

# Herringbone Fern Stitch

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## Materials:

2 colors of seed beads or Delicas. Color A is the vein part of the fern. Color B is the pinnae, or small leaflets that make up the frond.



Nymo or Silamide to match (Contrasting thread has been used in this tutorial so that it may be more easily seen)

## Notes:

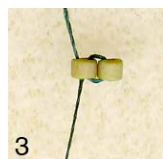
Keep thread tension firm and consistent.

Bring needle up towards inner side of beads in stack to avoid to align the pinnae correctly. (See Photo 9 & 12)

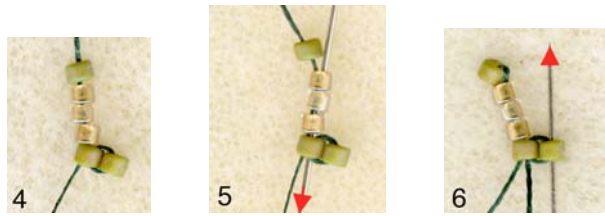
To make realistic tapered fern fronds, start using a small number of pinnae (B) beads, gradually increase the number, then gradually decrease the number of beads in until the desired width or length of the frond is reached.

## Instructions:

1. Thread needle with 1 yard of stretched and conditioned thread.
2. Pick up 2 vein (A) beads and slide them to within 6 inches of the end. Leave a 6 inch tail to weave into main body of beadwork.
3. Run the needle through both beads again, then the first bead strung once more. Nudge the beads with your finger so that they are lying next to each other with the holes running top to bottom. These 2 beads are the base row of the stack, which will become the vein of the fern frond.



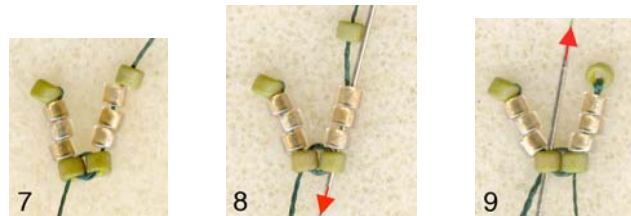
4. Pick up 3 pinnae (B) beads and 1 vein (A) bead and slide them down to the foundation stack. (3-B, A)



5. Skip the last vein (A) bead strung, and run the needle back down through all 3 pinnae (B) beads and the left side vein (A) bead of the foundation stack.

6. Run the needle up through the right vein (A) bead of the foundation stack.

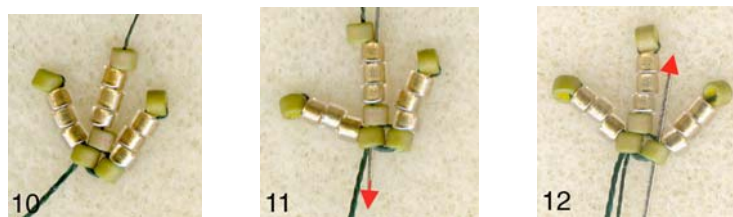
7. Pick up 3 pinnae (B) beads and 1 vein (A) bead and slide them down to the foundation stack. (3-B, A)



8. Skip the last vein (A) bead strung and run the needle back down through all 3 pinnae (B) beads and the right side vein (A) bead of the foundation stack.

9. Run the needle up through the left vein (A) bead of the foundation stack.

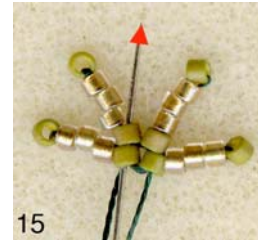
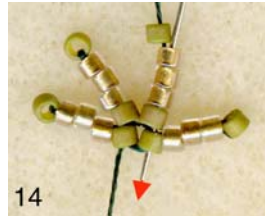
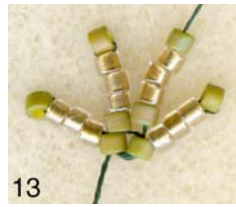
10. Pick up 1 vein (A) bead, 3 pinnae (B) beads, and 1 vein (A) bead and slide them down to the foundation stack. (A, 3-B, A)



11. Skip the last vein (A) bead strung, and run the needle through all 3 pinnae (B) beads, the first vein (A) bead strung, and the left vein (A) bead in the foundation stack.

12. Run the needle up through the right vein (A) bead in the foundation stack.

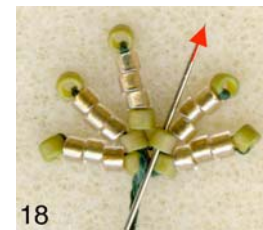
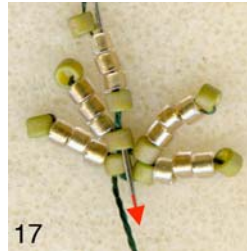
13. Pick up 1 vein (A) bead, 3 pinnae (B) beads, and 1 vein (A) bead, and slide them down to the foundation stack.  
(A, 3-B, A)



14. Skip the last vein (A) bead strung, and run the needle down through all 3 pinnae (B) beads, the first vein (A) bead strung, and the right vein (A) bead of the foundation stack.

15. Run the needle up through both left vein (A) beads of the stack.

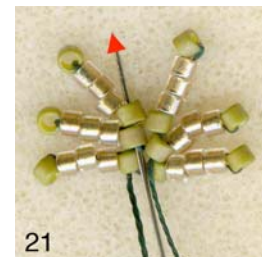
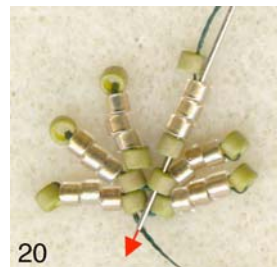
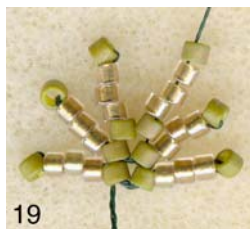
16. Pick up 1 vein (A) bead, 3 pinnae (B) beads, and 1 vein (A) bead, and slide them down to the foundation stack.  
(A, 3-B, A)



17. Skip the last vein (A) bead strung, and run the needle down through all 3 pinnae (B) beads, the first vein (A) bead strung, and the top left vein (A) bead of the stack.

18. \* Run the needle up through the top right vein (A) bead of the stack.

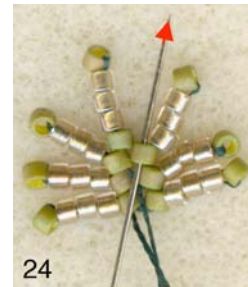
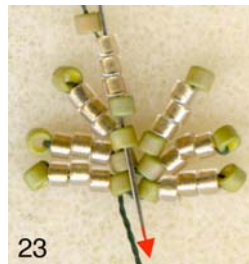
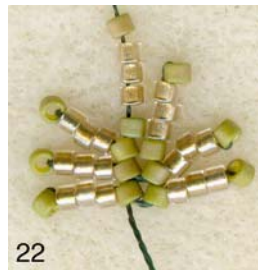
19. Pick up 1 vein (A) bead, 3 pinnae (B) beads, and 1 vein (A) bead and slide them all down to the foundation stack.  
(A, 3-B, A)



20. Skip the last vein (A) bead strung, and run the needle down through all 3 pinnae (B) beads, the first vein (A) bead strung, and the top right vein (A) bead of the stack..

21. Run the needle up through top 2 left vein (A) beads of the stack.

22. Pick up 1 vein (A) bead, 3 pinnae (B) beads, and 1 vein (A) bead and slide them down to the foundation stack. (A, 3-B, A)



23. Skip the last vein (A) bead strung, and run the needle down through all 3 pinnae (B) beads, the first vein (A) bead strung, and the top left vein (A) bead of the stack.

24. Repeat from \* in step 18 until the desired length of the frond is reached. Note that when you are working from right to left you will be running the needle up the top 2 vein (A) beads of the stack, and when working left to right, you will be running the needle up through the top right vein (A) bead only.



End frond by weaving thread back several times into the frond vein and pinnae. I do not like knots or glue, so I weave my thread enough that I do not have to tie any knots. You may want to do so if you are more comfortable with knots or glue. Cut excess thread close to work.

Use the 6" tail to weave the base of the frond into your main beaded piece, or use it to tack onto an embroidery piece for 3D effects.

Part Two of this tutorial will explore variations of the Herringbone Fern Stitch.

#### Fern Examples:

from <http://www.freefoto.com/>

