



Bard

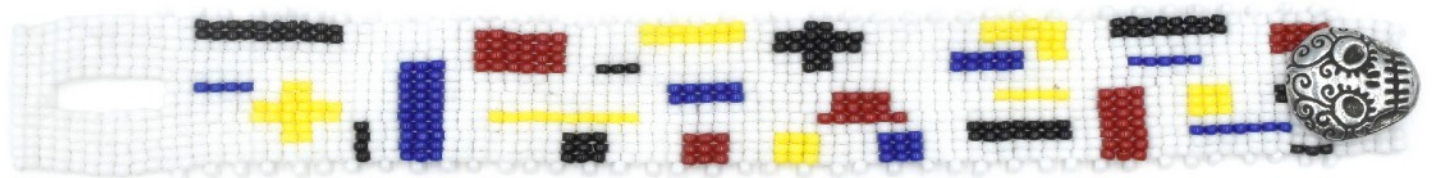
Mondrian-Inspired
Square Stitch

with Emily Miller

Back to Square Stitch! Emily has a new pattern to play with color. Inspired by Native American and African beadwork as well as Dutch artist Piet Mondrian, today we're using shapes and lines of primary colors. These ideas work so well in the square stitch technique. We're using the popular size 11/0 seed beads for extra detail and a more fabric-like result. Emily also has a new buttonhole technique that can translate into other bead weaving stitches.



If you feel intimidated by using the smaller size 11/0 beads for this project check out the New Plaid project for another design using Square Stitch, done in size 8/0 size beads. The same techniques apply but Bard's broadcast will cover a brand new button hole, added at the end of the weaving.



Square Stitch emulates the look and feel of Loom Weaving, so feel free to use a [Loom Weaving graph](#) or graph paper to plan out your pattern.

For the graphs Emily made for this design she used a bead graphing program called Loomerly which works works on Apple products. There are similar graphing programs for Windows-based devices, and in a pinch you can even use a spreadsheet to graph your patterns.

Advantages to using a program include the shape of graph is more true to shape/scale of beads, it's easy to correct or change colors and design, bead colors are usually preprogramed into the choices, and graphing from an image can also be quickly accomplished.

Advantages to using graph paper and pens/pencils are the ease of use (no learning curve on a new program!), portability, and it's easy to do anywhere—no batteries required. You can also make changes to an in-progress design by adding a new sheet of graph paper, which is inexpensive and available to all.

Step 1

Begin this design at the button end by weaving about 4 rows, then add the button by stitching it in like a bead (or pair of beads depending on the width of the shank). Use the shank of the button as a bead, stitching through it several times to reinforce. It may be useful to have a Sharps Needle to pass through the shank, or bend a Beading Needle a bit to help passing through the shank.

Step 2

Follow the chart and adjust for the length of bracelet desired, usually having the beginning and ends of bracelet just about touch, adding the button hole will give a bit of ease.

Step 3

For the button hole, finish off the working thread by burying it in the bead work. Begin a new thread by centering the length of thread in the bead work. Thread a needle on one end of thread and weave a strip 6 beads wide and 7 rows long. Then weave a second strip using the other half of the new thread.

Step 4

Join the ends of the button hole by adding two beads to complete the row, then continue square stitch for two to three rows.

Step 5

As desired, add simple picot to the edge of the bracelet by using a new thread, pass through the rows, adding 1 bead as you turn to go back across the width.

