

# BEAD STITCHING

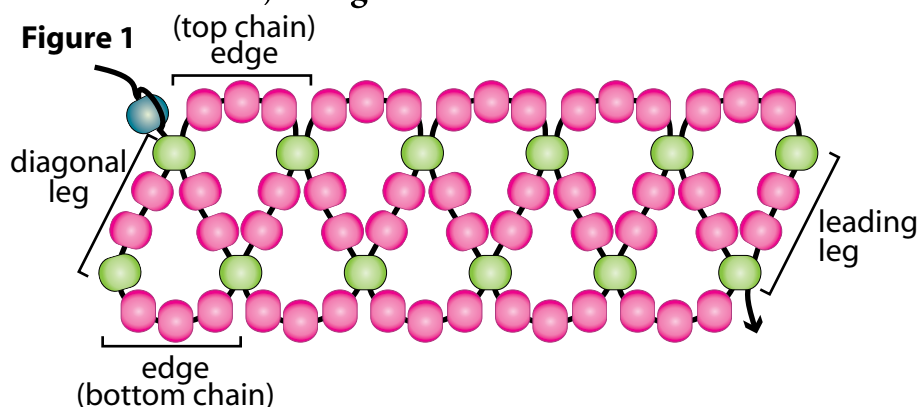
## Chevron Chain Fundamentals



### ANATOMY OF THE CHAINS

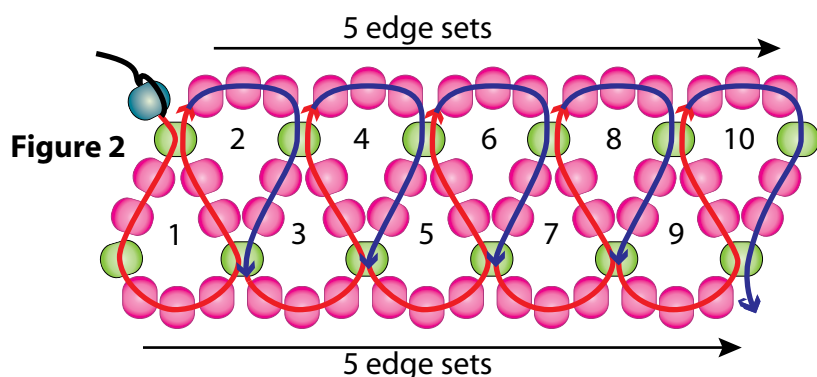
Chevron chain is a form of netting with beautiful openwork. The effect is created by connecting one chain to the next using a bead or beads on the leg of the previous chain. Chevron chain creates stitches that look like triangles sitting right-side up and upside down rather than diamond shapes like traditional netting. The shapes that form the triangles have names. The sides of the triangles are legs or diagonal legs and the connector beads are part of the legs. The base of the triangle (top or bottom) is called edge or edge sets.

When working chevron chain, all the beads are picked up for the first chain then all stitches thereafter use existing beads from a previous chain plus new beads. The leading leg is the outermost leg of the last chain stitched and is oftentimes the leg into which the new chain is stitched, see **figure 1**.



### THREAD PATH

The thread path follows a serpentine sequence from chain to chain. In this example the connector beads are a different color making it easy to see where to stitch, see **figure 2**.



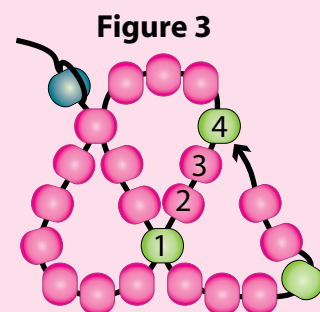
### COUNTING CHAINS

There are multiple ways to keep track of the chain count when working a design. The three most common are: all chains, only the top edge sets, or only the bottom edge sets.

In **figure 2** there are a total of 10 chains. When counting my work I like to count either the top or bottom edge (five sets) which simplifies keeping track of stitch counts.

### FORMING CHAINS

To stitch flat chevron chain like the example in **figure 1**, put on a stop bead 8" from the end of the thread. Pick up 10 beads in the color order noted. Push them to the stop bead and stitch back through the first bead picked up forming a triangle making sure not to catch the stop bead. For the remaining chains, pick up chains six beads for one edge set and diagonal leg then stitch into the fourth bead on the leading leg. Each new stitch will form a triangle.



## NEW ROWS

Stitching more rows requires a the thread to be positioned properly. Depending on the design being stitched the positioning can be one of a number of different paths.

**Figure 4** depicts two common paths if the goal is to start the next row on the outside edge of the first.

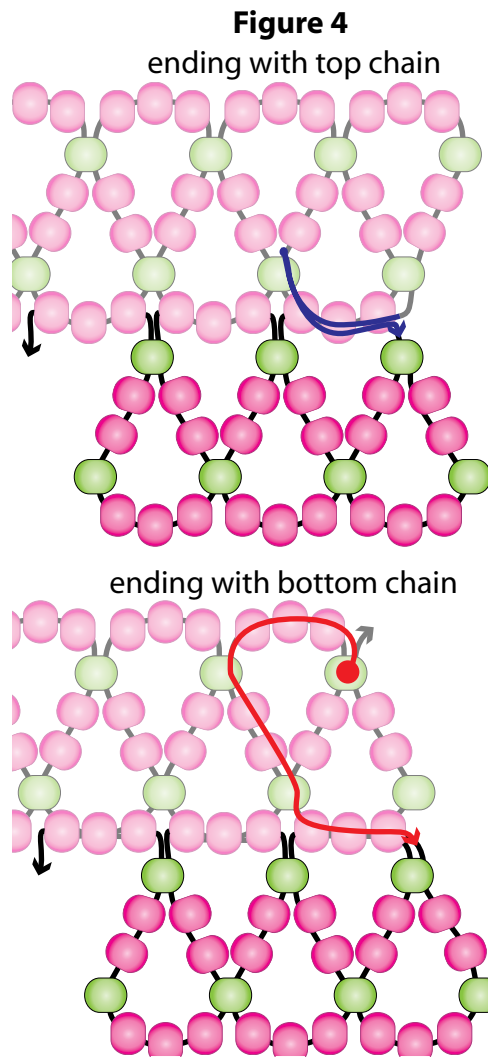
In the top example the first row ends with a top chain. The most direct route to getting this set up is to stitch through 3 edge beads and the closest connector bead, make a half hitch knot, and turn. Stitch back through the same 4 beads, blue thread path. The thread is now heading in the correct direction to start again.

In the bottom example the first row ends with a bottom chain. The most direct route to get this set up is to stitch through the top edge, closest leg and bottom edge setting up the thread on the outside of the first row, red thread.

## GAPS

Inherent in chevron chain are gaps formed where two rows of connector beads line up. Keeping the gaps clear of thread is done by forming stitches exiting the edge sets as opposed to the connector beads.

Positioning thread properly keeps the gaps clear. Proper thread paths are beneficial for



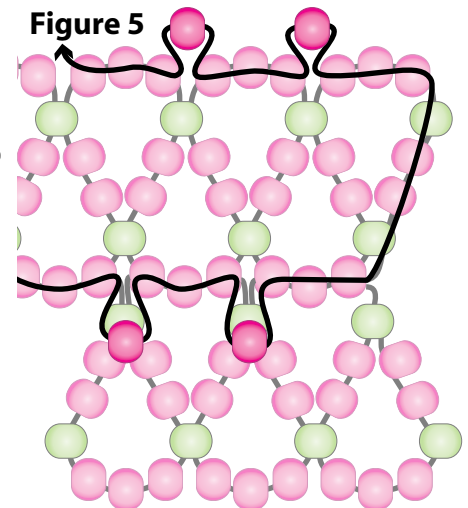
nicely formed beadwork. For instance, in the top example of **figure 4** the stitch was not immediately started from the green connector bead. The set up (blue thread path) enables the direction of the thread to be exiting the edge set and not the connector bead.

Gaps are also very helpful spaces in the edge sets and I oftentimes use them as part of the design.

## GAP BEADS

Whenever I add a bead into the gap I call these beads gap

beads. It simply means they are sitting in the gaps. Most often gap bead are stitched into place from edge set to edge set. It is very rare to stitch a gap bead into place using the connector beads.



## OTHER FORMS

There are also other ways to stitch chevron chain other than flat. It can also be stitch in a flat circle called circular chevron chain and also tubular called tubular chevron chain. The same fundamentals apply to these forms. In addition, the first and last chains must be connected to complete the circle or tube.

Melanie Potter

P.O. Box 4625

San Luis Obispo, CA 93403

[www.melaniepotter.com](http://www.melaniepotter.com)

[melanie@melaniepotter.com](mailto:melanie@melaniepotter.com)

©2013 Melanie Potter - All rights reserved. No part of illustrations or instructions may be reproduced in any manner without the express consent of the author. The use of the design is limited to noncommercial purposes only.