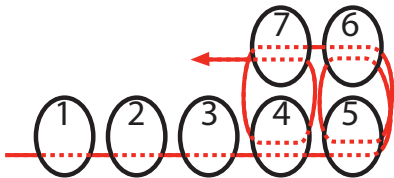# doodlebeads

With a fabric that resembles loomed beadwork, square stitch makes designing geometric patterns a snap. Even count or odd count are stitched the same way, with beads lined up side by side, horizontally and vertically. Square stitch uses several passes of thread through each bead, so use larger-holed beads or fine-gauge needles and thread. The more consistent the size of your beads, the smoother the beadwork. Square stitch makes terrific bails and rings, cuffs, or anything where you want the lined-up look in shape or pattern.

TIPS from Leslie

• To make a ring or bail, simply use the first row stitched as the "beads below" and attach your work into an endless loop. Make another, but before attaching it into a ring, string it through the completed ring. Keep going—make a square-stitch chain.

1 String a row of beads. This tutorial shows 5 beads.

2 String bead 6; pass through the bead directly below (bead 5) and through bead 6 again, in a circular loop.

3 String bead 7. Pass through the bead below (bead 4) and through bead 7 again.

4 Continue working in square stitch to the end of the row. String the last bead in the row, bead 10, pass down and back through bead 1 and out bead 10 again in the same looping thread path.

5 Always reinforce the rows just stitched before adding a new row: pass back through the entire first row (beads 1–5) and the entire second row (beads 6–10).

6 Continue with the next row, repeating Steps 2–5. Flip the piece to stitch each row in whatever direction is most comfortable for you.