

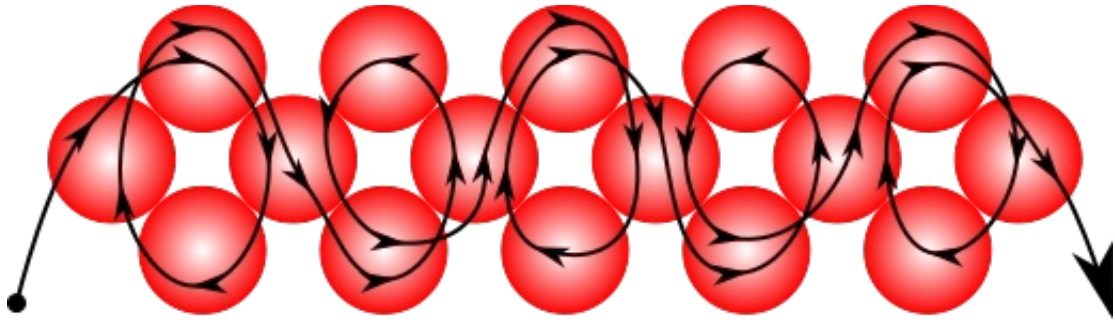
Right angle weave bracelet  
by  
Paula Caddick



*Friends are like rainbows. They brighten your life when you've been through a storm.*

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## Thread path



## Right angle weave

This stitch is called right angle weave because each time you pass through a bead, you are forming a right angle with the previous bead. You will never pass through two beads in the same direction. (A right angle is like an L shape and can also be upside down or a mirror image.) You will often see the stitch abbreviated as RAW.

This bracelet uses 6mm round beads and size 11 seed beads. You'll probably need somewhere around 46 to 54 round beads depending on the length of your bracelet, and less than a pinch of seeds. It will work just as well with 4mm or 8mm beads, or bicones, ovals and other shapes. You can use larger beads than those but be aware it will get really heavy and the chunkier you make it, the longer it needs to be to give the same fit.

## Thread

Thread is a personal choice. There are lots of brands. My current favourite is 10lb woven fishing line (no, not the brand you're thinking of) and I also like loom thread, but you can use pretty much anything. If you're buying fishing line, stick to 0.14mm or thinner or you'll have a lot of trouble threading the needle plus if you're using size 11 seeds you won't be able to fit through the beads enough times, and don't go below 7lb strength.

Work with a single thread, not doubled. It's much easier to get the tension right and you'll get a lot fewer tangles.

If your thread starts to fray at any point, don't carry on. Fasten it off and start again with a new thread.

## Needle

Use the smallest beading needle you can thread, and don't worry if it bends as it definitely will. If it gets too bad you can straighten it up gently with pliers, but very often the curve will actually help anyway and make it easier to access out-of-the-way beads. Don't use an ordinary sewing needle even though they are stronger; the eye is wider than the rest of the needle and it will prevent it going through your beads.

## Beeswax

I like beeswax if I'm using thread but never use it with fishing line, though it can be handy to wax the very end of fishing line to make it easier to get through the needle. Beeswax looks like a bar of yellow soap and you run the thread lightly over the bar to pick up a thin layer of wax. Make sure you've got proper beeswax and not the paraffin wax sold in plastic circular cases (which is sometimes labelled beeswax even when it's not). Buy it online from a honey supplier, it'll be about £2 plus postage and lasts for absolutely ages because you use barely any.

## Weaving in the thread ends

In general I don't like knots. They're too easy to come undone and they also take up valuable space inside the beads. I like to weave through the work as much as possible, and make sure some sections are going round in rough circles so it doesn't pull pack through if the finished piece gets snagged. Then when I am pulling the thread through the very last bead and it is almost all of the way through, I usually put a tiny blob of glue or clear nail varnish onto the last few millimetres of thread so that it disappears into the bead once I pull it through. Apply glue with a cocktail stick, a cotton bud or a matchstick. But if you prefer to knot your thread, go right ahead - it's your work.

## Beads

When using small beads such as seeds, you don't actually pick them up with your fingers. Leave them lying on your work surface and use just the needle to pick them up, pushing the point of the needle down into the hole without touching them yourself.

## Step-by-step instructions

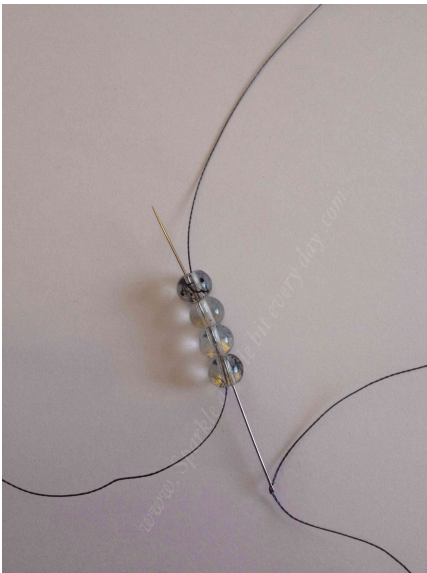
Begin by threading your needle with about two metres of thread. Don't cut the thread, leave the reel attached. When you eventually run out of thread you can just unwind more from the reel and carry on working from the opposite end of your bracelet. Work with single thread, not doubled.



1

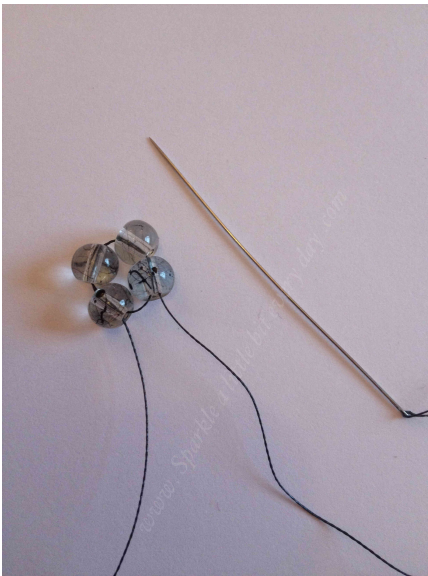
Thread four 6mm beads and push them down to the far end of your working thread.

Leave a bit of space between the beads and the thread reel so the reel isn't getting in your way.



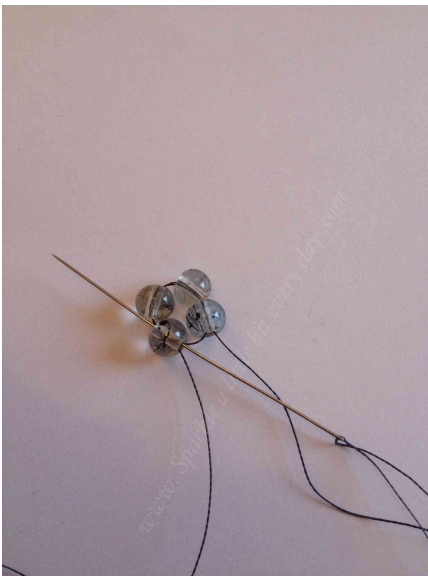
2

Pass the needle through all four beads again.



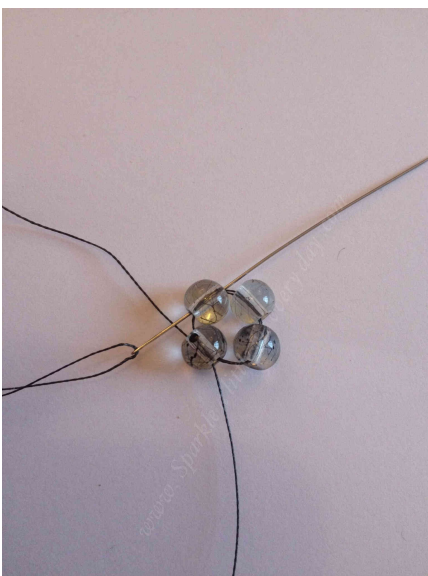
3

Pull the thread through so that the beads snug up together to make a circle.



4

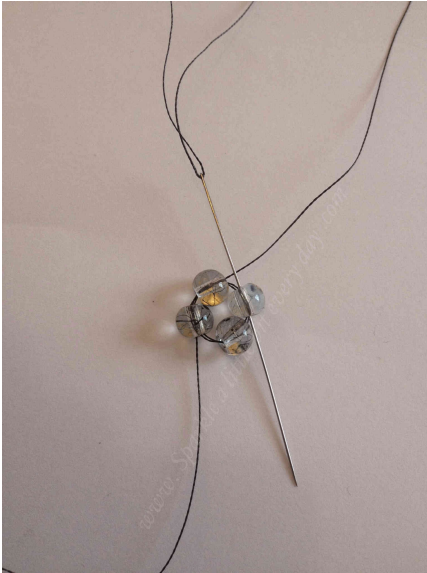
Pass the needle through the first bead again and pull the thread through.



5

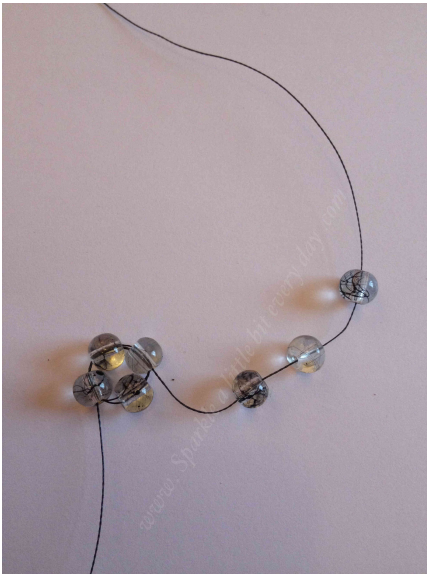
Pass the needle through the second bead again and pull the thread through.





6

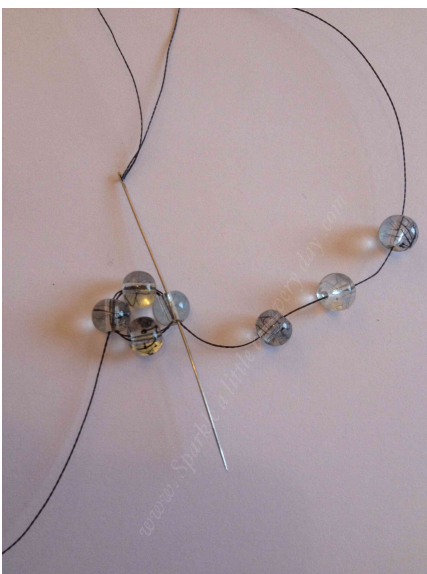
Pass the needle through the third bead again and pull the thread through.



7

Your thread is now exiting from the bead opposite the one that the tail thread is exiting.

Add three beads.



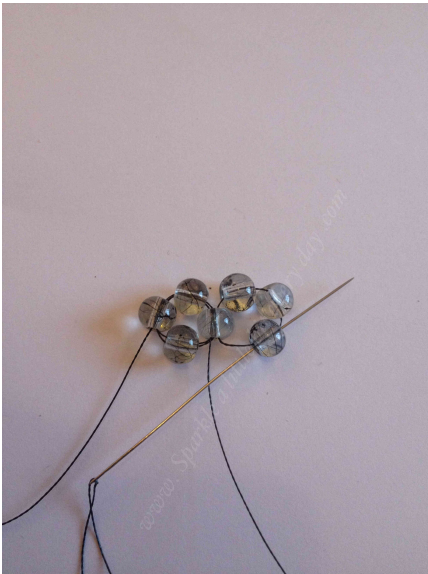
8

Pass the needle again in the same direction through the bead your thread is exiting.



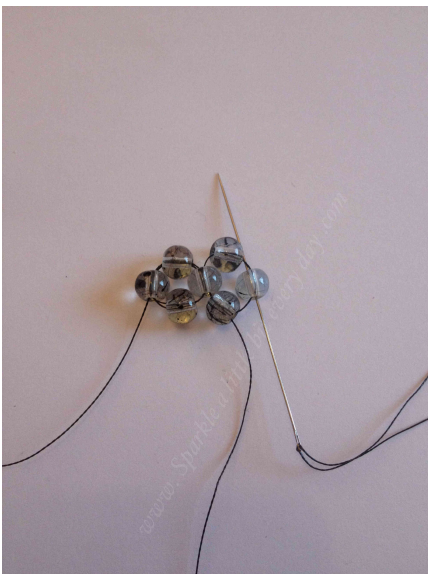
9

Pull the thread through so that the beads snug up together to form a circle.



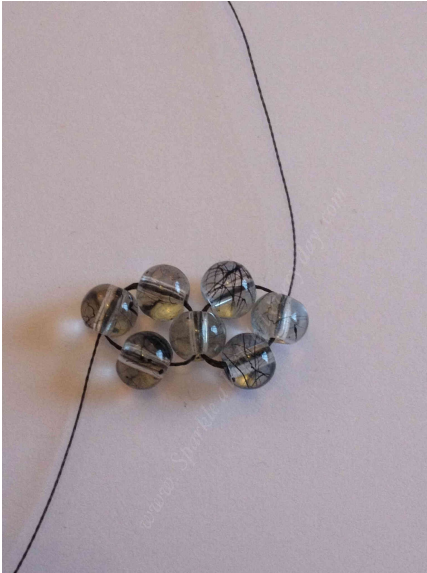
10

Pass the needle through the first of the three beads you have just added and pull the thread through.



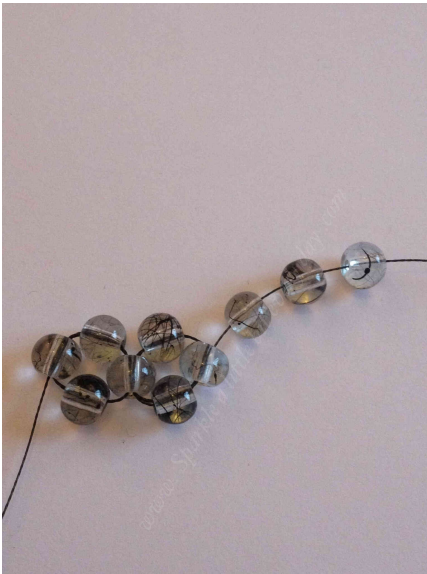
11

Pass the needle through the second of the three beads you have just added and pull the thread through.



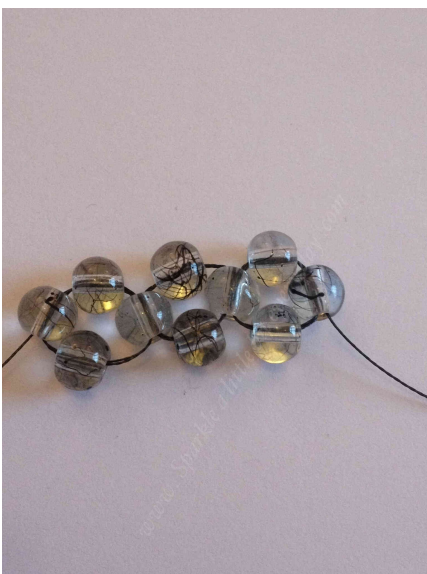
12

Now pass through all four beads in the circle again, one at a time, so you end up back where you started with the thread exiting the end bead.



13

Add three beads.



14

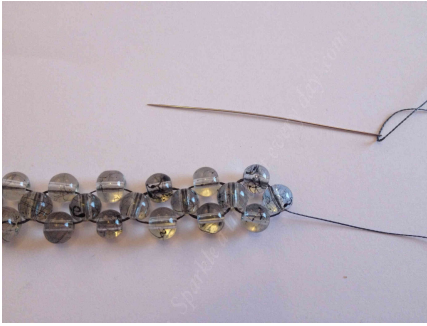
Now continue in this manner, adding three beads at a time and going through the previous bead again to form the circles, working through the next two beads so you are exiting the end bead, then going through all four beads again.

You are forming the circles alternately clockwise and anticlockwise.

If you prefer, you can rotate your work away from you each time if you want to make sure you are coming out of the top bead whenever you start each repeat so that you are always working clockwise.

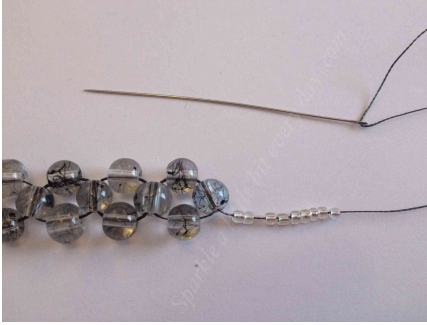
Don't neglect to go through all four beads again (step 12) as this helps to maintain the tension.





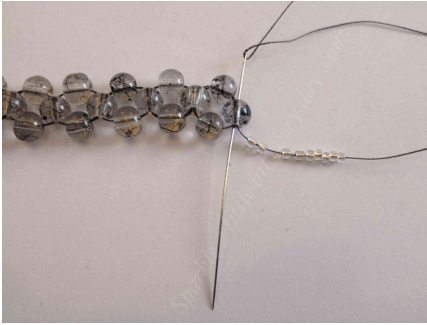
15

When the bracelet is the length you require (or you're running out of thread) ensure you are exiting from the end bead.



16

Add enough seed beads to make a loop. I've used nine here but you may need slightly more or less, and you'll need more if you've used larger beads for the bracelet or are using a smaller seeds. Don't make the loop too small or the seed beads will not lie nicely side by side, and you won't have room to attach the clasp.



17

Pass the needle through the end bead in the same direction.



18

Pull the thread through so that the seed beads snug up together to make a loop.

Reinforce the loop by sewing through the seeds and the end bead as many times as you can, keeping the thread tight so the loop goes quite stiff. Don't force the needle through or you might break a bead.

19

Weave back through some of the main beadwork to finish off, then back to the seeds. If you want to, before the last bit of thread goes through the last beads, put a tiny amount of glue or clear nail varnish on the thread so it goes inside the bead. Try and end inside the seeds, but if they're already so full that you can't, wait until later before gluing and fastening off, so that you don't block a bead hole that you'll need to use again. Cut this thread end off.

20

Don't add your clasp just yet, wait until you've finished the whole thing, otherwise all you are doing is giving yourself a nice little hook to repeatedly get your thread tangled around while you're working.

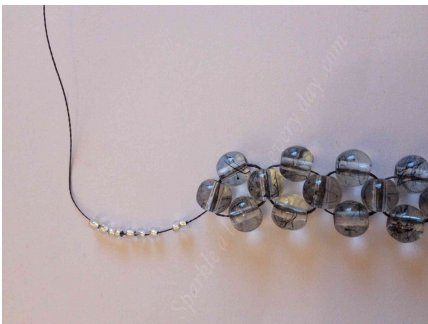
Now you can go back to your reel of thread (which you left attached to the work when you started) and unwind some more thread to work with, cut it, thread the needle and carry on stitching from the opposite end. Just turn your work around so you are working in the same direction as before.

However, first of all, have a guess at how much more thread you're likely to need. If you had a lot of thread left over last time when you reached the end, you won't need quite that much this time. It's better having too much than not enough, though, to avoid joins, as long as it's a length you can work with without repeatedly getting tangled. You'll need about the same amount again as you've already used so far, so that you've got enough to reinforce your work by stitching through it all again after you've finished.

If you do need to add extra thread as you work, leave the ends long enough to weave them in later after you've finished. It's tempting to keep them short to save thread but that just makes them harder to work with and you're probably only saving a penny or so anyway. You can always save any decent sized pieces for doing earrings with.

21

If your bracelet is not yet long enough, continue until it is the length you require, otherwise go straight to the next step.



22

Make another seed bead loop in the same way as the first at the opposite end using the tail of your work. This time do not end your thread once you have finished.

23

And now for the worst part. Sew through the entire thing all over again to reinforce it. Be careful here as it's really easy to get the thread snagged around a bead somewhere and not notice until it's too late.

Depending on your choice of thread and the size of your beads you may want to do this more than once, but be careful you don't crack any beads by trying to get too many passes through them. You don't necessarily need to follow the exact same path, but make sure each stitch is always at a right angle to the previous stitch.

I like to go all the way along the bracelet here in an S pattern, which reinforces alternate beads on each side, then back again to reinforce the ones missed the first time, and I often repeat this more than once depending on the size of the bead holes.



Use a jump ring to attach a lobster clasp to one end of the bracelet, and a short length of chain to the other end.

You could also use a toggle clasp here instead. They look much more interesting than lobster clasps but make it into one size only, which is great if it's for yourself as it means you get a perfect fit but less good if you're trying to sell the bracelet as it won't fit as many potential customers.



The completed bracelet using 6mm round glass beads.





The same pattern made using 4mm crystal bicones.

*Pattern 3*

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*Sparkle a little bit every day*