

Cactus Needle

The Embroiderers' Guild of America, Inc.

Tucson Chapter www.tucsonega.org

Vol. 43 No. 03

April 2025

EGA MISSION STATEMENT

"The Mission of the Embroiderers' Guild of America is to inspire passion for the needle arts through education and celebration of its heritage."

ELECTED BOARD 2025-2026

President

Janet Hintz

VP, Programs

Gretchen McGill

Secretary

Bonnie Heidler

Treasurer

Beth Avney

Region Rep

Raynelle Duhl

APPOINTED BOARD

By-laws:

Laura Cotter

Community Outreach:

Kathleen Garza

Hospitality:

Doris Fello

Membership:

Helen Salkowski

Education:

Laura Cotter

Ways/Means:

Tammy Krassy

Workshops:

OPEN

Librarian:

Suzanne Knepper

Newsletter:

Susan Willis

Newsletter Ads:

OPEN

Publicity:

Michelle Wood

Kathleen Magee

Beading:

Shawn Brown

Sharon Marchant



It's April! Time to put our stitching aside and do the Spring Cleaning. Hahahahaha! April Fools! Just kidding.

March has been a whirlwind of activity for all of us. Workshops, Stash Busting, Stitchers' Luncheon. That's a tough act to follow for sure, but April is on it!

At the General Meeting on April 3rd Raynelle will be showing us "slow stitching". I, for one, am not familiar with this technique, and am looking forward to a fun learning experience.

The Pima County Fair is opening in April, and you can submit your work to be admired. You may also win a ribbon (I love the ribbons, don't you?!) How inspirational to have beautiful EGA work on display! Here is a link to enter your needlework: <https://pimacountyfair.com/fair-competitions/>

Also, on April 26 and 27 Tucson EGA has a booth at the Fair where people stop by to chat or to learn to do simple stitches (this last is especially fun with the kids.) Interested bystanders may also be future members. More help in the booth is always welcome, so if you would like to join us for a few hours contact Kathleen Garza (kat@hubbabubbba.org). Volunteers get free parking and admission too!

Be sure to look through the "Save the Date" list at the end of the newsletter. There are stitch-ins and beading projects coming up that you will want to put on your calendar.

I am going to take a breath now, completely ignore my cleaning supplies, and stitch a bit. You too?

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

Janet

HOSPITALITY

Doris Fello

We will have three members bringing treats in April. **Janet Hintz, Tammy Krassy** and **Marge Krassy** will bring the refreshments to the April 3rd meeting.

NEWSLETTER


Susan Willis / willisg.tega@outlook.com


The newsletter deadline for the May issue is April 20th.

MEMBERSHIP

Helen Salkowski

 Please welcome our newest member Carmen Evans.
Renewal reminder for Mary Howe Lor.

 A reminder for everyone, please wear a name tag to make it easier for us to meet and greet each other. And new this year there is a special drawing at each monthly meeting, for wearing a stitched name tag, you can win a prize!

 National informed me that members will get an email reminder directly from EGA National in time for them to renew during the month their membership expires. And just to be proactive, you will get a reminder in the newsletter (as noted above for this month).



April's Program – Slow Stitching with Raynelle

At our April 3rd meeting, Raynelle Duhl will lead us in a slow stitching project.

The pictures above are examples of pieces she has created. A quick google search will provide more examples (click on “images” in the tool bar for best results).

Raynelle is providing all the needed fabrics and threads for us. However, she would like to add some pieces of fabric lace to our choices. All you need to bring is a chenille needle.

I already have 24 members who signed up and will publish a list of all registered attendees next week. If you have already signed up, there is no need to respond again. If you have not signed up and want to attend, please RSVP to Gretchen at casademcgill@gmail.com by Friday, March 28th.

PROGRAMS - continued



May's Program – Hardanger

Our May 1st program will be Hardanger, a traditional Norwegian embroidery style that uses geometric patterns and white thread on white linen. Contemporary pieces can use different colored threads. The embroidery uses drawn and counted threads techniques to create shapes like squares, triangles, diamonds, and crosses. It was often featured on the trim of garments and the bottom of aprons. Nancy Hahn and Suzanne Knepper will be teaching introductory Hardanger skills for our May program. We will be creating the piece shown above. The finished piece can be used as an ornament or coaster.

The chapter will provide the fabric and threads. ***Participants will need to bring a size 24 tapestry needle and small sharp scissors. A small hoop is optional.***

If you would like to participate in this program, please email Gretchen at casademcgill@gmail.com. The deadline to sign up is Friday, April 25.

Future Programs - Help Needed

I am still in search of a program for June – if you have any ideas or skills that you are willing to share, please contact me (Gretchen McGill) at casademcgill@gmail.com.

Also, Suzanne Knepper has donated several yards of Congress Cloth to our chapter. I would like to use some of it for one of our future programs (most likely in the fall). I am in search of ideas and teachers:

- ❖ Do you have an idea/project that could be used a future program? You do not have to teach the program; we are looking for suggestions:
- ❖ Would you like to teach a Congress Cloth project to your fellow stitchers? I have project ideas and supplies.
- ❖ Do you have a program idea that does not involve Congress Cloth? I am open to anyone who wants to share their love of stitching with our chapter.

Please contact Gretchen at casademcgill@gmail.com if you are able to help with programs in any way.

LIBRARY

Suzanne Knepper

Please contact me to arrange borrowing books from the library.

Here is the list of books available in our extensive library:

<https://cloud.collectorz.com/egalibrarytucson/books>

In addition, we have several hundred books listed on our website: www.tucsonega.org
[Member Resources Library Books](#)

IMPORTANT WEBSITES

tucsonega.org

psrega.org

egausa.org

facebook.com

Tucson EGA Chapter website

Pacific Southwestern Region website

EGA National website

EGA Stitch A Long / Facebook **Stitch A Long (SAL)** group. Region now has a Facebook page, so, look us up and like the page.

EGA Tucson- Facebook page

listing of floss tube videos (cross stitch)

#tucsonstitchers or #TucsonEGA

stitchingjules.com

Instagram.com

antiquepatternlibrary.org

Antique Pattern Library

archive.org

Antique and vintage book resource

threadabead.com

Patterns for beaded objects

rsnstitchbank.org/stitch

Royal School of Needlepoint stitch bank for reference to many stitches

WAYS AND MEANS

Tammy Krassy

March's program, our second annual *Stash Clear Out Sale*, was a success making more than \$300 for the chapter. I hope all of you made some more room in your stash space and picked up a few new treasures.

For the April meeting, there will be a spring themed opportunity basket.

In regard to the EGA/ANG Luncheon, we got together and prepped the opportunity baskets, and they are FABULOUS! Bring your dollar bills (and fives) to the luncheon and if you didn't find a new project at the Stash Sale, do not fear, there will be something to tempt at the luncheon ... if you can win it.

BEADING

Sharon Marchant
Shawn Brown

Our next EGA beading group meeting and stitch-in will be on Thursday, April 10TH, at St Thomas the Apostle Parish, 515 N Valley View Rd, Tucson, AZ, 85718, from 10:00am to 2:00pm. As always, all EGA members are invited to join us, not just the ones who bead. Also, you're welcome to bring lunch or snacks - and food pantry donations are always welcome.

March had an exciting session with a great turnout of 21 Beaders and stitchers. The beaders worked with Daria Tittenberger, our great visiting instructor, teaching us her pattern for Pointed Oval Peyote earrings. Everyone made great progress, and some completed one or the pair of earrings (see pictures)

In April, we will continue with our skills building work moving from Right Angle Weave (RAW) to Cubic Right Angle Weave (CRAW). This session will emphasize learning the stitch progression and geometric form. The basic stitching instruction sheets can be found on the IBW web page in the instructions section, and a PDF version is added at the end of this newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you all for our bead stitching in April.
Sharon and Shawn

BEADING - continued -



First Photo Montage:

Shawn Brown Finished earrings; Sandy DeBolt, blue and white in process; Finished Loom Beaded Brooch style name tag Shawn Brown; Bonnie Heidler gold earring in process, Bonnie with her finished Beaded Doll from the Robin Atkins Workshops;

Second Photo Montage:

Connie Longargren's finished bead; Angela Bertolino's earring work in process; Debra Williams earring work in progress; Kathleen Graza Earring work in process

Awesome Beading Group.....



NEEDLEWORK • CLASSES • GIFTS • CARDS • TOYS

March Madness at the West



Be an early bird and get the (silk)worm! *Soie D'Alger* stranded silk,
25% off in-stock threads through March.

STORE HOURS:
Monday through Saturday
10am to 4pm

River Center @ Craycroft
5615 E. River Road, Suite 101
Tucson, Arizona 85750
www.thewestinc.com

the West
INC

Our vision and mission is to improve the quality of life in the Tucson area
and provide grants to qualified Tucson-area non-profit organizations.

520.299.1044

Stitch in Public: A variety of stitch in public gatherings occur throughout the month. Please come out and join with other stitchers to enjoy good company and get some stitching done in a social environment.

2nd Saturday: The Saturday get together meets from 10:30am to 1:30pm at public libraries. It is a great opportunity for all members to gather to stitch in public. Its timing, the weekend after the meeting, provides a great opportunity for those who can't make the general meeting to catch up on chapter activities with those who have attended the meeting. See the Save the Date tab under Meetings and Workshops for location.

3rd Tuesday: This evening gathering meets from 5:30pm to 7:30 pm and is held at two Barnes & Noble locations: Broadway and Rosemont and Foothills Mall. A great opportunity for all members (especially those who work or have other daytime commitments) to come out for some social stitching time.

Every other Friday: This afternoon gathering meets from 1:00pm – 4:00 pm and is held at the Starbucks at 4702 E Grant Road, the Southeast corner of Grant and Swan. Originally a beading group that was not affiliated with our chapter, they welcomed all members to come out for a social afternoon of stitching fun. Check the Save the Date tab on the website for dates, or if you know someone who works at Raytheon we meet when they work or count every other from the next meeting which is April 4th.

Pima County Fair Volunteers

Jessica Collazo has offered to give a short lesson on teaching cross stitch for fair volunteers. Please gather at 1:00 if you will be at the fair to hear her tips and tricks for teaching so that your students will be successful.

2025 - Pima County Fair - April 26th & 27th

Join in the Fun at the Pima County Fair. All volunteers receive a Fair Admission Ticket and Parking Pass. It's a great time to be with other members having a delightful time encouraging others to enjoy the stitching arts. We have short shifts, so when you come out you have lots of time to enjoy all the fair has to offer. After the last meeting I have at least 2 volunteers per shift. ON

Shifts times are as follows:

10:30am - 1:00pm Includes 30 minutes for set-up

12:30pm - 3:00pm

2:30pm - 5:30pm Includes time for clean-up at end of day

Editor's Note:

Pima County Fair Fine Arts, which states: "In addition to the chance to receive awards and prizes, entrants can connect with fellow artists, receive constructive feedback, and inspire others with their creative talents." Refer to the Fair Creative Arts link in Janet's President's message.

OUTREACH - continued

Volunteers are asked to bring examples of their work to share with the public while they are there. We will have a glass case, so you don't have to worry about dirty fingers. Or if you have a piece that you don't mind being touched by the public, we have some other places that work can be exhibited.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to take a shift at the fair. You can call, text or e-mail me to add your name to the list.


Outreach Quilts

If anyone can remember them, outreach cross stitch and blackwork squares have not been lost. Maura Robinson has been working to put together quilt tops with the squares that that were stitched during Covid. I know we all look forward to seeing this work come to fruition and maybe we can start another quilt if there is interest.

Trevor Conquergood returns to Tucson to host 2 events
at Down the Block / 5851 E. Speedway Blvd.

Don't miss your chance to meet a true embroidery master
and level up your embroidery and software skills!

Trevor's Patches & Postcards
Friday, April 11
from 9am-12pm
or 2pm-5pm




- Learn 4 patch making techniques!
- Embroider & take home a patch, custom designed by Trevor
- Discover how to embroider on watercolor paper!
- Learn how to make your own postcard that YOU CAN MAIL!
- Take home all instructions and files after the event!

Cost: \$29 includes machines, refreshments, and snacks


Embroidery Recipe Box
Saturday, April 12 from 9am-4pm

- See the latest embroidery techniques!
- Amazing specials on Floriani products & software!
- Special attendee download for designs & project instructions!

Cost: \$99 includes continental breakfast, lunch, candy, and prizes and everything you need for class!



To register, call 520-721-4000 or stop by any Cathey's location.



Cathey's
SEWING & VACUUM

5701 E. Speedway Blvd. (520) **721-4000**

5851 E. Speedway Blvd. (520) **504-5858**

8700 N. Oracle Rd. (520) **797-7177**

18805 I-19 S. Frontage Rd. B103 (520) **300-5002**

Cathey's Store hours: Monday-Friday 9am - 6pm / Saturday 9am - 4pm / Closed Sunday catheys.com



Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

Mary Queen of Scots

the Ghost Queen of Embroidery...

humbly calls Tucson EGA embroiderers, lace makers, jewelry makers, and beaders to show their work at the Pima County Fair. All skill levels from beginners to experts are welcome.

The Ghost Queen of Embroidery is so proud of EGA members' accomplishments she thinks all should participate. She said, EGA art work entered for the duration of the Pima County Fair will be displayed for public viewing at the Old Pueblo Conference and Event Center. All entered pieces receive a ribbon with the esteemed judges awarding blue for first, red for second, or white for an honorable mention. A purple ribbon represents best of show.

Ghost Queen Mary wants you to know she can't insure your work, nor can the Pima County Fair, while it is displayed. That said, she wants to encourage you to take a chance. Trust your artistry and trust the Pima County Fair which has many security precautions in place. Know all will be returned to you with pretty ribbons exactly as the art was submitted, barring unforeseen disasters. Please cite the EGA in your online submission title for extra advertising.

To learn more about submitting your artwork for display I'm told you should visit the Pima County Fair website. I'm not quite sure what that is as I'm a tad old, 482 to be precise, therefore our Chapter Member Diane Smith has offered to guide you through the steps to visit the website for information. She says, "Type **Pima County Fair** in a search engine such as Google or enter pimacountyfair.com. Then, hover over **Fair** on the light blue menu bar. On the drop down menu, click on **Competitive Entries**." She tells me there is an abundance of information to be found when you open the **2025 Home Arts Application** from the list that appears. Please call Diane at 520-389-8273 to beseech assistance in your endeavor.

DATE OF PIMA COUNTY FAIR: April 17 - 27, 2025

LOCATION: 11300 S Houghton Rd, Tucson, AZ 85747

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 10, 2025 for the County Fair Home Crafts Competition

FEE: Modest [under \$3 for each submission and varies with different categories.]

Participate and have a grand time or I just may haunt you.

By Order of the Ghost Queen Mary

Written by Diane Smith

WORKSHOPS

Martha Hirsch

This space available!

I have enjoyed my time as Workshop Chair, but it is time for a new person with new ideas!

This is a perfect time to start. We budget for three workshops a year.

In February, we had Nancy Cain for beading, and in March, we have Laura Smith for embroidery.

As our new Workshop Chair, you will be looking for workshops for 2026! Explore the internet; check websites of teachers who have taught at seminar; search on techniques; chat with other needleworkers; and have fun bringing someone new and exciting to Tucson as our teaching guest.

If you're interested, please talk with me. Perhaps two or more of you might enjoy doing the job together and discussing the options that you find.

2025 International Teacher Tour

We have submitted our request for a workshop from a teacher on National's 2025 International Teacher Tour. If our chapter is selected, our workshop will be between October 18 – November 10 or from November 18 – 25.

National will determine the teacher's travel schedule based on a logical route among the selected teaching locations. Historically, we have been fortunate to be selected, but there is no guarantee. If there are more requests than a teacher has available days, a lottery will be held to determine the selection of venues.

SAVE THE DATE:
EGA Seminar 2027

September 15-19, 2027



Seminar 2027 hosted by PSR at Lowes Ventana Canyon, Tucson.

If you're interested in volunteering, opportunities will be available for committee chairs soon.

Suggestions for teachers are also welcome, especially local (regional) teachers for mini-classes Tuesday evening.

Watch for information on a member challenge to craft the theme for the seminar!

For more information or to get involved, please reach out to Pam Brummit at e-mail: brummit75@gmail.com, or phone number: 918-645-5775

Let's make this event a success together!

Thanks,
Pam Brummit
2027 Seminar Chair

SAVE THE DATE - 2025
March to mid-August

- March 25-26** Workshop, Batik to Stitch with Laura Smith
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, O'Leary Hall
9:00 am – 4:00 pm
- March 27** Stitchers Luncheon – Ventana Canyon Lodge
6200 N. Club House Ln, Tucson, AZ 85750
11:00 am to 2:00 pm
- March 28** Bead & Needlework stitch-in, Starbucks,
SE corner of Swan and Grant
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
- April 3** Tucson Chapter EGA Meeting
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, O'Leary Hall
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
- April 10** Tucson Chapter EGA Beading Meeting
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Classroom 6
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
- April 11** Bead & Needlework stitch-in, Starbucks
SE corner of Swan and Grant
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- April 15** Evening stitch-in, The Café at Barnes & Noble
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
At both Foothills Mall and Broadway/Rosemont
- April 19** Saturday stitch-in at the Martha Cooper Library
1377 N. Catalina Ave., Tucson, AZ 85712
10:30 am – 1:00 pm

- April 25** Bead & Needlework stitch-in, Starbucks,
SE corner of Swan and Grant
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- April 26 & 27** Pima County Fair
2-1/2 hour shifts available for stitch-in public
Free fair entrance and parking fee when
volunteering. See Kathleen Garza for details.
- May 1** Tucson Chapter EGA Meeting
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, O’Leary Hall
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
- May 8** Tucson Chapter EGA Beading Meeting
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Classroom 6
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
- May 9** Bead & Needlework stitch-in, Starbucks
SE corner of Swan and Grant
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- May 10**
(to be confirmed) Saturday stitch-in location to be confirmed
10:30 am to 1:00 pm
- May 20** Evening stitch-in, The Café at Barnes & Noble
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
At both Foothills Mall and Broadway/Rosemont
- May 23** Bead & Needlework stitch-in, Starbucks
SE corner of Swan and Grant
1:00 pm to 4:00 PM
- June 5** Tucson Chapter EGA Meeting
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, O’Leary Hall
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

- June 6** Bead & Needlework stitch-in, Starbucks
SE corner of Swan and Grant
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- June 12** Tucson Chapter EGA Beading Meeting
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Classroom 6
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
- June 14** Saturday stitch-in location to be confirmed
(to be confirmed) 10:30 am to 1:00 pm
- June 17** Evening stitch-in, The Café at Barnes & Noble
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
At both Foothills Mall and Broadway/Rosemont
- June 20** Bead & Needlework stitch-in, Starbucks
SE corner of Swan and Grant
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- July 3** **Stitch-in only. Chapter meeting and programs
On summer hiatus.**
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, O’Leary Hall
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
- July 10** Tucson Chapter EGA Beading Meeting
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Classroom 6
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
- July 12** Saturday stitch-in location to be confirmed
(to be confirmed) 10:30 am to 1:00 pm
- July 15** Evening stitch-in, The Café at Barnes & Noble
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
At both Foothills Mall and Broadway/Rosemont

July 18

Bead & Needlework stitch-in, Starbucks
SE corner of Swan and Grant
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

August 7

**Stitch-in only. Chapter meeting and programs
On summer hiatus.**
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, O'Leary Hall
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

August 14

Tucson Chapter EGA Beading Meeting
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Classroom 6
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



Basic Stitch Instructions

Cubic Right Angle Weave (CRAW)

Cubic Right Angle Weave (CRAW) is a variation of Right Angle Weave (RAW) and creates three-dimensional cube structures with a flexibility similar to RAW. Depending on your tension these can be self-supporting or may need an armature to help provide stability.

The basic stitch is still made up of sets of four beads but rather than being on a flat plane you are building up cubes with a count of four beads on each of the six faces of the cube.

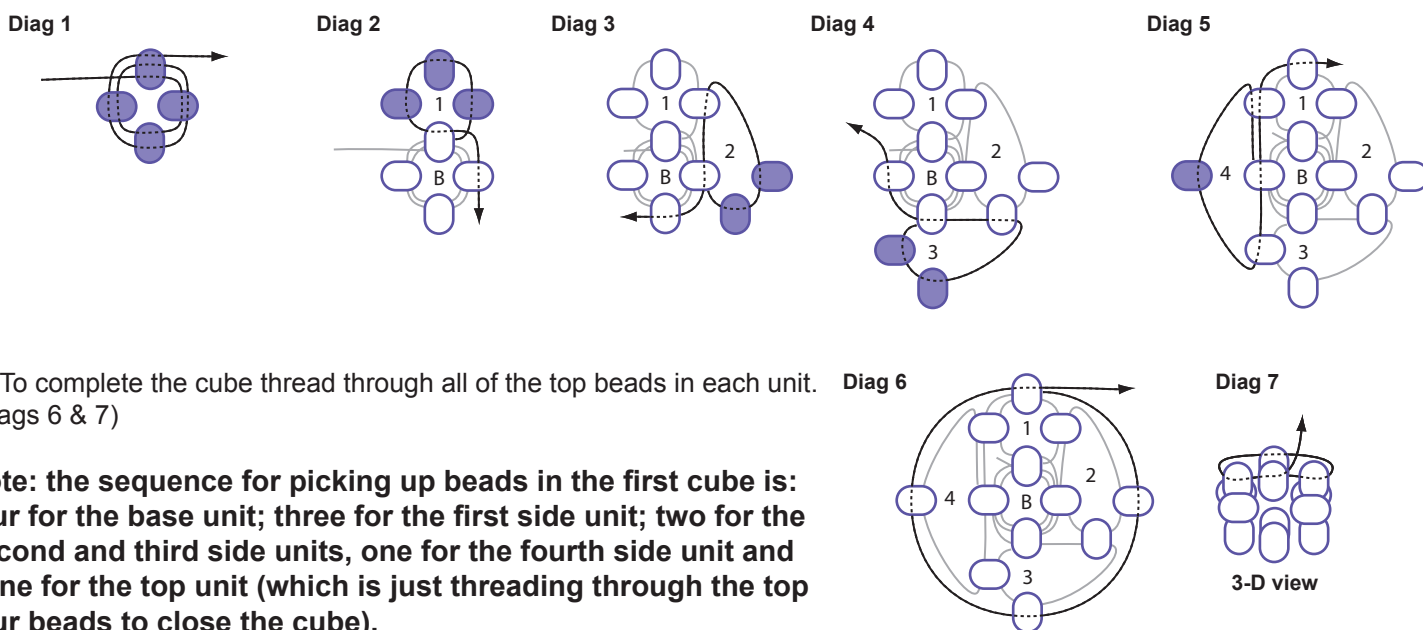


Mastering CRAW is not easy for some and even more difficult to describe and illustrate because of its three-dimensional character. Here we give basic instructions to help you master this stitch, but please be aware that there are a number of ways of approaching this stitch and this is just one of them.

Note: for the purposes of these instructions, each set of four beads is described as a unit, the base of each cube is a base ring, a set of six units is a cube and several cubes joined together are a row.

A single cube

1. Pick up four beads, thread through all four beads plus the first bead again to make a secure ring of four beads (this is the base ring of the cube). (Diag 1)
2. Pick up three beads, thread back through the bead your thread is exiting and through the next bead in the base ring. (Diag 2)
3. Pick up two beads, thread down through the side bead in the previous unit, through the bead your thread was exiting and through the next bead in the base ring. Repeat this step once more. (Diags 3 & 4)
4. To finish the last unit thread up through the side bead in the first side unit, pick up one bead and thread down through the side bead in the last unit. Thread back through the base bead, the side bead in the first side unit and the bead just picked up to exit at the top of the cube. (Diag 5)



5. To complete the cube thread through all of the top beads in each unit. (Diags 6 & 7)

Note: the sequence for picking up beads in the first cube is: four for the base unit; three for the first side unit; two for the second and third side units, one for the fourth side unit and none for the top unit (which is just threading through the top four beads to close the cube).

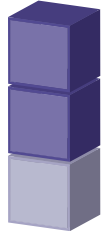
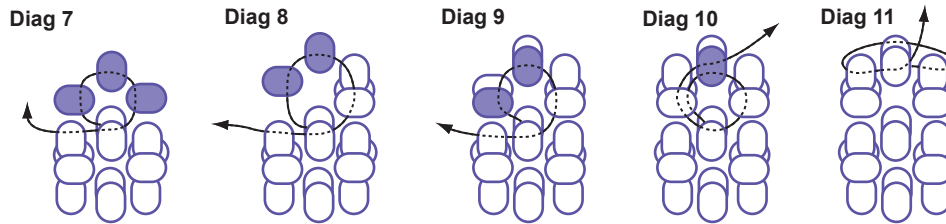


Basic Stitch Instructions

Cubic Right Angle Weave (CRAW)

A row of cubes

To add subsequent cubes use the four top beads of the last cube as the new base ring and repeat Steps 2 to 5 to complete another cube. (Diags 8, 9, 10 & 11)

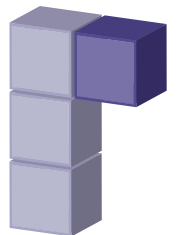


Note: the sequence for picking up beads for all subsequent cubes is (remember that the base beads are already in place): three for the first side unit, two for the second and third side units, one for the fourth side unit and none for the top unit.

Adding a cube at right angles

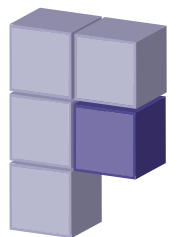
Geometric frames of CRAW can be worked in this way by changing the direction of work.

In the first row of cubes the top four beads provided the new base ring for the next cube, when adding a cube at right angles the four beads on the side of the previous cube are used as the base ring for the next cube. Therefore with the thread exiting a side bead in the previous cube repeat Steps 2 to 5 to make the next cube at a right angle.



Adding a second row of CRAW

This is where CRAW becomes a little trickier to explain and illustrate but in essence the stitch is exactly the same as before. Having changed the direction of work by adding a cube at right angles, the next cube in the row needs to use the side beads in the first row as the base ring but will also share the beads of one unit in the cube just added. Therefore only three side units need to be added to make another complete cube.



Weave through the work to exit a side bead in the next first row cube and repeat Steps 3 to 5 to complete the next cube (remembering that the first side unit is already in place from the cube just added).

CRAW layers

Once the desired number of CRAW rows have been made these can be built on to create more layers of rows by using the surface units of four beads as the base rings for the new cubes.

In conclusion CRAW is based on just the five steps at the start of these instructions but the number of sides you need to add will depend on how many cubes are sitting next to the one you are working.

