

Traditional English Right Angle Weave

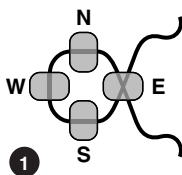
The Method

by Vera Gray

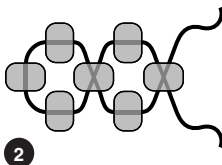
This is the method for working traditional English two thread (needle) or 'double needle' right angle 'weave' beadwork which is an off-loom technique based upon the thread pattern observed in early 17th century English beadwork. This is part of a research project currently being undertaken by Carole Morris and myself dealing with the different stitches used by our beadworking forebears, especially in Stuart period England in the first half of the 17th century. This traditional method is different to the 'single-needle' right angle weave favoured by modern beadworkers.

(NB Always refer to any pattern designs in conjunction with the technique instructions below)

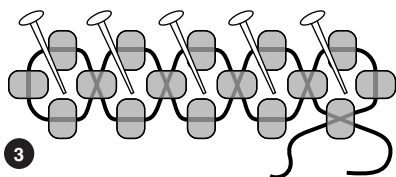
- Take 3m of Nymo (or the length required in a pattern) and thread a needle on each end. Thread on four beads and cross (X) threads through the 4th one to form a circle with the beads in the centre of the length and positioned North, South, East and West (see fig 1).



- Thread two beads onto one thread and one on the other. X the threads through the 'extra' bead (see fig 2). The beads will continue N, S, E & W. Pull the thread reasonably tight but expect it to show a little.



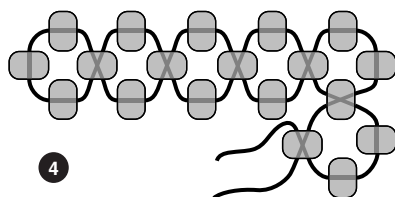
- Anchor the chain down to a 'pillow' or mat and continue until the desired length minus the last circle (link).



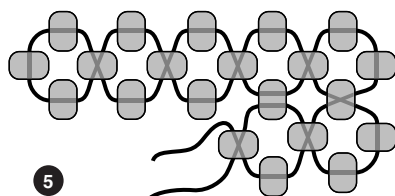
To make the last link thread three beads on the upper thread and X through the 3rd bead to bring the join to the bottom (instead of the side) (see fig 3).

- This technique can be worked in any horizontal or vertical direction. To continue (the next row is worked in the opposite direction to the first one unless the work is turned over). It is a help to be ambidexterous!

- § Add three beads on the side-most thread and X through the 3rd bead (see fig 4).

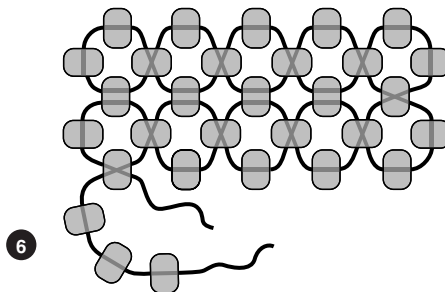


- Take the top thread through the bead above on the next link (the lowest S one). Put two beads on the other thread and X through the second one (see-fig-5).

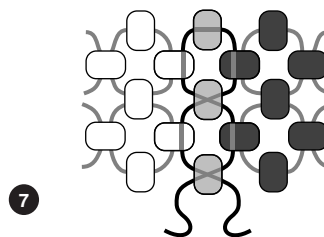


- Continue in this manner to the last link (ie the side link) changing colour for the pattern as needed. Keep-the work pinned to the 'pillow' as it progresses although it may only need an anchor each side and one-in the centre.

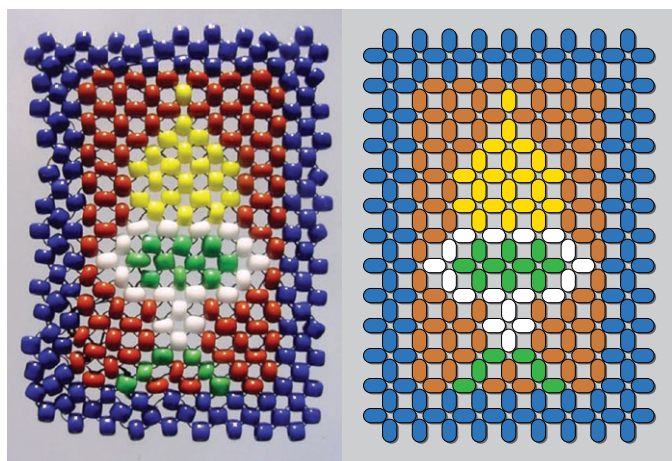
- At the next turn take the top thread through the last S bead and thread on two beads then X through the 2nd bead ready to start the next row as before § and repeat to the end of the pattern (see fig 6). NB it is easy to miss the two stages to end a row and start a new one and only do one. Take care.



- To fasten on a new thread. At the end of a row work both old threads into the beadwork and knot off. Take a new long length and thread a needle onto each end. Put one needle through the last S bead and pull through half the length of thread. Continue in pattern with these two threads.
- To join work together invisibly. Take a length of Nymo with a needle on each end and thread on one bead. Pull 1 each of the needles through a side bead and add one bead and X through this last bead and continue in this manner to the end (see fig 7).



Because the thread pattern has an even tension and pull throughout it will lie flat and be virtually impossible to tell where there are joins or which way it was worked .



This is an early 17th century English acorn pattern. Try a little two needle right angle weave using the colour chart.

