

facebook LIVE: 11.15.17 Laddered Stacks



Well, it's time for another week of learning here around the bead table at beadshop.com. Kate and Emily are so excited to share the tips, tricks, and techniques we have in our tool box for laddering using the Infinity Stitch.

If you're used to laddering with two separate threads meeting in the middle, then this style will shake it up a bit...and rock your bead world!

Enjoy and happy beading!

Laddering is one of the first projects that brought us world-wide recognition....early on in the Chan Luu craze, we started designing wrap bracelets and teaching the technique of threading beads between two rows of leather. If you haven't read our Tricks to Laddering Handout or watched Brittany Ketcham doing laddering, you are in for a treat. The list of projects and learning is almost staggering. We hope you have time to enjoy, if you haven't done so already.



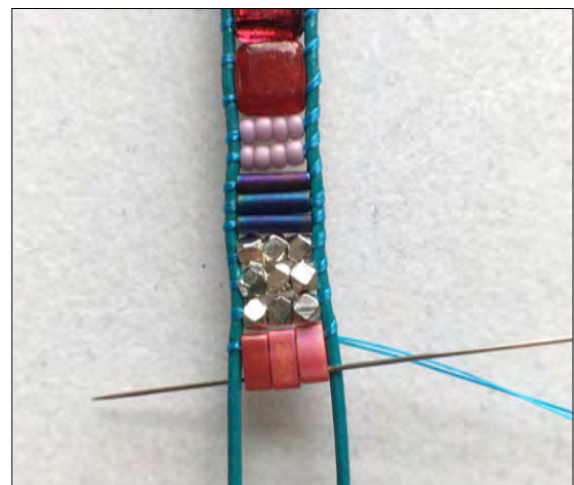
Mosaic 4 Wrap Project with Video and Handout



Tricks to Laddering with Video and Handout and our Skill Builder: How to Ladder



Color Study with Multi-part Handout and FB Live Episode



Infinity Stitch Skill Builder, one of many Free Skill Builders to learn from

Let's begin with the recipe and ingredients you need to make single wrap adjustable ladder bracelets:

(these ingredients will make 3+ bracelets)

- 1 Spool 1mm Leather
- 1 Spool KO Thread
- 1 Spool Chinese Knotting Cord
- 1 Strand Little Shadows
- 1 Pkg Big Shadows
- 1 Tube 11/0 Miyuki Seed Beads
- 1 Pkg Size 10 Beading Needles
- 1 Tube GS HypoCement
- Beeswax



You will also need:

A Deep Dish Project Tray and Insert, Clampers, and Xuron Thread & Cord Scissors



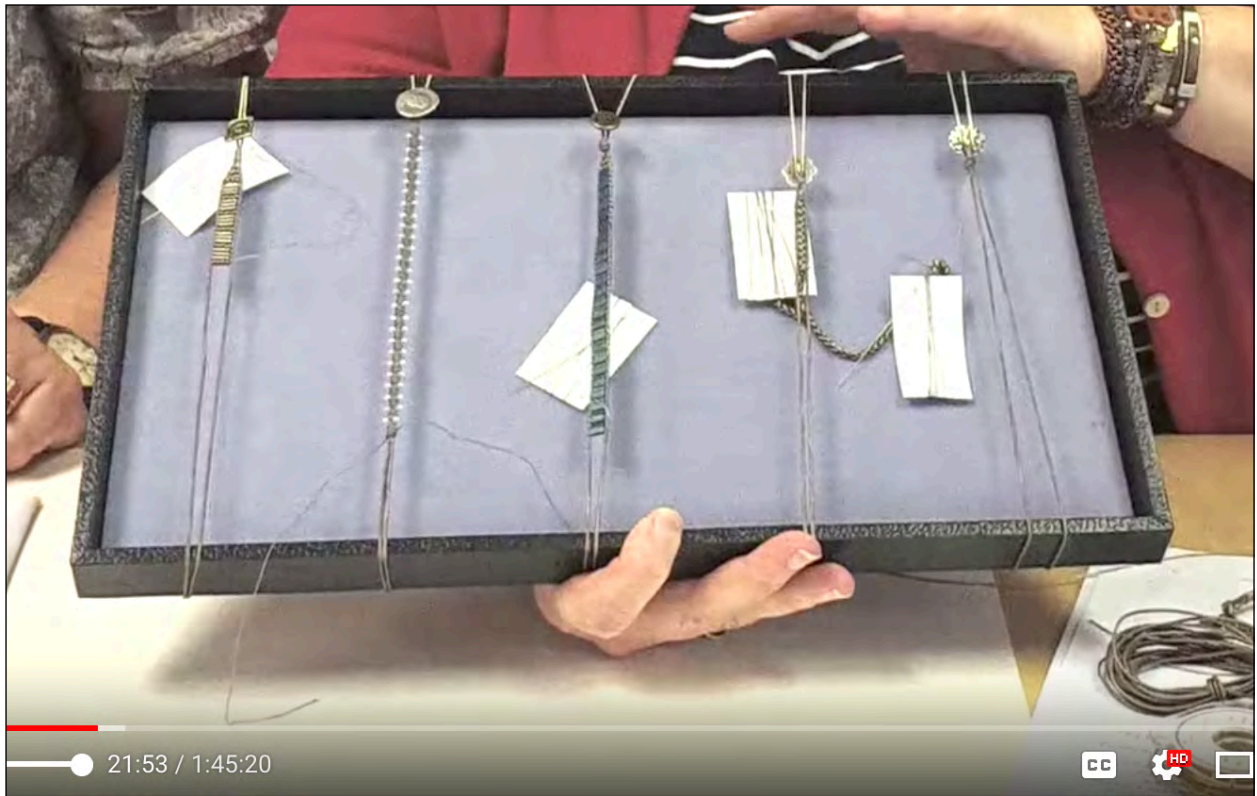
For anyone who might have missed last week's companion project, Beaded Stacks (bottom bracelet pictured), some of the materials for this week are carried over. We love how the two designs stack and intermingle to create such an interesting story. Here's the link: [Beaded Stacks 11.8.17.](#)



The project learning begins at about **Minute Marker 16:00**, if you want to slide your video ahead. And about three minutes after that, Kate discusses leather and the sizes you can use. We usually use 1.5 or 1.0mm leather, but we also love 2mm leather for a bold look.

All leather can look great, if you match your bead proportions to the size of leather *but* any size can become damaged if not properly handled. Use caution to preserve your leather:

1. Create a button loop large enough to fit the diameter of the button. If not, you'll get chafing which will wear your leather out. Today's project uses an adjustable fish knot, so no button is required.
2. Refrain from sewing through your leather with your needle which can cause weaknesses in the leather that will eventually wear it out.
3. Use caution cutting excess thread close to the leather. The tips of your cutters can inadvertently nick the leather and create a tear.
4. When pinning your leather to a board, especially with the thinner leather, use extreme care where you secure it with binder clips or clampers.
5. Keep away from water, moisture and chemicals (like perfume). I wouldn't wear my good leather shoes in the ocean, would you?



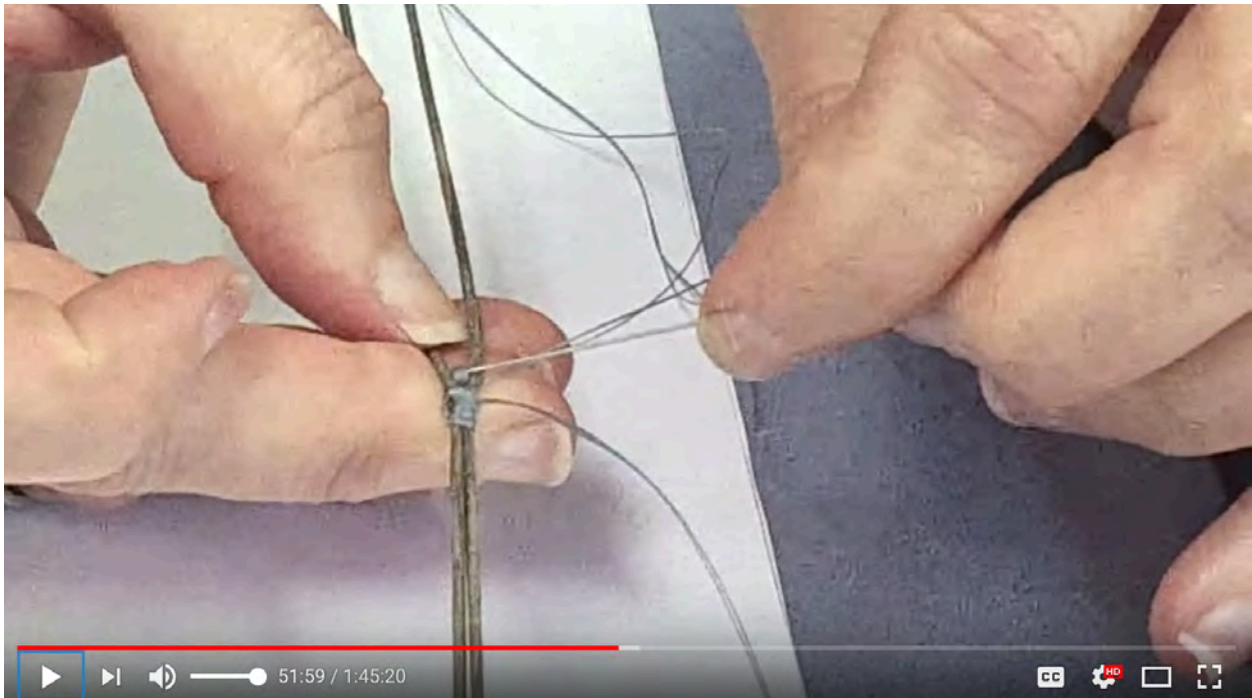
Getting a good start on your project means making sure it is secured correctly to the board. Today's episode is probably the most complete compendium of ways to pin a project to a surface that we have ever done! But if you need more learning, here is a great link:

Skill Builder:
[How to Secure a Project to a Board](#)

Whether you use a macramé board, a velvet pad, a design board or even an old chocolates box, the principles are the same...

Secure your leather with just the right amount of tension, using rubber bands, clampers, binder clips, or twine. And be sure to create room between the leather and the board surface so you can bring your needle and thread underneath as you stitch back and forth.





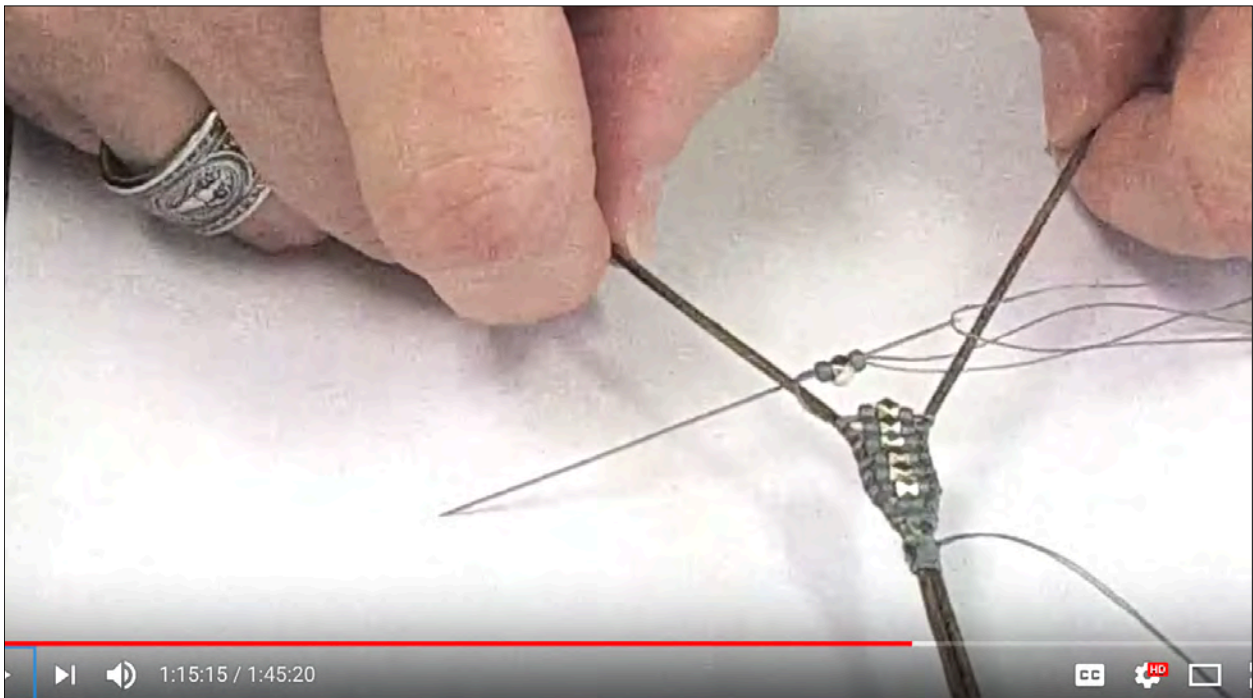
The Infinity Stitch can become second nature when laddering. Of course, there are some do's and don'ts:

1. Match your thread size and weight to your beads. Yes, you can use Micro C-Lon, but be sure you're not forcing thread through. You may need room in the bead holes later for ending or adding a new thread.
2. Reinforce your first bead by repeating the stitch for a total of two times.
3. Add beads from only one side! If you need to post a note for yourself, by all means, do so. Whether it's a row of single beads or a two hole bead, like a Tila, you must go back through the same row before you go to a new hole or add a bead.
4. Keep an eye on twisting thread that can create a thread "cloud" on the edge of the bead or by the leather.
5. Do your best to skim your needle along the top of the bead hole so you don't split your thread.
6. Remember to graduate down your beads on the other side. You also want to reinforce the last bead by going through it twice, as you did your first.



We also have some charts for you at the end of this handout that you can download to help with designing or even practicing your infinity stitch with a pencil or pen! Practice makes perfect! And we had some amazing tips and tricks in this episode worth mentioning:

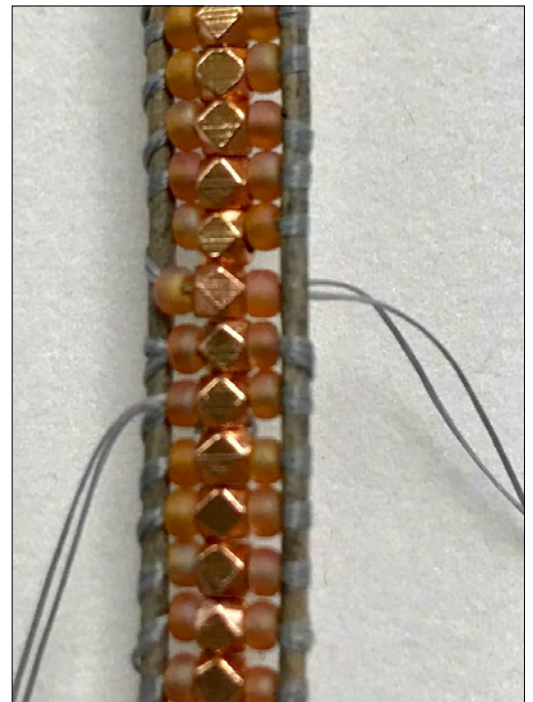
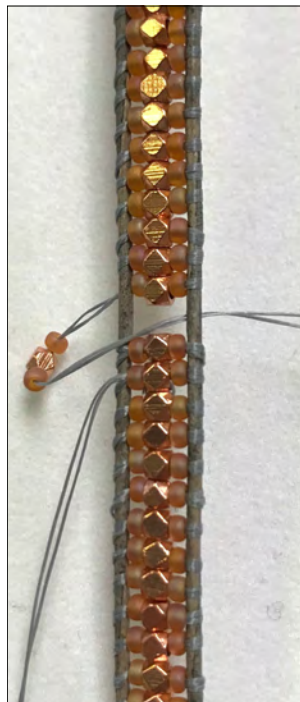
Separate your leather to loosen your threads. If you have to take some beadwork apart, widen your leather and the threads will loosen.

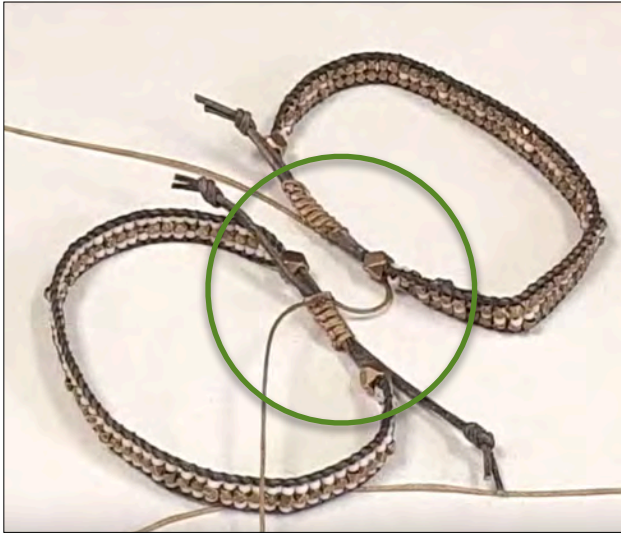


It's best to work with a manageable amount of thread. So, if you're using your thread doubled, cut 3 yards and be ready to add thread.
Emily has such a nifty way of securing your old thread and beginning a new one.



Thanks, Emily, for explaining this technique further in these added photos:

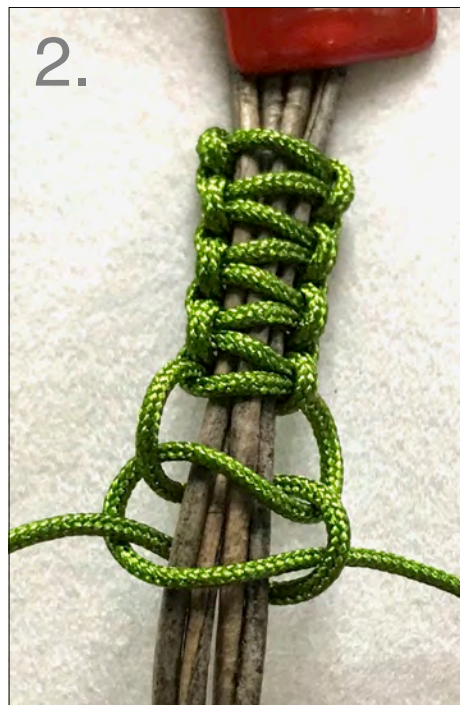




Instead of using a button and loop, this ladder bracelet ends with an adjustable fish knot. Using .5mm Chinese Knotting Cord, Kate and Emily create square knot stitches around the ends of leather.

Emily took some extra photos (below) to show how you end the macramé stitches by weaving back up into them.

You say we don't need to use any glue, but if you do decide to secure it, use the GS Hypo. (Mistakenly, Emily says she uses Zap!)



1. Macramé over your leather strands.
2. Make two more macramé knots and keep them even but loose.
3. Bring your tails back up through the first loose knot. Gently pull the knots tight evenly so that it becomes secure together.
4. If you want to add glue, try to keep the glue from dripping onto the leather.



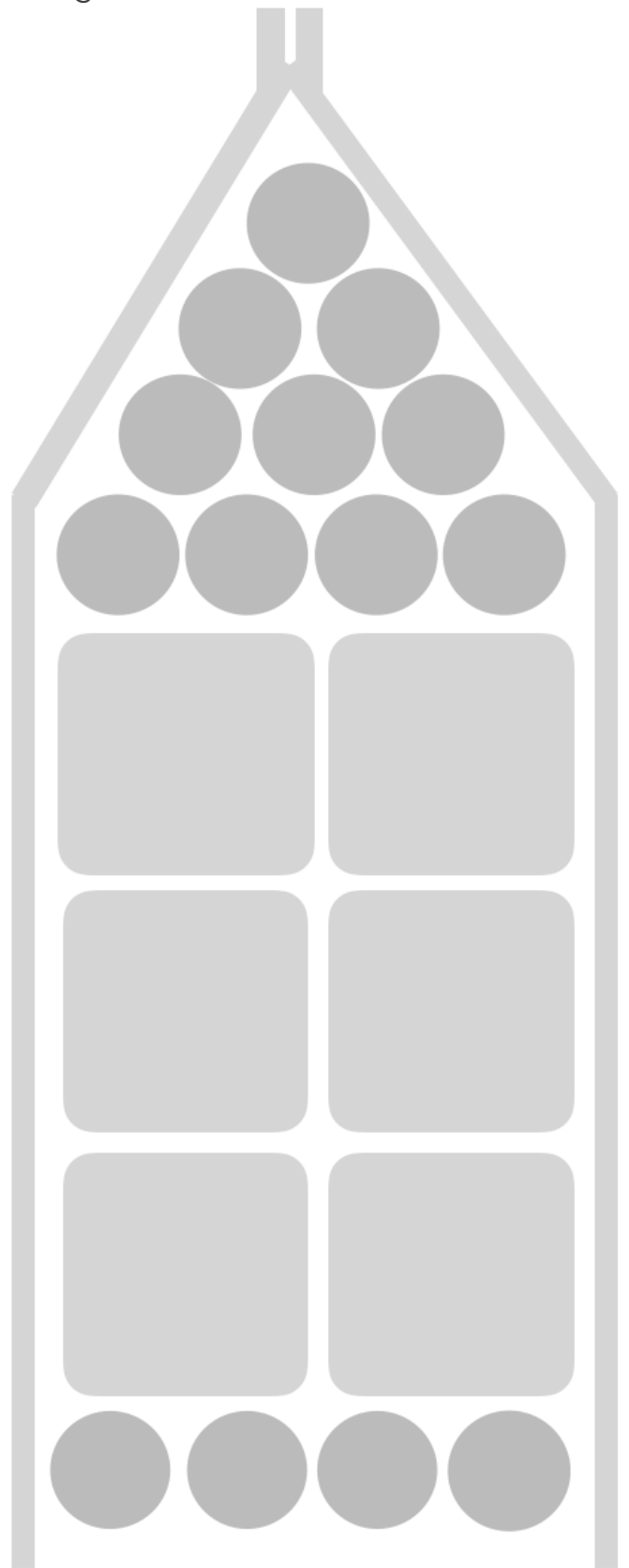
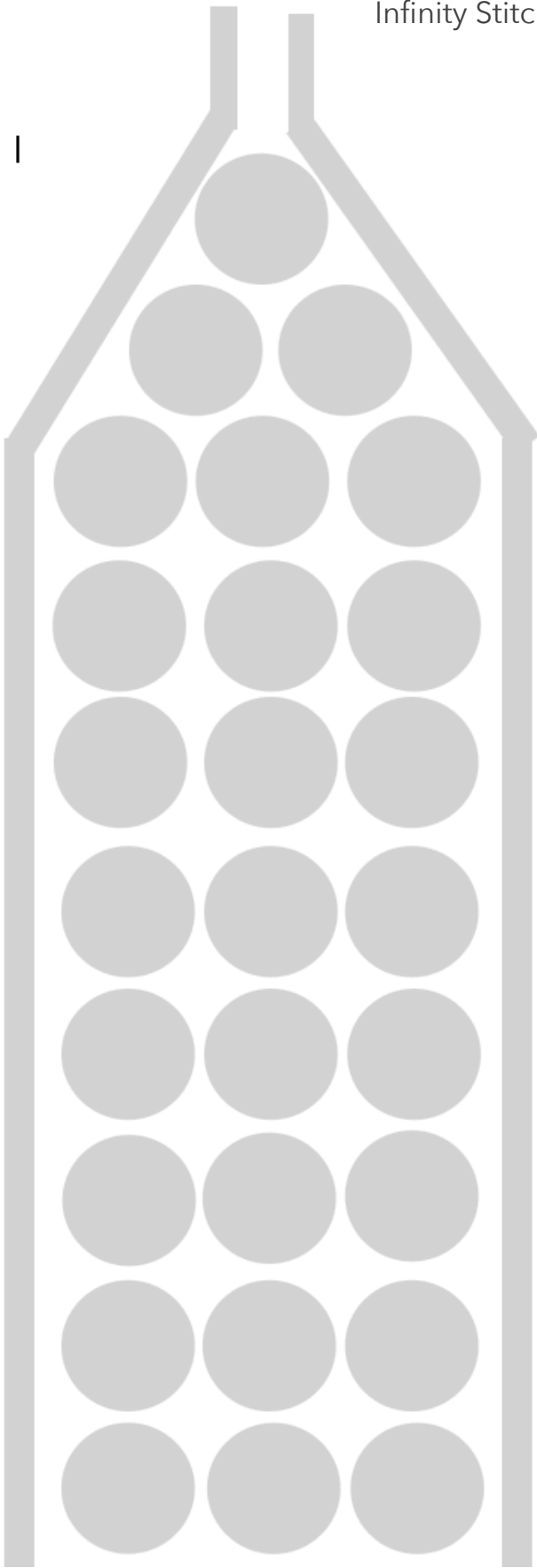
We hope you enjoyed our lesson today.
Laddering has been a signature go-to technique for us that seems to have
endless possibilities and a lifetime supply of fans, including us!
Thanks so much for watching!



Be sure to tune in next week when we
tackle The Zen of Stringing.
It's a special episode where I will be
back on the West Coast to teach with
Kate, and I am so excited to see you all!
We've got a classic technique to show
you, along with its own tips and tricks.

-janice

Infinity Stitch Practice Diagrams



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Links to Events and More...

[Last Week's Facebook Live Broadcast: Beaded Bead Stacks](#)

[Previous Facebook Live Broadcasts](#)

[Facebook Live Youtube Playlist](#)

[Free Tip Friday: Holiday Earrings with Kate and Drea](#)

[Free Tip Friday Youtube Playlist](#)

[New beadshop.com Community-The Bead Table](#)

Links to This Project's Ingredients...

[Laddered Stacks Project Page](#)

[Basic Recipe Page](#)

For All Bracelets:

1 Spool [Distressed Gray- 1mm Indian Leather](#)

1 Spool [KO Thread- Dark Grey](#)

1 Spool [Chinese Knotting Cord- .5mm Milky Latte](#)

1 Pkg [Size 10 Beading Needles](#)

1 Tube [GS Hypo Cement](#)

[Beeswax](#)

To Coordinate with Golden Hour:

1 Strand [Little Shadows- Antique Brass](#)

1 Pkg [Big Shadows- Brass](#)

1 Tube [11-2022 Matte Op. Antique Beige 11/0](#)

To Coordinate with Sunset Bronze:

1 Strand [Little Shadows- Antique Copper](#)

1 Pkg [Big Shadows- Antique Copper](#)

1 Tube [11-133FR Matte Trans. Topaz AB 11/0](#)

To Coordinate with Morning Mist:

1 Strand [Little Shadows- Antique Silver](#)

1 Pkg [Big Shadows- Antique Silver](#)

1 Tube [11-152FR Matte Tran. Grey AB 11/0](#)

Links to Learning, Products & More...

[Class Handouts](#)

[Skill Builders](#)

[Seed Bead School](#)

[Peyote Stitch Bracelet Project Page](#)

[Stretch Therapy Bracelet Project Page](#)

[Tricks to Laddering](#)

[How to Ladder Skill Builder](#)

[Mosaic 4-Wrap Bracelet Project](#)

[Color Study Bracelet Project](#)

[How to Secure a Project to a Project Tray Skill Builder](#)

[First Laddering and Infinity Stitch/ Battle of the Boards FB Live](#)

[Infinity Stitch Skill Builder](#)

[How to Macrame Skill Builder](#)

[How to Add Thread to a Laddering Project Skill Builder](#)

[Adding Thread in Superduo Beadweaving Skill Builder](#)

[Tricks to Looming](#)

[Shadows Metal Beads](#)

[Little Shadows Metal Beads](#)

[11/0 Seed Beads](#)

[Stretch Magic](#)

[Buttons](#)

[Leather: 1.0mm Leather, 1.5mm Leather, 2.0mm Leather](#)

[Cotton Cord](#)

[Awl For One Tool](#)

[KO Thread](#)

[Chinese Knotting Cord](#)

[Micro C-Lon](#)

[Size 10 Seed Bead Needles](#)

[Beeswax](#)

[GS Hypo Cement](#)

[Deep Dish Project Tray & Velvet Inserts for Design Trays](#)

[Chain Nose Pliers](#)

[Clampers Metal Clips](#)

[Mini Macrame Board](#)

[Regular Macrame Board](#)