

Sakura Blossom

an original design by Samantha Lemieux

Advanced



さくら

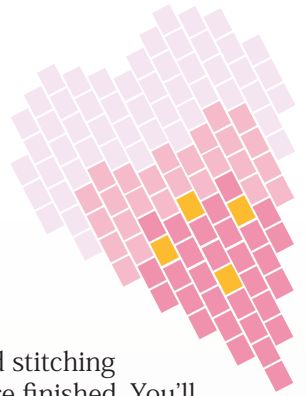
sa ku ra
pronounced:
sah-ku-rah

“sakura ga miemasu ka?”
sah-ku-rah gah,
mee-ae-mahs' kah?

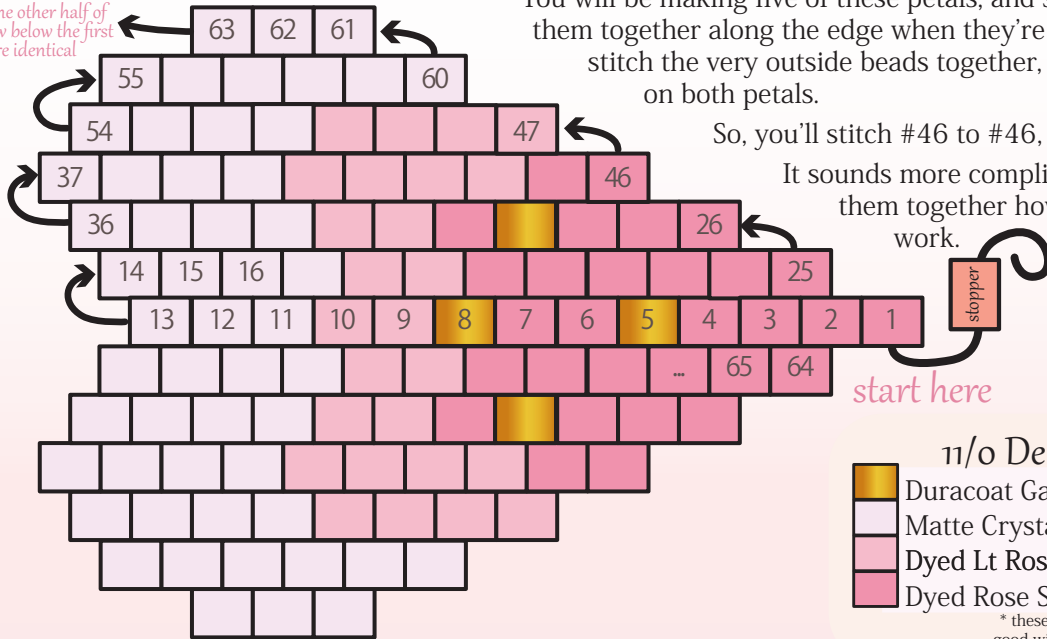
“Shall we see the cherry blossoms?”

The only symbol more associated with Japan than Mt. Fuji is the cherry blossom. These flowers are the national symbol of Japan, and can be seen adorning everything from airlines to restaurants.

In the spring, there is a special time of year called “hanami” (ha-nah-mee) which literally means “flower viewing,” and is a time of year when everyone takes a break from their busy life to enjoy the fleeting moments that the cherry trees are in bloom, with picnics and festivals around the country.



now, you'll do the other half of the petal, the row below the first and they are identical



You will be making five of these petals, and stitching them together along the edge when they're finished. You'll stitch the very outside beads together, going through them on both petals.

So, you'll stitch #46 to #46, and #26 to #26.

It sounds more complicated than it is, just put them together however you can get it to work.

start here

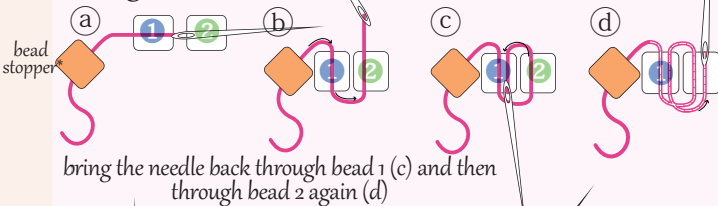
- 11/0 Delica Beads by Miyuki
- Duracoat Galv Yellow Gold (DB1833)
- Matte Crystal AB* (DB0851)
- Dyed Lt Rose S/L Alabaster (DB0624)
- Dyed Rose S/L Alabaster (DB0625)

* these were the only color I had on hand that looked good with the pinks, but you can use straight white too

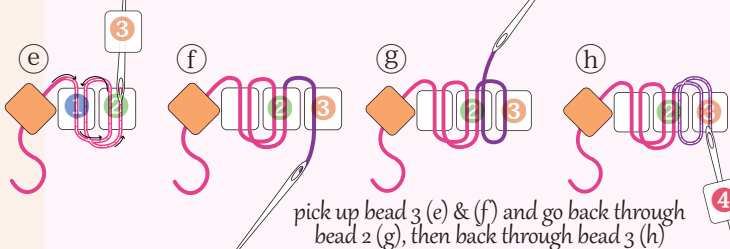
This pattern uses a “brick stitch.”

The Basics - first row

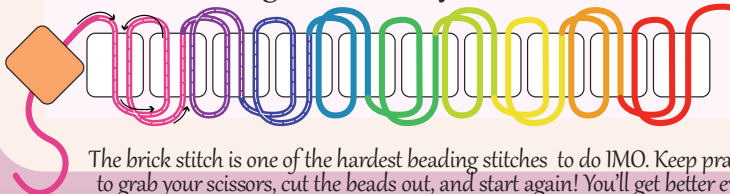
1. String on 2 beads (a)



2. Add the next bead



3. Continue adding beads until you have them all



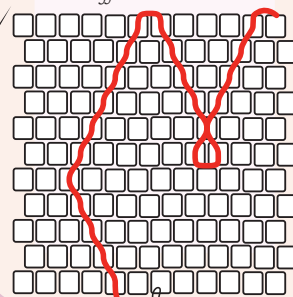
The brick stitch is one of the hardest beading stitches to do IMO. Keep practicing, and don't be afraid to grab your scissors, cut the beads out, and start again! You'll get better every time, so don't give up!

Bead Stopper

Cut a piece of beading thread about 60" (150cm) long and thread your needle. Pick up an extra bead and pass the needle back through it 2 times... ..being sure to leave at least 6" (15cm) for a tail.

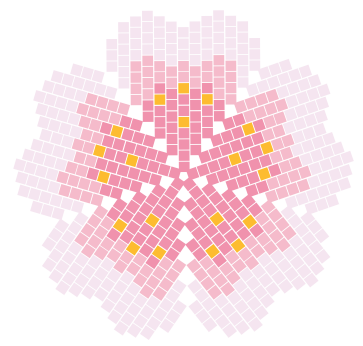
*After you finish a petal, carefully take off the bead stopper and thread your needle with the tail. Weave this tail in and out of the beads to secure it.

If you need to change your thread, pass your needle through several beads diagonally up and down first to secure your beads. Then you can trim off the thread.



To start your new thread, do the same thing, being sure to wind up where you ended. Then continue on with your pattern.

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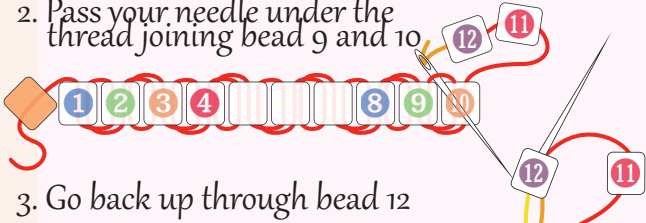


The Basics - Increasing

Increasing a row by one bead at the start

1. String on 2 beads

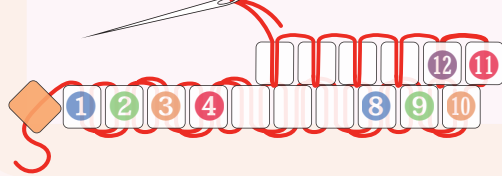
2. Pass your needle under the thread joining bead 9 and 10



3. Go back up through bead 12



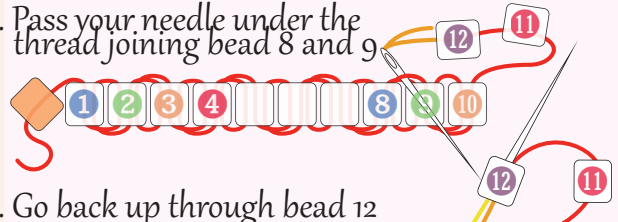
4. Continue on with one bead at a time, just like with bead 12



Decreasing a row by one bead at the start

1. String on 2 beads

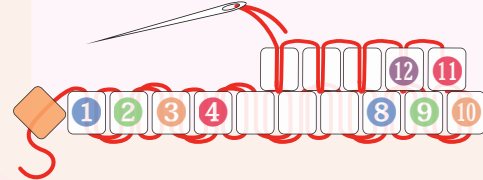
2. Pass your needle under the thread joining bead 8 and 9



3. Go back up through bead 12



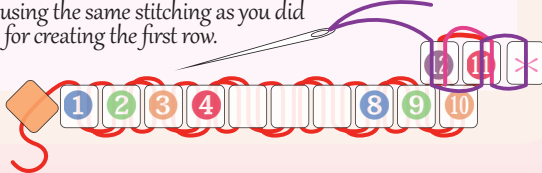
4. Continue on with one bead at a time, just like with bead 12



The Basics - Decreasing

Increasing a row by 2+ beads at the start

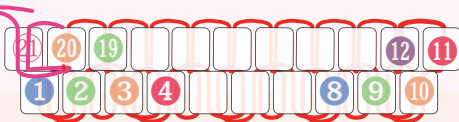
This is exactly the same as increasing by one bead, except that instead of going on (step 4), you will go back and add another bead next to the start, using the same stitching as you did for creating the first row.



Increasing a row by one bead at the end

1. Add your bead

2. Bring your needle between the thread between 1 & 2 - the place you strung on bead 20



Decreasing a row by 2+ beads at the start

Before putting on any beads, go through the thread between the two on the end - this keeps your next beads flat. Once you are where you want to start, thread on the next beads and continue.



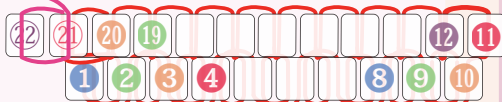
Decreasing a row by one bead at the end

1. Simply stop where you want the row to end, and move on to the next one!

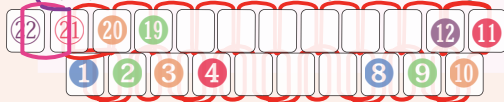


Increasing a row by 2+ beads at the end

This is exactly the same as increasing by one bead, except that instead you'll string on another bead just like you did for the first row.



I then like going through the thread between those two beads to prepare to start the next row, it just makes things more secure IMO.



Decreasing a row by 2+ beads at the end

It's exactly the same as decreasing any others. See, sometimes it's easy!



If you made it through all of these, congratulations! This is a tough stitch to learn, but once you have it down, believe me, you'll never forget how to do it. I have classified this one as "advanced" simply for it having so many increases/decreases in the pattern, as well as needing to stitch the petals together to create a 3D shape.