

Krazy Stitcher Essentials

Complete User Guide

Browser-Based Bead Pattern Maker

Version 1.4.4 — November 6, 2026

No installation. No account. No limits.

Part 1: Beading Fundamentals

This section introduces the core concepts of seed bead weaving for people who are new to the craft. If you already know your peyote from your brick stitch, skip ahead to Part 2.

What Are Seed Beads?

Seed beads are small, uniformly shaped beads used in bead weaving, embroidery, and jewelry making. They come in two main shapes:

Round seed beads are slightly barrel-shaped and the most common type. Brands include Toho and Preciosa.

Cylinder beads (Delicas) are precisely cut cylinders with thin walls and large holes. They pack together tightly and produce flat, even fabric. Miyuki Delicas are the best-known brand.

Understanding Bead Sizes

Bead sizes use an inverse numbering system — the larger the number, the smaller the bead. The number roughly indicates how many beads fit side-by-side in one inch.

Size	Approx. Diameter	Common Use
6/0	~4.0 mm	Chunky jewelry, kids projects
8/0	~3.0 mm	Strung jewelry, spacers
11/0	~2.0 mm	Most popular — bead weaving, loom work, embroidery
11/0 Delica	~1.6 mm wide × 1.3 mm tall	Precision weaving — peyote, brick, loom
15/0	~1.5 mm	Fine detail work, embellishments

> 💡 **TIP:** Krazy Stitcher's Size Calculator uses real bead dimensions so you can see exactly how large your finished piece will be in inches or centimeters.

Stitch Types Explained

A "stitch type" is the method used to connect beads together. Different stitches produce different textures, shapes, and structural properties. Krazy Stitcher supports 22 stitch types. Here are the main ones:

Loom Stitch

Beads are woven on a physical loom with warp threads running vertically and weft threads running horizontally. This produces a perfectly square grid — beads sit in neat rows and columns like pixels on a screen. Loom work is fast and produces wide, flat pieces, making it popular for wall art, cuffs, and hatbands.

In Krazy Stitcher: Loom is the simplest grid type. Choose it when you want a straightforward square grid or when you're just getting started.

Peyote Stitch

One of the most versatile and widely used bead weaving stitches. Beads in alternating rows are offset by half a bead width, creating a brick-like pattern (similar to how bricks are laid in a wall). The result is a flexible, fabric-like sheet of beads. Peyote has roots in Native American and West African beadwork traditions.

In Krazy Stitcher: Odd-numbered rows shift right by half a bead. This matches how the beads actually sit when you stitch in real life.

Multi-Drop Peyote (2-Drop through 9-Drop)

A variation where you pick up multiple beads at once instead of one. 2-drop peyote means you add two beads per stitch, which makes the work go faster but produces a slightly different texture. Higher drop counts (3-drop, 4-drop, etc.) are less common but create interesting visual effects.

Brick Stitch

Also called Cheyenne or Comanche stitch. Visually similar to peyote stitch rotated 90 degrees — the offset runs vertically instead of horizontally. Brick stitch produces a stiffer fabric than peyote, making it ideal for earrings, pendants, and small shaped pieces like animals or flowers.

In Krazy Stitcher: Columns are offset instead of rows. The grid shifts every other column down by half a bead.

Gourd Stitch

A tubular variant of peyote stitch, traditionally used to cover round objects like gourds, bottles, and ornaments. The offset pattern is the same as flat peyote, but the piece wraps around in a cylinder.

Herringbone Stitch (Ndebele)

Originated with the Ndebele people of South Africa. Beads are added in pairs that angle toward each other, creating a distinctive V-shaped or chevron pattern. The resulting fabric is flexible and drapes beautifully, making it popular for ropes and straps.

In Krazy Stitcher: Uses a square grid with visual pair-bracket guides showing which beads form herringbone pairs.

Right Angle Weave (RAW)

Beads are connected in units of four, with thread making right-angle turns between each bead. The result is an almost fabric-like, very flexible sheet that moves freely in all directions. RAW is excellent for bezeling cabochons, creating 3D shapes, and embellishing with crystals.

In Krazy Stitcher: Uses a square grid with cross-stitch visual guides showing the four-bead RAW units.

Choosing the Right Stitch

If You Want...	Use This Stitch
A simple square grid for wall art	Loom
Flexible fabric for bracelets	Peyote
Faster work on flat pieces	2-Drop or 3-Drop Peyote
Shaped earrings or pendants	Brick
To cover a round object	Gourd
A V-shaped decorative rope	Herringbone
Maximum flexibility and drape	Right Angle Weave (RAW)

Color Palettes and Bead Brands

Krazy Stitcher lists nine bead color palettes across multiple manufacturers. Seven can be chosen now; Toho Aiko and Toho Treasure appear grayed out and marked "coming soon":

Miyuki Delica — Japanese cylinder beads known for extreme precision and consistency. Product IDs start with "DB" (e.g., DB0010 = Black). The gold standard for peyote and loom work.

Toho Round — Japanese round seed beads with excellent uniformity. Product IDs start with "TR" (e.g., TR-11-49 = Opaque Jet). Slightly less expensive than Delicas.

Preciosa — Czech glass seed beads with a long heritage. Product IDs start with "PR" (e.g., PR-23980 = Opaque Black). Known for rich color saturation.

Miyuki Rocailles — Miyuki 11/0 round seed beads. Product IDs start with "RR".

Matsuno — Japanese Matsuno (Dyna-Mites) 11/0 seed beads. Product IDs start with "MT".

Mill Hill — Mill Hill glass seed beads, popular in cross-stitch and needlework. Product IDs start with "MH".

Toho Aiko — Toho Aiko precision cylinder beads (1.75mm × 1.0mm). Product IDs start with "TA". Coming soon; it cannot be chosen yet.

Toho Treasure — Toho Treasure 11/0 precision cylinder beads, similar to Miyuki Delica. Product IDs start with "TT". Coming soon; it cannot be chosen yet.

Generic 64 — A brand-neutral palette of 64 common colors, useful when you haven't decided on a bead brand yet or want to design first and match brands later.

> 💡 **TIP:** Pro and Studio can move a design from one bead brand to another. Brand Swap rates every color and checks the finish; Quick Remap is a fast, approximate swap to the nearest bead. Both are for Pro and Studio only. In Essentials the Remap button is grayed out and shows a padlock, and the Brand Swap item next to it shows a sample of what Brand Swap does.

Part 2: Software Walkthrough

This section walks through every feature in Krazy Stitcher with step-by-step instructions and practical examples.

Getting Started

Krazy Stitcher runs entirely in your web browser. Open KrazyStitcher.html in Chrome or Microsoft Edge (recommended; Firefox and Safari work too) — no installation or account needed. Everything runs locally on your computer; nothing is uploaded to Krazy Stitcher's servers. See Save Patterns to a Folder for keeping your patterns as files you can see.

Working offline. After you have opened Krazy Stitcher once while online, this browser keeps a copy of the app, so it opens and works without an internet connection: designing, saving, printing, exports and photo import. You need the internet to activate your license key, to send a bug report and to get updates (they arrive the next time you open the app online). Clearing this site's data in your browser removes the offline copy, and a private window does not keep it after you close the window. The Photo Converter, sold separately, does not work offline.

On a phone. On a phone, Krazy Stitcher opens a simple phone view instead of the full editor. See Reader Mode and the Phone View.

Choosing a Browser

Krazy Stitcher works best in Chrome or Microsoft Edge on a Windows PC or Mac (Opera works the same way). Firefox and Safari work too, and your patterns are just as safe there.

What Chrome and Edge give you. Every export opens a Save window, so you choose the folder or drive. Pattern Folder keeps your patterns as files in a folder of your own. Print now opens the chart ready to print, and you choose your printer in your computer's print window. And you can install Krazy Stitcher as an app, with its own window and desktop icon.

What works differently in Firefox and Safari. Files go to your Downloads folder. To choose a folder each time, turn on Firefox's "Always ask you where to save files", or set Safari's "File download location" to "Ask for each download" (Safari Settings > General). There is no Pattern Folder, so press Save (it downloads the .ks file) and use Backup All regularly. Firefox cannot install Krazy Stitcher as an app; in Safari on a Mac, use File > Add to Dock.

Each browser keeps its own patterns. If you switch browsers, bring your work over with a backup file: Backup All in the old browser, then Restore in the new one.

A reminder. The first time you open Krazy Stitcher in Firefox or Safari, a short note lists these differences. The same information is in Help under Choosing a Browser.

Bookmark your edition. Press Ctrl+D (⌘+D on a Mac) while Krazy Stitcher is open and save the bookmark. Next time, click the bookmark and you land straight back in your edition (krazystitcher.com/KrazyStitcher.html, without www). Make the bookmark in the same browser you entered your key in: each browser keeps its own patterns and license. The first time you activate a key, a short note reminds you.

Creating Your First Pattern

1. Click **File** at the top of the screen, then click **New**.

2. Name your pattern (e.g., "My First Bracelet").

3. Choose a stitch type. Start with **Loom** — it's the simplest grid.

4. Pick a **Project Preset** (e.g., "Standard Bracelet 20×110") or set custom dimensions.

5. Click **Create Blank**. You'll see an empty grid ready for designing.

The Interface

Area	Location	What It Does
Top Toolbar	Top of screen	File operations, editing tools, color tools, toggles
Tool Panel	Left side	Drawing tools (Draw, Erase, Fill, Oval, Triangle, Diamond, etc.) and zoom controls
Canvas	Center	The main workspace where you design your pattern
Right Panel	Right side	Color palette, used colors list, saved patterns
Status Bar	Bottom	Pattern size, stitch type, bead/color count, storage

Locked buttons: Some buttons in Essentials show a padlock and are grayed out. These belong to Pro or Studio and cannot be clicked in Essentials. The Unlock More button in the row of buttons across the top shows what Pro and Studio add.

Dark and Light: The button in the row of buttons across the top that says Dark or Light switches the screen between dark and light colors. The word on the button is the one you will switch to when you click it.

Drawing Tools

Tool	Shortcut	What It Does
Draw	D	Paint beads with the selected color. Click or click-and-drag.
Erase	E	Remove beads (set cells to empty).
Fill	F	Flood-fill a contiguous region of same-colored beads.
Color Pick	I	Click any bead to make its color your active color.
1 Cell	Right-click	Change one bead to any color already in the pattern (see below).
Line	L	Click start and end points to draw a straight line.
Rectangle	R	Click and drag to draw an outlined rectangle.
Filled Rect	Shift+R	Click and drag to draw a solid filled rectangle.
Oval	O	Click and drag to define a

Tool	Shortcut	What It Does
		bounding box, then release to draw an oval outline.
Filled Oval	Shift+O	Click and drag to draw a solid filled oval/ellipse.
Triangle	G	Click and drag to define a bounding box, then release to draw a triangle outline (apex at top center).
Filled Triangle	Shift+G	Click and drag to draw a solid filled triangle.
Diamond	M	Click and drag to define a bounding box, then release to draw a diamond outline.
Filled Diamond	Shift+M	Click and drag to draw a solid filled diamond.
Select	S	Select a rectangular region. Then Copy, Paste, or Delete.
Text	T	Type text onto the canvas using a built-in pixel font. (Pro and Studio only; in Essentials the Text button is grayed out.)
Pan	Space (hold)	Drag the canvas to scroll it. Pan stays selected until you pick another tool. Hold Space and drag with any tool for temporary panning.

Example: To draw a red border around a bracelet pattern, select the Rectangle tool (R), pick red from the palette, then click the top-left corner of your pattern and drag to the bottom-right.

Change one bead (1 Cell). Click 1 Cell in the tool panel on the left (just below Pick), then click the bead you want to change. A small window opens with every color already in the pattern, each with its symbol. Click the color you want, or press the key of its symbol (for example A, 7 or @), and only that bead changes. Empty this cell clears the bead; Close or Esc leaves it as it was. With any tool, pressing the right mouse button on a bead (or holding Alt and clicking it) opens the same window. Undo takes back a one-bead change.

Highlight one color. Tick Highlight the chosen symbol on the chart, just above the Used in Pattern list, then click a color in Used in Pattern or in the palette, or click a bead with the Pick tool. Every other bead fades back and every bead of that color gets a bright outline, so stray beads are easy to spot. It changes only what you see on the screen, not the pattern or your printouts. Untick the box to turn it off; the browser remembers your choice.

Protect beads. Click Protect (the shield button) or press P. Drawing, lines, shapes and Fill then add beads only to empty spots, and the beads already there stay as they are. Fill on a bead changes nothing and says how many beads it left as they were; Fill on an empty spot fills that empty area. Erase and Remove Color are blocked until you turn Protect off. Protect stays on for the open pattern until you close Krazy Stitcher. It is not saved in the pattern file.

Photo Import & Conversion

Krazy Stitcher can convert any photograph or image into a bead pattern. Click Import Photo to open the conversion dialog.

Step-by-step: Choose an image file, set the maximum width in beads (start with 50–100 for a first try), set the maximum number of colors (10–20 is a good starting range), choose your quantization method and dithering option, then click Update Preview. When the side-by-side preview looks good, click Import. If you are not sure what to choose, click Auto-Optimize Settings and the software picks the maximum colors and dithering for you. A line under the button says what it changed (for example Max Colors 20 → 32), and Revert puts your settings back.

Quantization Methods

Median Cut — Faster. Groups similar colors together by repeatedly splitting the color space in half. Good enough for most images. Think of it as sorting all the colors into buckets by similarity.

K-Means — Slower but more accurate. Iteratively adjusts color groups to minimize the difference between original and reduced colors. Use this when color accuracy matters or when Median Cut produces muddy results.

Dithering

Floyd-Steinberg dithering simulates colors that aren't available in the reduced palette by scattering dots of nearby colors. When you reduce a photo from millions of colors down to 20, smooth gradients would turn into harsh bands of flat color. Dithering breaks up those bands by mixing dots of adjacent colors — your eye blends them at a distance, the way a newspaper photo uses tiny dots to create the illusion of continuous tone.

Example: A sunset sky fading from orange to purple might only have 3 orange/purple beads in your palette. Without dithering, you'd see three flat stripes. With dithering, the transition zone gets a scattered mix of orange and purple beads that reads as a gradient from a few feet away.

Additional Dither Algorithms

Beyond Floyd-Steinberg, Krazy Stitcher offers four additional dithering algorithms, each producing a different look for the same image.

Atkinson — Distributes only 6/8 of the error, producing sharper, higher-contrast results. Great for images with strong outlines.

Stucki — Wider 3-row diffusion kernel that produces smoother gradients than Floyd-Steinberg.

Sierra — Similar to Stucki with different weights, offering a balance between smoothness and detail.

Burkes — 2-row wide kernel that balances speed and quality.

Secondary Dither & Blend

You can now select a Secondary Dither algorithm and blend it with your primary choice using the Blend slider (0-100%). This lets you combine the strengths of two algorithms — for example, Floyd-Steinberg's detail with Atkinson's contrast. The slider controls the mix: 0% uses only the primary algorithm, 100% uses only the secondary.

Grayscale Mode

A Grayscale Mode checkbox in the Import Photo dialog restricts the bead palette to neutral colors only. Krazy Stitcher auto-detects B/W images and shows an "AUTO-DETECTED" badge. You can also enable it manually for any image to create monochrome conversions. Grayscale mode desaturates pixels and filters the palette to beads with an RGB channel spread of 35 or less.

CIEDE2000 Color Matching

Krazy Stitcher now uses CIEDE2000 perceptual color matching in the CIE Lab color space instead of simple RGB distance, producing more accurate bead color selections that better match how the human eye perceives color differences.

Image Adjustment Sliders

Brightness — Makes the overall image lighter or darker. Increase it if your photo is underexposed; decrease it if it's washed out.

Contrast — Controls the difference between light and dark areas. Higher contrast makes colors pop but can lose detail in shadows and highlights.

Saturation — Controls color intensity. Increase it to make colors more vivid; decrease to mute them toward grayscale.

Fine-tuning. Each slider has a number box next to it: type a value and press Enter. Double-click a slider, or click the ↺ button next to it, to put it back to its default. The preview updates once when you let go of a slider. Cancel and Import always stay at the bottom of the window, and on a phone the preview stays at the top while the settings scroll.

Merge stray beads. Tick Merge stray beads (it is off at first) and, as the photo converts, a single bead whose color matches none of the beads around it takes their most common color, the same rule as Cleanup. The line under the preview says how many beads changed.

> 💡 **TIP:** After importing a photo, run Cleanup to remove confetti pixels (isolated single beads). Pro and Studio also have Merge, which combines near-duplicate colors. Removing the stray beads dramatically improves the pattern.

Rebuild from a Paper Chart

Rebuild from a Paper Chart turns a paper chart you own into a Krazy Stitcher pattern, so you can bead it, track it and print it for yourself. Open it from **Tools > Rebuild from Chart**.

It reads two kinds of chart: a **word chart**, the row-by-row bead list many peyote and brick patterns print (“Row 3: 2 A, 1 C, 4 B”), and a **color chart**, a scan or photo of a printed

chart in color. Charts printed only in black and white, with a symbol in each bead, are not read: Krazy Stitcher reads colors, not symbols.

The panel has no dark backdrop, so the pattern and the chart picture stay in view while you work. At the top of the panel you see this notice:

> **Patterns you own, for your own use.** This tool turns a paper chart you own into a Krazy Stitcher pattern so you can bead it, track it and print it for yourself. The design still belongs to its designer or publisher. Please don't share, sell or teach from a rebuilt pattern unless the designer allows it.

Original pattern (optional). Type the original pattern's **Title** and **Designer** if you like, up to 120 characters each. Krazy Stitcher keeps them with your pattern and shows them in Pattern Notes. The title is also used as the name of the new pattern.

A word chart

A word chart is read exactly, with no color guessing. Click **Type or paste a word chart...** to open the word chart window. Paste the chart into the box there, rows and key together, or click **Open a text file...** to open a .txt file. A word chart looks like this:

```
Row 1 (L): 2 A, 1 C, 4 B
Row 2 (R): 3 B, 4 A
A = DB-0010 Black
B = DB-0200 White
C = DB-0723 Red
```

Rows. Each row starts with Row, R, Rnd or Round and its number (or just "3:"). The label can carry (L) or (R), an arrow, or the row's bead total, such as (14). Beads can be written "2 A", "2A", "2xA", "A x2" or "A(2)", or as a letter alone for one bead.

The key. Lines such as "A = DB-0010 Black" are read for you. The Key list shows each letter with its bead number and a check mark when Krazy Stitcher finds the bead; you can type or fix a number there, and choose the brand under **Bead numbers are**. Bead numbers can be written in any common way: DB-0010, DB10 and db 0010 are the same bead.

Rows are read sets the direction of the rows: as each row is marked (L or R, arrows), all left to right, or turning (first row left to right, then back). If no row is marked L or R, every row is read left to right, and Krazy Stitcher tells you so.

Warnings. Under the preview, Krazy Stitcher lists anything worth checking: a row that is missing or listed twice, a row whose stated total differs from the beads it lists, a row with a different number of beads from most rows, text it could not read, a letter used in the rows but not in the key (often two letters run together: "2A3B" should be "2 A, 3 B"), and a letter that differs from the key only in capitals. Two rows listed together, such as "Row 1&2" at the start of many peyote charts, are put in one row: check the preview, and if needed split the line into two rows.

No bead number? A letter with no bead number, or with a number Krazy Stitcher cannot find, gets a placeholder color named, for example, "Key Q (no bead number)". Set it afterward with Confirm the key or Replace Color.

Check the **Pattern name** (the original title is filled in if you typed one) and the **Preview**, then click **Make the pattern**.

A color chart

For a scan or photo of a color chart, Krazy Stitcher reads the color in the middle of each bead, then you confirm the beads from the pattern's key. Work down the numbered steps in the panel:

1. Make a pattern the size of the chart. Count the beads across and down on the chart, enter the **Width** and **Height**, choose the **Stitch** (Loom, Square stitch, Peyote or Brick stitch) and click **New pattern for this chart**. You can also use the pattern that is open.

2. Load the chart picture. Click **Load picture** and choose the scan or photo of the page. It opens as the Trace picture behind the grid.

3. Line it up. Click **Adjust** and move, size and turn the picture until the chart's grid sits on the pattern's grid.

4. Read colors from the picture. Choose the **Beads** brand to match, how to group the colors under **Colors** (Keep similar colors together, Keep more colors together, or Keep every color apart), and whether **White spots are empty** (on at first). Click **Read colors**. Krazy Stitcher reads the middle of every bead, so the chart's grid lines and most of a printed symbol are left out, and it follows the offset rows of peyote and brick. A message says how many beads and colors it read.

5. Confirm the key. Click **Confirm the key…** to open its window. It lists each color in the pattern, most used first, with how many beads it has. Type the bead number from the pattern's key (for example DB-0010); Krazy Stitcher checks it as you type. Tick **Empty** for a color that is really the paper. Two colors given the same number become one; leave a row blank to keep it as it is. Click **Use these beads**. If the pattern's key lists bead numbers, this step gives you the designer's exact beads instead of colors read from paper.

Undo. Each step can be undone. Read colors and Confirm the key are each one Undo step, which also puts back the color key, bead numbers and names.

Charts on several pages. Rebuild each page as its own pattern. Joining pages into one pattern is in Pro and Studio.

Where it came from. Krazy Stitcher marks a rebuilt pattern "Rebuilt from a scanned chart" so you remember where it came from. The line is at the top of Pattern Notes (click **Notes**), with the original title and designer if you typed them, for example "Rebuilt from a scanned chart. Original pattern: [title] by [designer]." You can add or change the **Title** and **Designer** there. The mark and the credit are saved with the pattern.

Most pattern designers and magazines allow copies for your own use and don't allow sharing or selling them; check the terms printed on your pattern.

Color Management Tools

Recolor (Pro and Studio only) — Replaces every instance of one color with another across the entire pattern. Useful for trying different color schemes without redrawing.

Merge (Pro and Studio only) — Combines two similar colors into one. After photo import, you often end up with colors that look almost identical — merging simplifies your palette.

Cleanup (Confetti Removal) — Finds isolated single beads that are surrounded entirely by a different color and replaces them with the majority neighbor color. These "confetti pixels" are common artifacts of photo conversion.

Remap Palette (Pro and Studio only; there it is now called Quick Remap) — Converts all colors in your pattern to the nearest match in a different bead brand. Designed in Miyuki but want to stitch with Toho? One click.

Brand Swap (Pro and Studio only) — Converts a whole pattern to another bead brand and rates every color. In Essentials, Brand Swap sits next to Remap in the Tools menu, with a padlock. Click it to see a sample: three real rows from our data, Miyuki Delica to Mill Hill, not worked out from your pattern. It also says how many of your pattern's colors have bead numbers that Brand Swap could check in Pro or Studio. Get Pro or Studio opens the editions page. Essentials does not rate or change any colors here.

Alternate Colors and Older Delica Numbers

Every bead from a brand with color data (Delica, TOHO, Preciosa, Miyuki Rocailles, Matsuno and Mill Hill) has an alternate color. The alternate is the nearest other bead of the same brand that your pattern does not already use. A bead with the same finish comes first. Use it when the first bead is hard to get.

Where you see it. The alternate is shown under each color in Bead Count. Alternate colors (view or print), under Used in Pattern and in Bead Count, opens one list of every color in the pattern: its symbol, the bead, the bead count, the alternate, how close it is, and a Use button. Print list prints only the list, headed "Alternate colors for:" and the pattern name.

Use ... instead. An alternate never goes on your pattern, its charts, PDFs or lists until you choose it. Click Use ... instead to put the alternate in place of the original bead in the whole pattern. The original bead number is then replaced on the bead count, so the bead count follows. One Undo puts the original bead back.

How good is an alternate? Every alternate is a best estimate, based on our color conversion standard. It is rated like our conversion charts: Excellent, Good, Fair or Poor. A bead of a different finish is labeled (for example "different finish: matte") and is never rated better than Fair. When a bead of a different finish is clearly closer, the list shows it as a second choice with its own button. Most Delica alternates rate Fair: they are beads you can buy as a substitute, not identical beads. Compare the beads side by side in daylight before you buy.

No alternate. Custom colors, the Generic palette, custom palettes and beads whose color you have edited get no alternate.

Older Delica numbers. Some older Delica numbers have colors estimated from the bead's name, not taken from photos of the beads. Krazy Stitcher matches with the 446 Delica colors that come from bead photos. An older number is only offered as a Second choice, never as the first pick. A pattern that uses an older number keeps it and gets one short note at the start of its color list, bead count, shopping list and printed reports; there is no "approx." mark next to each bead. Use ... instead swaps an older number for the nearest photo-based bead.

In the Help panel, the section Older Delica colors, and how we see color explains more, and why everyone sees color a little differently.

Transform Tools

Mirror — Flips the pattern left-to-right (horizontal mirror). Build one half of a symmetric design, then mirror it.

Flip — Flips the pattern top-to-bottom (vertical flip).

Rotate — Rotates the pattern 90° clockwise. The width and height swap.

Export Options

Format	Button	Best For
PDF	Export PDF	Printing. Includes color grid with symbols, legend, and bead count summary. Dark grid lines, a bold line every 10th row and column, and a color key that fits the page.
PNG	Export PNG	Sharing previews online, embedding in documents.
Text Chart	Text Chart	Printed row-by-row instructions with symbol mapping. Read one row at a time while stitching.
.ks File	Save File	Backup or sharing the raw pattern data. Can be loaded back into Krazy Stitcher.
.ksp Package	Share / Archive	Complete package with all of the above in one zip file. Best for sharing or long-term storage.

Offset stitches: peyote, brick, spiral, netting and the other offset stitches export the way the screen shows them, with every row or column in its staggered place, in the PDF and printed chart and the PNG and Hi-Res PNG pictures. The bold line every 10 rows and columns steps along the bead edges instead of cutting through beads, on the screen as well as in the exports.

See-through PNG. File > Export PNG, See-Through saves the bead picture with no background, so empty spots are see-through. Use it for mockups and shop pictures. The file is named after the pattern, ending in “- see-through.png”. With a Pro license, the High-Resolution PNG window also has a See-through background box; it leaves out the background, grid and symbols, and is remembered. Some photo viewers and older programs show see-through areas as black; web browsers show them correctly.

In the PDF, the thin grid lines are dark enough to read easily, and every 10th row and column has a bold black line so the 10 × 10 blocks stand out. The color key fits on the page, and a very long bead name ends in "..." instead of running into the next column.

Printing Big Patterns

See the page count first. The Print... window has a Pages box that says how many pages the PDF will have, for example "Prints on 7 pages: 6 chart pages (2 across × 3 down), plus 1 color key page. Cells 4.9 mm." It changes as you change the cell size, paper, orientation or any other setting.

Fit to pages. Choose Fit to, then type how many pages across and down you want. Krazy Stitcher works out the cell size. If the pattern cannot fit that small, the window says so and suggests more pages, bigger paper or a page range.

Print only some pages. Type the first and last chart page in Print chart pages, for example the part you are beading now. Leave both boxes empty to print every page. The color key always prints, and each chart page is labeled "Page 3 of 24" so the pages stay in order.

Join the pages. When a chart prints on more than one page, each page that continues another has a dashed gray cut line along its left or top edge, with a thin gray strip on the side you cut away, and a note at the bottom says which page it goes over. Cut along the line, lay the page over the one before it so the beads line up, and tape from the back. For peyote, brick and the other offset stitches the line steps along the bead edges, so no bead is cut. Page Overlap of 1 or 2 makes lining up easy: the repeated beads are shaded light gray and sit on top of the same beads on the page before. It all prints in black and white. To leave the lines out, untick Cut lines for joining pages.

Small cells. Symbols are easiest to bead from at 14 pt cells (4.9 mm), the size Export PDF uses. Between 6 pt and 10 pt (2.1 to 3.5 mm) the window adds a gentle note that the symbols are small but can be read; below 6 pt it warns you, because they are too small to bead from. Full Color cells smaller than about 1.8 mm are fine for an overview but hard to bead from.

No surprise stacks of paper. Any PDF over 30 pages asks before it is made. Export PDF on its own opens the Print... window instead of downloading when the pattern would print on more than 30 pages. When you Share such a pattern, the package holds a one-page overview and the color key instead of the full chart; the pattern file inside is complete, so the full chart can still be printed from Print....

Before you import a photo. Under Max Width in the Import Photo window, Krazy Stitcher shows about how many pages the new pattern would print on at the standard size, and updates it as you change the width.

Please re-print older charts made with the key on page 1. Before this version, a PDF with Legend Placement set to "Same page" (or "Auto", when it put the key on page 1) could leave out a strip of rows below the first page. Every row prints now.

Krazy Stitcher Pro and Studio add Smart Print (a page map, and printing just the area you selected), and Studio adds the Pattern Package and booklet.

Saving and Printing

Save where you want. In Chrome and Edge, every export (PDFs, pictures, the Word chart, bead lists, backups) opens a Save window. Choose the folder or drive, such as

Documents, a USB stick, or a Dropbox, Google Drive or OneDrive folder, and the file name. Each kind of file remembers the last folder you used. Cancel saves nothing.

Next to your patterns. If you use a Pattern Folder, tick “Start in my Pattern Folder” in the Print… window and the Save window opens in that folder, so a pattern’s PDF sits beside its .ks file.

Back to Downloads. To send files straight to your Downloads folder as before, untick “Ask where to save each file” in the Print… window. In Firefox and Safari, files go to Downloads unless you turn on the browser’s own “ask where to save” setting (see Choosing a Browser).

Print now. The Print now button in the Print… window makes the same PDF and opens it in a new tab. Click its printer icon to open your computer’s print window, where you choose the printer, the number of copies and two-sided printing. The chart opens in a new tab: click its printer icon (or press Ctrl+P, ⌘P on a Mac) and choose your printer.

Actual size. In the print window, set Scale to Actual size (100%), not “Fit to page”, so each bead prints at its real size, and make sure the paper size matches the paper in the printer.

Symbols fit their beads. Each symbol in the PDF is sized to its cell and centered in it, so symbols no longer spill into the next bead in small cells or look lost in big ones.

Sharing, Archiving & Importing

The .ksp Package Format

A .ksp (Krazy Stitcher Package) file is a zip archive that bundles everything related to a pattern into one file:

File Inside the Package	What It Is
PatternName.ks	Full pattern data — grid, colors, dimensions, color map
PatternName.png	PNG preview image of the pattern
PatternName.pdf	Print-ready PDF with grid, symbols, legend, and bead counts
PatternName - Word Chart.txt	Row-by-row text chart with run-length instructions
PatternName - Bead Count.csv	Spreadsheet-ready bead count data
metadata.json	Pattern name, type, dimensions, date, version info

> 💡 **TIP:** A .ksp file is just a zip file with a different extension. Anyone can rename it to .zip and extract the PNG or PDF, even without Krazy Stitcher.

Sharing a Pattern

1. Open the pattern you want to share.

2. Click ✉️ **Share** in the toolbar.

3. Choose **Share via…** (uses your device's share menu) or **Download .ksp File** (saves to your computer).

Send the .ksp file via email, messaging, forum upload, or any other method. The recipient opens it with Load File in Krazy Stitcher.

Archiving a Pattern

Archiving exports a .ksp package and removes the pattern from your browser's local storage. Think of it as "save to disk and shelve."

1. Click the 📦 Archive button in the toolbar (for the current pattern) or the 📦 icon next to any pattern in the sidebar.

2. Confirm. The .ksp file downloads, and the pattern is removed from browser storage.

> **NOTE:** Once archived, the pattern is no longer in your browser; it lives in the downloaded .ksp file (if you use a pattern folder, its .ks file is moved into the folder's _deleted folder, not erased). Store the .ksp somewhere safe — a dedicated folder, cloud backup, or external drive.

Importing a Pattern

To load a pattern from someone else, or to restore an archived pattern:

1. Click **Load File** in the toolbar.

2. Select a .ksp, .ks, or .json file.

3. The pattern is imported with a new unique ID — it won't overwrite anything.

Format Compatibility with Other Software

There is no universal standard file format for bead patterns. Every beading program uses its own proprietary format — BeadTool uses an internal database, Beadographer is web-only, JBead uses .jbb (bead crochet only), and so on.

Because of this, .ksp files can only be fully opened by Krazy Stitcher. However, every package includes a PNG image and a print-ready PDF, so recipients can always see the pattern. To work with a Krazy Stitcher pattern in a different tool, import the PNG using that tool's photo-import feature.

Calculators & Utilities

Bead Count (Counts button) — A table showing every color in your pattern with its symbol, its ID, how many beads you need, and the percentage of the total. Click a column heading to sort by that column. Colors used fewer than a threshold number of times are highlighted — these are candidates for merging or removing. A tip at the bottom of the window says: "Tip: click a symbol to choose a different one for that color." (see Choosing Your Own Symbols).

Finished Size Calculator (Size button) — Shows the real-world dimensions of your finished piece in centimeters and inches. Select your bead type (or enter custom bead dimensions) and the calculator accounts for the exact width and height of each bead.

Difficulty Score (Score button, Pro and Studio only) — Rates your pattern from 0 to 100 based on size, color count, color changes per row, confetti pixel percentage, and stitch

type complexity. Useful for gauging whether a design is appropriate for a beginner or requires advanced skills.

Choosing Your Own Symbols

Each color in your pattern is marked with its own symbol. Symbols come in two styles, and you choose the style for each pattern: Classic shapes (118 pictures such as circles, squares and stars; the default) or Easy to read (numbers, letters and keyboard symbols such as 1, A and @, followed by shapes). A symbol repeats only if a pattern has more colors than its style has symbols: 118 for Classic shapes, 206 for Easy to read. Unless you choose otherwise, symbols are handed out in the order colors first appear when you read the pattern from left to right, starting with the top row. The same symbol shows for a color in the Used in Pattern list, in the Bead Count table, on the chart, and in the PDF.

To see the symbols on the chart, check the **Symbols** box in the row of buttons across the top. The **B&W Chart** box next to it shows white squares with black symbols only, like a printed working chart, and shows the symbols even when the Symbols box is not checked.

Easy to read symbols. To switch the open pattern, click Tools, then Symbols, and under Symbols for this pattern choose Easy to read (the same choice is at the top of the small symbol window). Choose Classic shapes to go back. Tick Use Easy to read symbols for new patterns to start every new pattern that way. Easy to read hands out the clearest numbers, letters and keyboard symbols first, then the numbers 11 to 20 (used when a pattern has 80 or more colors), then shapes. Switching resets any symbols you picked by hand for that pattern; Undo brings them back.

When colors share a symbol. Classic symbols cover 118 colors and Easy to read symbols 206. A pattern with more colors than its symbol set has to use some symbols twice. Used in Pattern then lists each shared symbol and its colors. When Easy to read symbols would give every color its own, a button switches to them. The chart key adds a line saying some symbols are shared, and the export commands remind you, at most once a minute.

To choose a different symbol for a color:

1. Open the symbol window in one of two ways. Either click the symbol square at the start of the color's row in the **Bead Count** table, or press the right mouse button on the color's square in the **Used in Pattern** list on the right side of the screen. If you use the keyboard instead, move to the square with the Tab key and press Shift+Enter.

2. A small window opens with the name "Symbol for" and the color's ID and name. It shows all the symbols. A small dot marks the symbols that another color is already using.

3. Click the symbol you want. The window closes and the new symbol shows right away. If another color already had that symbol, the two colors trade symbols.

4. To go back to the automatic symbol, open the window again and click **Automatic**. Automatic is grayed out until you have chosen a symbol for that color.

5. To close the window without changing anything, click **Close** or press the Esc key.

Your choices are saved with the pattern, and are kept if you duplicate the pattern or save it and open it again. To take back a symbol change, click Undo in the Edit list at the top or press Ctrl+Z on the keyboard. Undo takes back the most recent thing you did first. If you

traded symbols with another color, one Undo puts both colors back. You can also use **Automatic** to go back. The Text Chart is plain text, so how its symbols look depends on the fonts of the program that opens it.

There is also a list of every color in the open pattern with its symbol. Click Tools at the top, then click Symbols in the list that opens. Click a symbol square in the list to choose a different symbol for that color; the end of each row says Automatic or Your choice. Click Reset to Default to give every color its automatic symbol again (Undo takes the reset back). Click Done to close the list. This list is not the same thing as the Symbols box in the row of buttons across the top.

Three of the older symbols (a crosshair, a curved line and a half-circle outline) were replaced with clearer shapes, so those three look different in patterns made before October 7, 2026. All other symbols are unchanged.

Bead Shape

Real beads are rarely square. A Delica, for example, sits a little taller than it is wide in loom work, so a chart drawn with square beads can look squat next to the finished piece. Bead Shape draws every bead on the chart in the shape of the beads you stitch with. Your design and your bead counts never change; only the way the chart is drawn.



Figure: the same design drawn with four different bead shapes. Only the drawing changes; the pattern and the bead counts stay the same.

Open it: click Tools at the top of the screen, then Bead Shape (it sits next to Size). You can also click the Bead shape label at the bottom of the screen. That label only shows when the open pattern is not square.

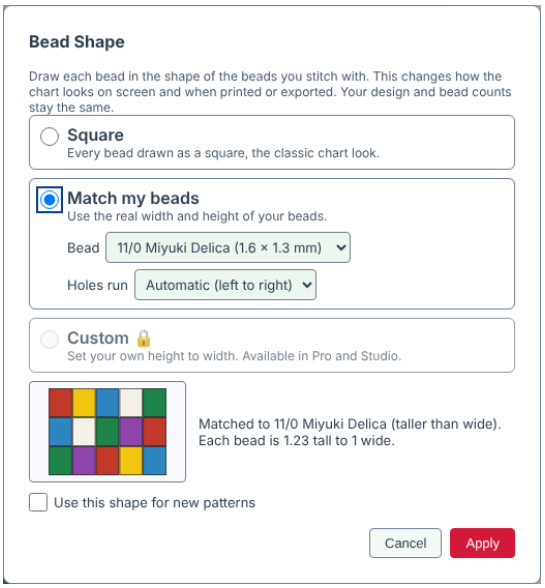


Figure: the Bead Shape window. Custom is locked in Pattern Maker and available in Pro and Studio.

Square: the classic chart look. Every pattern starts square unless you choose otherwise.

Match my beads: choose your bead from the list, such as 11/0 Miyuki Delica or 11/0 Toho Aiko. The small picture in the window shows the shape before you apply it. Round beads always draw square.

Holes run: for loom and square stitch you choose; Automatic draws the holes left to right, the way a loom is woven. For every other stitch the stitch decides, and the window simply says which way: brick charts draw the holes left to right, peyote and gourd charts up and down. Stitches such as herringbone and right angle weave stay square, because their beads sit at angles. If your piece really is different, tick Different on your piece? Choose it yourself, then pick Left to right or Up and down.

Custom: your own height to width, available in Pro and Studio. A Custom pattern made in Pro or Studio still opens, shows and prints correctly in Essentials.

Use this shape for new patterns: tick this box and every new pattern starts with the same shape. Each time a new pattern picks up the saved shape, a short message says so, so a shape is never carried over by accident.

Reset to Square: one click puts the open pattern back to square beads and turns off the new-pattern setting.

What uses the shape: the canvas, PDF and printed charts, PNG and Hi-Res PNG pictures, the 3D preview, and the Finished Size calculator. Bead Shape changes can be undone with Undo or Ctrl+Z. The small pictures in the Saved Patterns list stay square.

TIP: If a new pattern looks stretched or squashed, look for the Bead shape label at the bottom of the screen, or open Bead Shape and click Reset to Square.

Reader Mode and the Phone View

Reader Mode. Click Tools, then Reader Mode, to follow your pattern one row at a time in big type: the row number (for example Row 4 of 30), how much is done, the row's beads in stitching order and their colors in words. Next and Previous (or the arrow keys) move

the Row/Round Progress Counter in the corner of the chart, so the counter, the highlight on the chart and the Progress Picture always agree, and your place is saved with the pattern. After the last row it says All rows done. Esc or Close goes back.

Phone view. On a phone, Krazy Stitcher opens a simple page instead of the full editor. Choose a saved pattern in the Pattern list at the top, or Open a pattern file, then use the big buttons: Follow my pattern (Reader Mode), Show my design (a full-screen picture of the pattern and the Progress Picture) and What to buy (Bead Count). Nothing on this page changes your pattern. Open the full editor anyway switches to the editor, and this browser remembers it; the Phone view button at the top of the editor brings the phone view back. Tablets and computers always open the full editor.

Scroll-Zoom Lock

Click the lock icon in the left toolbar (below the zoom buttons) to prevent accidental zooming when scrolling the mouse wheel. The icon changes to show the unlocked state. Click again to re-enable scroll zoom.

View Lock

View Lock (📌) — Locks both panning AND zooming, preventing any accidental repositioning of your pattern. When engaged, scroll-zoom is also automatically locked. Click the pushpin icon again to unlock.

Touch & Pen Support

All drawing tools respond to touch and digitizer pen (stylus) input alongside traditional mouse input. No setup is required. Touch the canvas or use your stylus to draw, erase, fill, and interact with all tools.

Pan Tool

Select the Pan tool, then drag the canvas to scroll it. Pan stays selected until you pick another tool. To pan for a moment without changing tools, hold Space and drag with any tool; when you let go of Space you are back on the tool you were using.

Save Patterns to a Folder

> Krazy Stitcher never stores your patterns. Keep them safe in your own Dropbox, Google Drive or OneDrive folder, and they follow you to any browser or computer.

Krazy Stitcher can keep each pattern as its own file, named after the pattern (for example "Sunflower Cuff.ks"), in a folder you choose. You can see the files, back them up, and open them from any browser that uses the same folder.

Choosing Your Folder

1. Press **Save** (or Ctrl+S). The first time, a window asks "Where should your patterns be saved?"
2. Click **Choose folder...** and pick a folder, or make a new one, for example Documents\Bead Patterns.

3. Leave **Also copy the patterns already saved in this browser** ticked to put your existing patterns in the folder too.
From then on, every pattern is saved in that folder. Changes are written automatically a moment after you make them, and right away when you press **Save**.
Keeping patterns on every computer: Choose a folder inside Dropbox, Google Drive, OneDrive or iCloud Drive (with that service's desktop app installed), or a network drive. Your cloud service copies the files to your other computers. Krazy Stitcher never sees or receives them.
Using a second browser: Each browser remembers your folder separately. In the other browser, open **File > Pattern Folder…** and choose the same folder once. Your patterns appear there too.

The File Menu

These commands are in the **File** menu at the top of the screen:

- **Save As…** saves a copy of the pattern under a new name, as a new file. The original stays as it is.
- **Open from Folder…** lists the patterns in your folder. Type to filter, then click one to open it. **Other file…** opens a pattern from anywhere else.
- **Pattern Folder…** shows which folder you are using. From here you can change it, read it again (**Refresh from folder**), copy patterns that are only in this browser into it, or stop using it.

Good to Know

- If the same pattern was changed on two computers before they synced, Krazy Stitcher keeps both. The other computer's version appears as "Pattern name (from other computer)".
- Deleting a pattern (also **Clear All** and **Archive**) moves its file into a "_deleted" folder inside your pattern folder. Krazy Stitcher never erases a pattern file; empty _deleted yourself when you are sure.
- Your browser may ask again for permission to use the folder after a restart. Click **Allow** when Krazy Stitcher asks. In Chrome, choosing "Allow on every visit" stops the question.
- Custom palettes and bead inventory are not saved in the folder. Keep using **Backup All** for those.
- Renaming a pattern keeps its file name. Use **Save As…** for a file with the new name.
- Which browsers: Chrome, Edge and Opera on a computer save straight into the folder. Firefox, Safari, iPhone, iPad and Android cannot; there, **Save** also downloads the pattern as a .ks file, and **Open from Folder…** lets you pick a .ks file.

Backup and Restore All Data

Click Backup All in the toolbar to export every pattern, custom palette, and bead inventory item as a single .ksbackup file — your complete workspace snapshot. Store the file somewhere safe (an external drive, or a folder that syncs to a cloud service like Google Drive, Dropbox, or OneDrive). Krazy Stitcher does not upload or sync anything on its own; if you want an off-device copy, you save it there yourself.

To restore, click Restore in the toolbar and select your .ksbackup file. Existing patterns are preserved — if the backup contains a pattern with the same ID, the backup copy overwrites it. Create a backup before clearing your browser data or switching computers.

Moving Your Patterns to a New Computer

Your patterns are always kept in this browser on this computer. If you choose a pattern folder (Chrome, Edge, Opera), each one is also kept as a .ks file in that folder, which survives clearing your browser and can be shared with your other browsers and computers. Without a pattern folder, clearing your browser's data or switching browsers or computers loses them, so use **Backup All** regularly.
With a pattern folder in Dropbox, Google Drive or OneDrive: Install that service on the new computer, open Krazy Stitcher, choose **File > Pattern Folder...** and pick the same folder. Your patterns appear. Custom palettes and inventory are not in the folder, so still use **Backup All** and **Restore** for those.
Without a pattern folder: Use Backup All and Restore as before:
1. On the old computer, open Krazy Stitcher and click **Backup All**. A file named KrazyStitcher-Backup-YYYY-MM-DD.ksbackup lands in your downloads folder.
2. Copy that file to the new computer. A USB stick, an email to yourself, or a cloud folder such as OneDrive, Dropbox, or Google Drive all work.
3. On the new computer, open Krazy Stitcher, enter your license key if asked, and click **Restore**.
4. Pick the .ksbackup file and confirm. Every pattern, custom palette, and inventory item comes across.
Just one pattern? If you saved a pattern as a .ksp file (Share, then Download .ksp File, or Archive) or a .ks file, copy that file to the new computer and open it with **Load File**. A password-protected .ksp asks for its password when you open it.
Where are my .ksp files? Only where you saved them. A .ksp exists only once you create one, and it goes wherever your browser saves downloads, usually your Downloads folder. If you chose a pattern folder, each pattern is also kept there as a .ks file (see Save Patterns to a Folder).
App looks out of date, or no place to enter your license key? Your browser is showing an older saved copy of the app. Add ?v=2 to the end of the web address, for example https://krazystitcher.com/KrazyStitcher.html?v=2, and press Enter. If that doesn't fix it, click Backup All first to protect your patterns, then clear this site's data in your browser settings (search krazystitcher under Cookies and site data) and reload.
Your license covers up to 3 computers you own, so the same license key works on the new machine.

Commercial Use

Krazy Stitcher Essentials includes commercial-use rights: you may sell finished crafts and individual patterns you create with the software, with no royalties or recurring fees. Krazy Stitcher Studio additionally includes the right to bulk/wholesale distribution and to publish pattern collections or books. See the Commercial Use License at krazystitcher.com for the full terms.

Search Help and Tools (Ctrl+K)

Press Ctrl+K (Cmd+K on a Mac), or click **Search** at the top of the window, and type what you are looking for. Typing mistakes are fine ("colr pallete" finds the palette tools), and everyday words work too ("eraser", "dropbox", "miyuki").

- **Go there** opens the menu the tool is in and points to it. It does not run anything for you; drawing tools are also selected.
- **Help** opens the help at that topic.
- Use the arrow keys to move through the results and Enter to choose. Esc closes the search.

Tools that come with Pro or Studio appear grayed out with a lock and a line saying "Available in Pro and Studio" or "Available in Studio". Click **About it** to read what the tool does.
Search finds whole sections. Search looks through every paragraph of the help, not only the first one. For example, type “alternate” to find Alternate colors.

Search this Help and the Help Index

The Help panel has its own search box at the top, **Search this Help**. Type a word or two and the panel shows only the topics, items and keyboard shortcuts that match. A line under the box says how many it found, for example “12 matches in 4 topics.”, or “No matches in this Help.”

Typing mistakes and everyday words work here too, just as in the Ctrl+K search: “rubber” finds the Eraser. Press **Enter** to go to the first match, and **Esc** to clear the search and show the whole panel again.

- **Search tools too** sends the same words to the Ctrl+K search, so you can go straight to the tool itself.
- **Index: topics and features A–Z**, just under the box, opens a list of every Help topic and every feature, sorted A to Z, with letters to jump to. Click a name to go to it; the item is highlighted in the panel.

The index is built from your edition’s own Help, so it lists only the features your edition has.

Keyboard Shortcuts

Key	Action
D	Draw tool
E	Erase tool
F	Fill tool
I	Color picker
L	Line tool
R	Rectangle
Shift+R	Filled rectangle
O	Oval (outline)
Shift+O	Filled oval
G	Triangle (outline)
Shift+G	Filled triangle
M	Diamond (outline)
Shift+M	Filled diamond

Key	Action
S	Select tool
T	Text tool
Ctrl+Z	Undo
Ctrl+Y	Redo
Ctrl+C	Copy selection
Ctrl+V	Paste selection
Ctrl+S	Save
Ctrl+K	Search help and tools (Cmd+K on a Mac)
Delete	Clear selection
+	Zoom in
–	Zoom out
Home	Zoom to fit
Space (hold)	Pan mode
Ctrl+Shift+B	Report a bug or request a feature
P	Protect beads (draw only on empty spots)

What's New in Krazy Stitcher Essentials (November 2026)

This chapter lists what was added since the last edition of this guide. Each tool is also described in the Help panel inside the app (press Ctrl+K and type its name).

New in version 1.4.101 (November 3, 2026)

Rebuild from a Paper Chart. Tools > Rebuild from Chart turns a paper chart you own into a pattern. A word chart ("Row 3: 2 A, 1 C, 4 B") is read exactly, with its key. For a scanned or photographed color chart, Krazy Stitcher reads the color in the middle of each bead, then you confirm the beads from the pattern's key. Each step can be undone, and the pattern is marked "Rebuilt from a scanned chart" in Pattern Notes. See Rebuild from a Paper Chart.

New in version 1.4.100 (November 2, 2026)

Search this Help. A search box at the top of the Help panel shows only the topics, items and keyboard shortcuts that match, even with typing mistakes. Search tools too sends the same words to the Ctrl+K search. See Search this Help and the Help Index.

Help Index. Index: topics and features A–Z, under the search box, lists every Help topic and every feature. Click one to go to it.

New in version 1.4.99 (November 2, 2026)

Brand Swap preview. Brand Swap, a Pro and Studio tool, now shows in the Tools menu next to Remap, with a padlock. Click it to see a sample of what it does (three real rows from our data, Miyuki Delica to Mill Hill, not worked out from your pattern), how many of your colors it could recognize by their bead numbers, and a Get Pro or Studio link. Essentials does not rate or change any colors here. See Color Management Tools.

Search finds whole sections. Search looks through every paragraph of the help, not only the first one. For example, type "alternate" to find Alternate colors.

New in version 1.4.98

Alternate colors for every bead. Every bead from a brand with color data now has an alternate: the nearest other bead of the same brand that your pattern does not already use, the same finish first. You see it under each color in Bead Count. Alternates are a best estimate, based on our conversion standard, rated like our charts; most Delica alternates rate Fair, a bead you can buy as a substitute, not an identical one. Custom colors and Generic get none. See Alternate Colors and Older Delica Numbers.

A printable Alternate Colors list. Alternate colors (view or print), under Used in Pattern and in Bead Count lists every color with its alternate. Print list prints just the list.

Use ... instead. Choose an alternate and it replaces the original bead in the whole pattern and on the bead count. One Undo puts it back. Alternates never go on your charts unless you use them.

Colorways stay in step. Colorways kept in a file from Pro or Studio now follow when you change a color with Use … instead.

New in version 1.4.97

Protect beads. Click Protect (the shield button) or press P, and the drawing tools fill only empty spots. See Drawing Tools.

See-through PNG. File > Export PNG, See-Through saves the bead picture with a see-through (transparent) background, for mockups. With a Pro license, the High-Resolution PNG window has a See-through background box too.

A warning when colors share a symbol. When a pattern has more colors than its symbol set, Used in Pattern names each shared symbol and its colors, and the chart key says some symbols are shared.

New in version 1.4.96

15 Delica colors back to their earlier colors. Our beader checked the 15 Delica colors that changed in version 1.4.94 against her own beads and retailer bead photos, and preferred the earlier color for all 15 (for example DB0001 and DB0162). They are back. Your saved patterns keep their colors.

New in version 1.4.95

Older Delica numbers become a second choice. Automatic matching uses only the 446 Delica colors that come from bead photos. An older Delica number, whose color is estimated from its name, is offered only as a Second choice. There are no “approx.” marks any more: a pattern that uses an older number gets one short note at the start of its color list, bead count and printed reports.

Undo keeps bead numbers and names. Undo and Redo after Use … instead now bring back each color’s bead number and name, not just the color.

How we see color. A new Help section, Older Delica colors, and how we see color, explains the older numbers and why everyone sees color a little differently.

New in version 1.4.94

Bead colors match our charts. The TOHO, Mill Hill and Delica palettes now use the same colors as our conversion charts: for example 29 TOHO colors were corrected, and 9 Mill Hill beads are now filed as metal finishes.

My Matches reads old DMC spellings. Pins saved as DMC 5200 or White are read as B5200 and Blanc, so they work again.

Easier with a keyboard and screen reader. The palette and Used in Pattern are one Tab stop each: use the arrow keys to move and Enter or Space to pick. Saved patterns now open from the keyboard. Screen readers read out the row in Reader Mode and the row count in the Row Tracker. Dark mode has better contrast for links, help headings and the help search.

New in version 1.4.93

Works offline after your first visit. Everything the app needs now comes from krazystitcher.com, so after you have opened it once while online you can open it, make and save patterns, export, print and import photos with no internet connection. See Working offline under Getting Started. The Photo Converter does not work offline.

Import Photo is easier to fine-tune. Brightness, Contrast, Saturation and Blend each have a number box, the preview updates once when you let go of a slider, and double-clicking a slider (or clicking its ↺ button) puts it back. Cancel and Import stay at the bottom of the window, and the preview is bigger.

Auto-Optimize says what it changed. A line under the button lists what it changed, and Revert puts your settings back.

Merge stray beads. A new box in Import Photo, off until you tick it: single beads that match none of their neighbors take the neighbors' most common color, so photos come out cleaner. The preview says how many beads changed.

Every-10 lines follow the beads. On peyote, brick and the other offset stitches, the bold line every 10 beads now steps along the bead edges on the screen too, the same as in your printed and exported patterns. Square stitches look exactly as before.

Callouts stay with a copy. Duplicate keeps the callouts of a pattern that came from Studio, so they are still there when the copy is opened in Studio.

New in version 1.4.92

Easy to read numbers 11 to 20. The Easy to read symbols now include the numbers 11 to 20. A pattern with more than 79 colors uses them before any shapes, so patterns with 79 colors or fewer look exactly as before. Word and text charts write them as plain numbers.

Phone view polish. On a phone, the Progress Picture's Save Picture and Close buttons stay on screen while the picture scrolls, and the backup reminder no longer covers the phone view.

New in version 1.4.91

Phone view. On a phone, Krazy Stitcher opens a page made for the phone instead of the full editor, with big buttons for Follow my pattern (Reader Mode), Show my design (a full-screen picture and the Progress Picture) and What to buy (Bead Count). See Reader Mode and the Phone View.

Reader Mode. Tools > Reader Mode shows one row at a time in big type, with that row's beads in stitching order and their colors in words, and big Previous and Next buttons that move the Row/Round Progress Counter.

Progress Picture follows the counter. The rows you have counted as done with the Row/Round Progress Counter show in full color.

Windows fit a phone screen. Bead Count and the other windows are no longer cut off on a narrow screen.

New in version 1.4.90

TIFF photos. Import Photo, and dropping a photo on the window, now take TIFF files (.tif, .tiff): color or gray, 8 or 16 bits, uncompressed, LZW or PackBits. A TIFF with several pages uses its first page and says so. A TIFF that cannot be read (for example JPEG-compressed, CMYK or very large) is refused with a message, and nothing is imported.

Open format files. Patterns saved in the published Krazy Stitcher open pattern format (Export Open Format (.json) in Pro and Studio, or another program that writes it) open with Load File, like a .ks file. The format is described at krazystitcher.com/KrazyStitcher-OpenFormat.html. A file from a newer version of Krazy Stitcher opens with a note.

Callouts and colorways are kept. When a pattern has parts Essentials has no tool for, such as callouts from Studio or colorways from Pro and Studio, they stay in the pattern and the message after loading says so. Callouts stay on the right beads when you Mirror, Flip, Rotate, Resize or Scale the pattern, so they are in the right place when the file is opened in Studio again.

Bead labels

Bead Labels. Print a label for each color for your bead tubes and bags: a swatch with the chart symbol, the bead code, the name and the brand. Avery 5167, 5160, L7651, L7160 or your own size; you can start part-way down a used sheet. Print a test page on plain paper at Actual size first.

While you design and stitch

Recent colors. Your last six bead colors sit above the palette, one click away.

Remove Color. Empties every bead of one color in one step. Undo brings them all back.

Ruler. Click two beads to see the real length between them in millimeters and inches, for the bead size you chose in Size. Press Esc to stop.

Stitching Timer. Start and Pause a timer while you stitch. Each session is saved with the pattern, with the total so far.

Progress Picture. A picture to share, with the rows you have finished in full color and the rest faded.

Thread Preview. See the pattern with your thread color showing between the beads, for netting, loom and right-angle weave.

Move, size and turn the trace picture. Adjust, next to the Trace slider, lines a reference picture up with your chart.

Part 3: Glossary & Reference

Plain-language definitions of every technical term used in Krazy Stitcher, organized alphabetically.

Glossary

Krazy Stitcher Essentials v1.4.3 — Open, browser-based bead pattern maker.
No tracking. No ads. No account required.

Appendix: Recommended Resources

A curated list of books, videos, online courses, and periodicals to help you get the most out of Krazy Stitcher and bead weaving in general. Organized by skill level so you can find the right resource wherever you are in your beading journey.

Beginner

For new beaders learning their first stitches. These resources assume no prior experience and teach fundamental techniques with clear, visual instructions.

Books

Seed Bead Weaving for Beginners

Author: Della Navarro
ISBN: 979-8-3451-7639-5
Publisher: Independently published, 2024 | 148 pages
Covers peyote stitch, brick stitch, and right angle weave from scratch with 18 projects. No prior beading experience required. An excellent first book.

The Seed Bead Book: Over 35 Step-by-Step Projects Made with Modern Beads

Author: Kate Haxell
ISBN: 978-1-78249-556-7
Publisher: Cico Books, 2018 | 128 pages
Project-based introduction with 35+ designs using contemporary color palettes. Clear photography and simple instructions make this ideal for absolute beginners.

Teach Yourself Visually Beadwork: Learning Off-Loom Beading Techniques One Stitch at a Time

Author: Chris Franchetti Michaels
ISBN: 978-0-470-45466-4
Publisher: Wiley, 2009 | 320 pages
Photo-intensive guide covering peyote, ladder, brick, square, right angle weave, and herringbone stitches. The visual format is especially helpful for learners who prefer seeing each step rather than reading diagrams.

New! Beader's Companion

Author: Judith Durant & Jean Campbell
ISBN: 978-1-931499-92-7
Publisher: Interweave Press, 2005 | 112 pages
Compact reference covering tools, materials, stitch basics, and finishing techniques. Keep it on your beading table as a quick-reference guide alongside your patterns.

Video Channels

PotomacBeads (YouTube)

URL: youtube.com/@PotomacBeads
Subscribers: 290K+
Hundreds of free video tutorials from basic stringing to seed bead weaving. Beginner-friendly pace with detailed close-ups. Also hosts monthly live beading events.

Off the Beaded Path (YouTube)

URL: youtube.com/@OfftheBeadedPath
Subscribers: 271K+

Step-by-step bead weaving tutorials from beginner to intermediate. Clear narration, relaxed pace, and projects that build skills progressively.

Seed Bead School (YouTube)

URL: youtube.com — search "Seed Bead School Emily Miller"
Subscribers: —
Structured series covering everything seed-bead related. Presented like a class, making it easy to follow along from episode to episode.

Online Courses

Essential Seed Bead Techniques — Craftsy

URL: craftsy.com
Taught by Leslie Rogalski. Covers even- and odd-count peyote, brick stitch with increases and decreases, and finishing. Video course with lifetime access.

Jewelry Making for Beginners: Beading Techniques & Stitches — Skillshare

URL: skillshare.com
Introductory class covering bead and wire work, stringing, and basic weaving stitches. Short-format lessons good for learning in quick sessions.

Intermediate

For beaders who have mastered basic flat stitches and want to explore shaping, tubular work, multi-stitch combinations, and more complex patterns.

Books

Mastering Beadwork: A Comprehensive Guide to Off-Loom Techniques

Author: Carol Huber Cypher
ISBN: 978-1-59668-013-5
Publisher: Interweave Press, 2007 | 240 pages
Covers 13 off-loom techniques in depth with 63 projects. Spiral-bound for easy use at the worktable. The go-to reference once you have the basics down — comprehensive without being overwhelming.

The Big Book of Beading Patterns: For Peyote Stitch, Square Stitch, Brick Stitch, and Loomwork Designs

Author: Editors of Bead & Button Magazine
ISBN: 978-0-87116-424-7
Publisher: Kalmbach Books, 2010 | 144 pages
Pattern collection organized by theme (animals, flowers, holidays, geometric). Designed to be used directly with pattern software like Krazy Stitcher. Full-color charts ready to follow.

I Can Right Angle Weave: From Basic Stitch to Advanced Techniques

Author: Mabeline Gidez
ISBN: 978-1-4547-0366-2
Publisher: Lark Books, 2012 | 128 pages
25 projects covering flat RAW, increases, decreases, embellishing, curves, tubular RAW, polygon stitch, and beaded beads. A deep dive into a single stitch family.

I Can Herringbone: From Basic Stitch to Advanced Techniques

Author: Melissa Grakowsky Shippee
ISBN: 978-1-4547-0362-4
Publisher: Lark Books, 2012 | 128 pages

25 projects from flat herringbone through tubular and three-dimensional forms. Hundreds of step-by-step illustrations. Part of the excellent "I Can" series.

Video Channels

Seed Bead Bliss (YouTube)

URL: youtube.com/@seedbeadbliss
Subscribers: 50K+
Intermediate-level tutorials focused on jewelry-quality seed bead projects. Good balance of technique instruction and finished-piece inspiration.

Online Courses

Get Started Bead Weaving Master Class — Interweave

URL: interweave.com
Four-workshop series with instructor Tammy Honaman. Over 5 hours of video, 12 downloadable patterns, and illustrated instructions for 10 bead stitches. Bridges beginner to intermediate.

Periodicals

Bead & Button Magazine

URL: bead-button.magazinesubscriberservices.com
The original and most comprehensive beading magazine. Published bi-monthly by Kalmbach Publishing. Each issue includes step-by-step projects, product reviews, and artist profiles. Subscribers get access to 350+ downloadable patterns online. ~$28.95/year.

Advanced

For experienced beaders pushing into dimensional work, improvisational design, nature-inspired sculpture, and competition-level techniques.

Books

Explorations in Beadweaving: Techniques for an Improvisational Approach

Author: Kelly Angeley
ISBN: 978-1-59668-724-0
Publisher: Interweave Press, 2014 | 160 pages
Teaches peyote, herringbone, RAW, and bead embroidery through an improvisational lens. For beaders ready to move beyond following patterns and start designing their own pieces.

Diane Fitzgerald's Shaped Beadwork: Dimensional Jewelry with Peyote Stitch

Author: Diane Fitzgerald
ISBN: 978-1-60059-277-5
Publisher: Interweave Press (Beadweaving Master Class Series), 2009 | 160 pages
Master class in three-dimensional peyote: geometric shapes, sculptural forms, and structural beadwork. Fitzgerald is one of the most respected names in the field.

Shaped Beadwork & Beyond: Dimensional Jewelry in Peyote Stitch

Author: Diane Fitzgerald
ISBN: 978-1-4547-0361-7
Publisher: Lark Crafts, 2013 | 144 pages
Sequel to Shaped Beadwork with more complex dimensional projects. Assumes mastery of flat peyote and basic shaping.

Beautiful Beadwork from Nature: 16 Stunning Jewelry Projects Inspired by the Natural World

Author: Melissa Grakowsky Shippee
ISBN: 978-1-4547-1077-6
Publisher: Lark Books, 2019 | 176 pages
Award-winning designs inspired by natural forms — leaves, shells, coral, flowers. Combines multiple stitch types in single pieces. For beaders ready to create wearable art.

Video & Online

Bead & Button Show / Bead Fest — Workshop Recordings

URL: beadandbutton.com / beadfest.com
Annual beading conventions offer both in-person and recorded workshops taught by nationally recognized instructors. Topics range from advanced stitch techniques to mixed-media and sculptural beadwork. Check schedules for upcoming events and archived class videos.

Interweave Beadwork Online Workshops

URL: interweave.com/beading
Library of on-demand video workshops from Beadwork magazine contributors. Advanced topics include bezeling, sculptural RAW, tubular herringbone, and freeform beadwork. Individual workshops or annual subscription.

Where to Find These Resources

Books: Available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, AbeBooks (used/out-of-print), and local bookstores. Use the ISBN numbers listed above for exact editions. Many titles are also available as Kindle/eBook editions.

Videos: All YouTube channels listed are free. Craftsy and Skillshare offer subscription models with free trials. Interweave workshops are available individually or via annual subscription.

Magazines: Bead & Button subscriptions can be ordered directly from the publisher or through magazine subscription services. Back issues are often available digitally.

Supplies: The bead brands referenced in Krazy Stitcher (Miyuki, Toho, Preciosa) are available from specialty retailers including Fire Mountain Gems (firemountaingems.com), Potomac Beads (potomacbeads.com), Artbeads (artbeads.com), and local bead shops.

Feedback, Errors & Suggestions

We want to make this software as useful as possible for the beading community. As you use the program, please jot down anything you notice — bugs, confusing features, missing tools, or ideas for improvement. No detail is too small.

To report a bug or ask for a feature from inside the program, press Ctrl+Shift+B. A window named "Report a Bug or Request a Feature" opens. Type your email address (required), choose **Bug** or **Feature request** next to Type, describe what happened or what you would like under Description, and click **Submit Report**. You can also add a screenshot, but it is optional.

Bug or Error

What happened? What did you expect to happen?

Feature Request or Suggestion

What would make this tool more useful for you?

Confusing or Unclear

Was anything in the software or this manual hard to understand?

Contact information coming soon. Thank you for helping us improve!

Thinking About Upgrading?

Here is what Pro and Studio add on top of Essentials, pulled directly from the current edition comparison. No pricing here — visit krazystitcher.com to compare editions and see current pricing.

Feature	Essentials	Pro	Studio
Stitch Types	22	25	25
Bead Crochet Rope	×	✓	✓
Rotatable 3D Preview	×	✓	✓
Live Symmetric Drawing	×	✓	✓
Brand Swap and Quick Remap	×	✓	✓
Difficulty Score, Inventory & Cost Tracking	×	✓	✓
Color Reduction (exact count or Bayer dithering)	×	✓	✓
300 DPI / Hi-Res Export	×	✓	✓
Enhanced Backup (Version History)	×	✓	✓
Real SVG + CSV Export	×	✓	✓
66-Design Starter Pattern Library	×	✓	✓
Rebuild from Chart: Straighten a photo taken at an angle, and join a chart on several pages	×	✓	✓
Multi-Layer Editing & Multi-Pattern Workspace	×	×	✓
6-Type Color Harmony Engine	×	×	✓
Batch Export (bulk PDF/PNG to .zip)	×	×	✓
Bulk/Wholesale Distribution & Pattern Books	×	×	✓

Dark mode, configurable print/PDF export with branding and saved presets, the Thread & Bead Estimator, the Row/Round Progress Counter, Backup All / Restore, Save Patterns to a Folder, Search Help and Tools (Ctrl+K), and commercial-use rights to sell finished crafts and individual patterns are already included in every edition, Essentials included. Studio alone adds bulk/wholesale distribution and pattern-book publishing on top of that baseline commercial license.

Explore the Full Krazy Stitcher Lineup

Krazy Stitcher Essentials — one-time purchase

Design bead patterns from any photo or from scratch — works offline after your first visit, no subscription.

- 22 stitch types, dark mode, configurable PDF export (cell size, paper size, orientation)
- Built-in Thread & Bead Estimator
- Backup All / Restore (unified .ksbackup format), and commercial-use rights to sell finished crafts and individual patterns you create
- Keyboard shortcuts overlay (press "?")
- One-time purchase, works offline after your first visit

Krazy Stitcher Pro — one-time purchase

Everything in Essentials, plus 3 additional stitch types (25 total: Ladder Stitch, Albion Stitch and Bead Crochet Rope), rotatable 3D preview, live symmetric drawing, Brand Swap (a rating for every color) and Quick Remap, a difficulty score, bead inventory tracking, a cost estimator, gradient fill, custom bead palettes, built-in Color Reduction (to an exact number of colors, or with Bayer Matrix dithering), 300 DPI hi-res export, Enhanced Backup with automatic per-pattern version history, real SVG/CSV export, and the 66-design Starter Pattern Library.

Krazy Stitcher Studio — one-time purchase

Everything in Pro (including the same 66-design Starter Pattern Library), plus multi-layer editing, a Multi-Pattern Workspace (tab between and compare up to 4 patterns), a 6-type Color Harmony Engine, and Studio-exclusive Batch Export (bulk-export multiple saved patterns to PDF/PNG bundled as one .zip). Studio also adds the exclusive right to bulk/wholesale distribution and publishing pattern collections or books — a step beyond the individual-pattern commercial rights every edition includes.

Photo-to-Pattern Converter — standalone add-on, works with any edition

Turn any photo into a ready-to-stitch bead pattern. 9-brand, 1,922-color database, 5 dithering algorithms with blending, full brightness/contrast/saturation control, WCAG AA audited. It needs an internet connection; it does not work offline.

Color Palette Tool — Free

Build a bead-accurate color palette before you open a pattern. 6 harmony types, Delta-E/Lab matching across 5 brands/1,377 colors. One-click "Send to Krazy Stitcher."

PatternFolio — Coming Soon

In development — details to come.

Bead Conversion Chart Bundles

Cross-brand conversion charts — printable PDF charts for Miyuki Delica, Toho Round, Preciosa, Miyuki Rocailles, Matsuno and Mill Hill seed beads, some of them free — for matching colors when you switch bead brands.

Find them all at krazystitcher.com