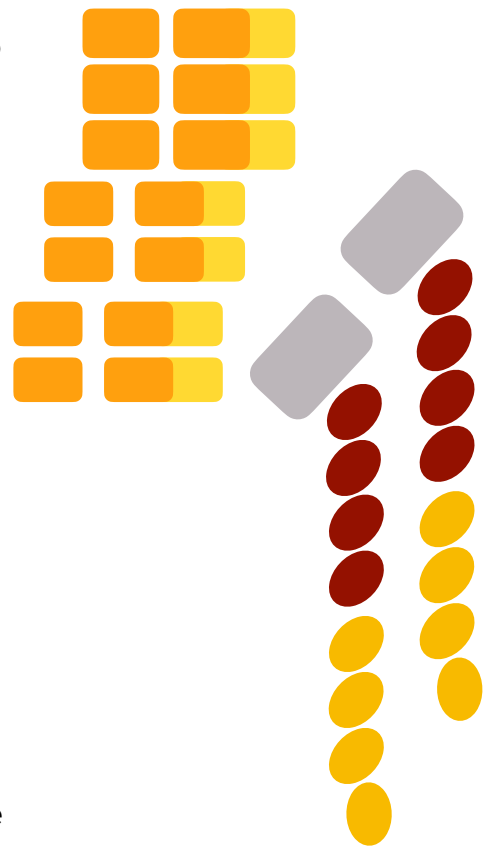
Stitch down through the original side stack and pass thru the next row edge beads, exiting at the bottom, and repeat the fringe bead group.

Note on this fringe style-

Most fringes that hang from the bottom edge of beadwork has drape and movement, this fringe is different! Take full advantage of the stiffness of Fireline and make this fringe tight to flare out to the sides.

Step 5

Repeat adding fringes all the way around the bag, joining the sides together.



Attaching the strap to the finished bag

Step 1

Orient the strap so that one flat side is directly above the two ends of the sides. The peak of the triangle will face inward.

Step 2

Use the tail of thread to attach one side of the triangular strap to the top edge of the base row, work the needle and thread into one side of the bag, then back up through the second side of the bag and into the strap.

Step 3

Needle up into the strap, knotting occasionally then back down the adjacent row. Pass into the bag and again work into the side of the bag and then back into the strap. Cut off the excess thread.

Step 4

Repeat Step 3 on the second end of the strap.

