Two-ladder Herringbone (Ndebele) Stitch

Herringbone (Ndebele) stitch is a circular weave that results in a beaded strand with a squared appearance. It’s strong and neat-looking, and is easily incorporated into designs that feature other stitches. It can be shaped by using beads of varying sizes.

1. Start with eight beads; run through the first bead to make a ring
2. Pick up two beads and go through the next bead on the ring
3. Skip two on the ring (green dot) and run through the next
4. Pick up two beads and go through the next bead on the ring
5. Skip two beads and run through the next (the first bead of the ring of eight, green)
6. Tighten the thread; the two ladders will begin to be perceptible
7. “Step up” by running through the first bead of the step 2 pair
8. Envision two ladders, even if using one color. Pick up two beads, go through the next bead on the same side of the ladder
9. Run the thread through the top bead on the opposite ladder
10. Pick up two beads, run through the next bead on the green side of the ladder.

To “step up” when the weave is established, run your thread straight across the side of the ladder. Your thread should never be angled; you’ll know when it’s time to step up by seeing that there is no straight cross thread on the side of the ladder. As you tighten the thread, the sides of the ladder will be drawn together.

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