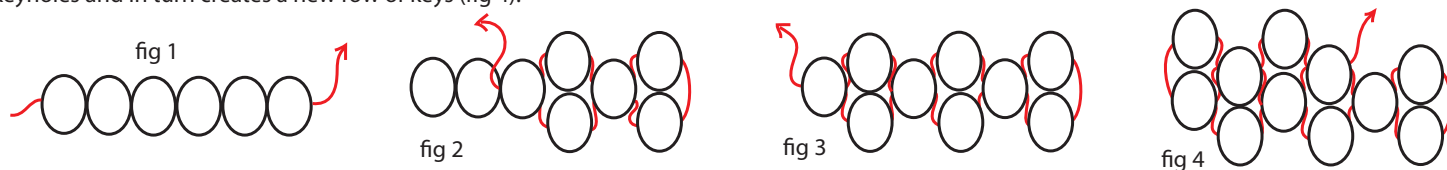


Peyote Stitch - Even Count

Peyote stitch is a quick and easy off-loom beadweaving technique. It can be used to make flat ribbons or flexible tubes. The first thing to do is to learn the basic stitch with an even number of beads in the row to make both flat ribbons and tubes. Once you can work the stitch with an even number of beads move onto the odd-count instructions - the odd number of beads alters the way you turn the corner at one end of a row or 'step up' in a tube.

Peyote stitch starts with a row of beads (fig 1) - the needle then turns and comes back along the row adding new beads to pair up with alternating beads along the first row (fig 2) - this produces a key and keyhole effect (fig 3). The needle then turns back to start the third row which adds new beads into the keyholes and in turn creates a new row of keys (fig 4).



There are [PROJECTS](#) on the website for peyote but if you have not used Peyote Stitch before it is advisable to make a sample square by following the instructions below.

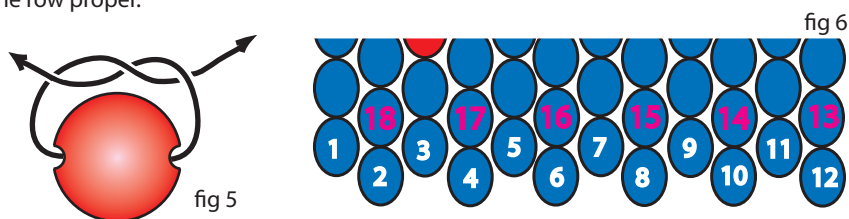
Learn The Stitch - Even Count Peyote

Materials Required

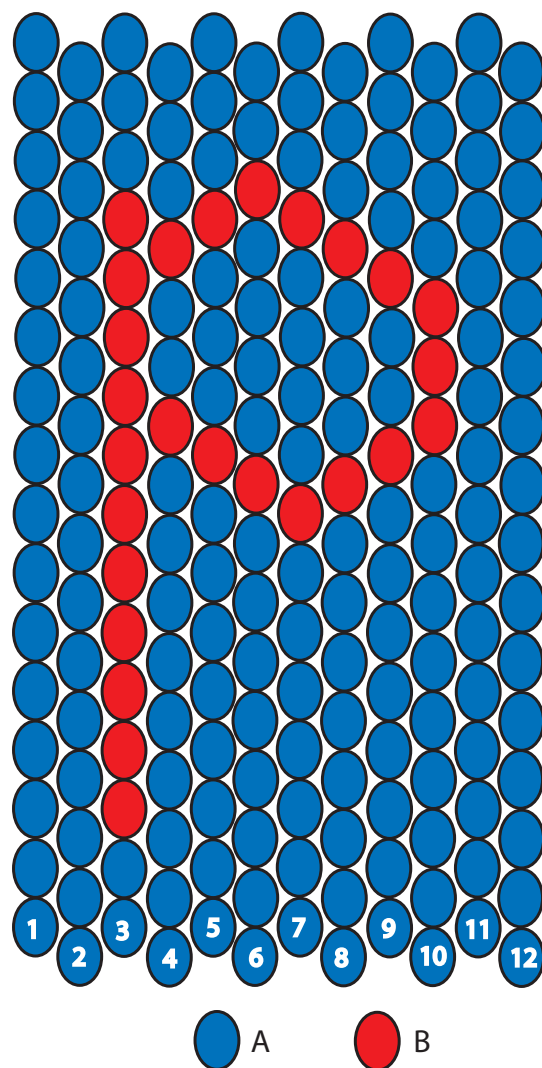
Two contrasting colours of seed beads or Delica beads in the SAME SIZE - Delica bead size 11/0 are a good choice as these lock together easily; a reel of Nymo or Superlon D beading thread (any colour will suffice for a practice square) and a size 10 beading needle. You will also need a pair of scissors and a transparent rule to place across the pattern grid to make it easier to track your row.

a, Label the main colour bead A and the contrast colour B

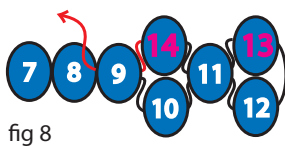
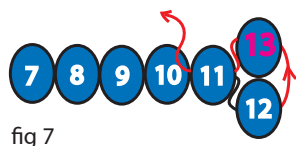
b, Prepare the needle with 1.2m of single thread. Thread on 1B and bring down to 10cm from the end of the thread. Tie a single overhand knot about the bead to keep it in place (fig 5) - this is the keeper bead. A keeper bead is a temporary bead that acts as an anchor for the end of the thread - you use a contrast bead so you do not confuse it with the end of the row proper.



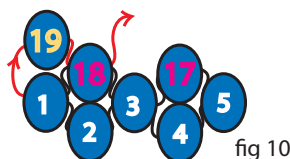
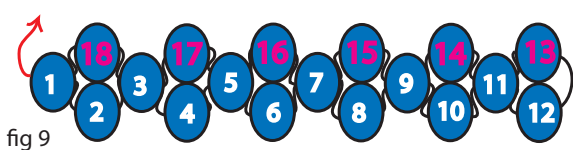
c, You will be making the panel shown on the right. Look at the bottom of the panel and you will see the bottom row numbered 1 - 12. Thread on these 12A beads and push down to the keeper bead to start the panel.



d, Refer to fig 6 - this shows the beads numbered 13 - 18 for the next row. As you can see you are only adding beads in the alternating positions and as you do so it pushes the first row into an undulating pattern of keys and keyholes. Thread on 1A. Turn the needle and pass the needle back through the eleventh A bead of the first row to draw the new bead up against the last A bead of the first row (fig 7). Tension the thread so that the work looks like the diagram. Thread on 1A and pass the needle through the ninth A bead of the first row (fig 8) to push the new bead up against the tenth A of the first row - again tension the thread so the beads look like the diagram.



Repeat to add the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th A beads as you see in fig 6 to finish with the needle emerging through the first A bead of the first row alongside the keeper bead (fig 9). You will now have a row of keyholes and keys along the top edge of the work.



e, Place your rule across the main grid to underscore the next row of six beads. Thread on the first 1A bead as indicated on the grid; turn the needle and pass back through the 18th bead of the work (fig 10) to pull the new bead into the keyhole at the start of the new row. Thread on 1A as indicated on the main grid and pass through the next keybead along the previous row (bead No 17) to pull the new bead into the keyhole above bead No 3. Repeat along the row. Move the rule up to the next row on the grid and work this row as indicated in the same manner. On the next row you will start to add the contrast B beads.

Continues.....

e, If you lay your rule to underscore the next row you will find that it contains the first B bead of the block. Work the row as before adding the B bead in the correct keyhole. When you move up to the next row you will see that you have reverted to A beads only as they need to drop in to either side of the B bead added on the previous row - this is why you need to watch the rows carefully. As you work up the block look out for the row that contains the lowest B bead of the loop of the P-shape - it can catch you out if you are not following the pattern carefully. Work to the top of the block.

Finishing Off the Thread Ends

Pass the needle through the beads into the body of the work (fig 11). Pick up the threads between the beads at that point with the tip of the needle. Pull the needle thread through until you leave a 2cm loop - pass the needle through the loop twice (fig 12) and pull on the needle to tighten the knot drawing it down between the beads to conceal it. Pass the needle through three or four more beads of the block and repeat the knot. Pass the needle through a further three or four beads before you trim the thread end closely.

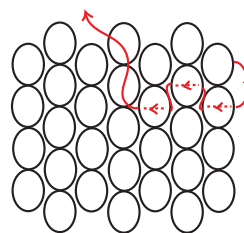


fig 11

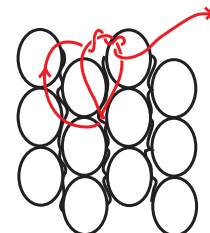


fig 12

Untie the knot around the keeper bead and reattach the needle to this end. Finish off as for the other end of the thread.

To add a new thread you make the knots in a similar way. Leave the old thread end hanging and prepare the needle with the new thread. Tie a keeper bead 10cm from the end and pass the needle into the work to emerge a ten beads away from the old thread end. Tie the new thread on here as above. Pass through a few more beads and repeat the knot. Pass through to the old thread end and continue the beading. When you have worked a few rows return to the old thread end and finish off as above. Remove the keeper from the end of the new thread and trim to neaten.

Common Mistakes With Peyote

- 1 - Not following the pattern accurately - as you are adding alternating beads across all but the first row it is more difficult to keep your place. Use a rule or straightedge to underscore the row you are working
- 2 - Working the third row accurately - once you have made the second row of the pattern you will have established a row of keys and keyholes but the beadwork can easily twist along the length. This sometimes means that beads just added for the second row end up on the lower edge of the work. This does not matter if (as making the practice grid above) the beads are all the same colour - but if you are working a more intricate pattern you need to make sure that the needle passes through the second row beads as you work the third row.

Even Count Circular Peyote

If you want to make a rope or cylinder shape you can work the Peyote Stitch in the round. Try the grid below to practice the stitch.

a, Prepare the needle with 1.2m of single thread. Cast on the beads for the first row of your pattern grid.

b, Pass the needle through all of the beads once more to draw the beads up into a circle and the needle to emerge just after the last bead of the row (fig 13).

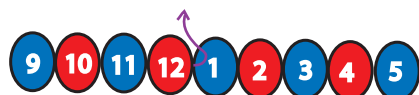


fig 13

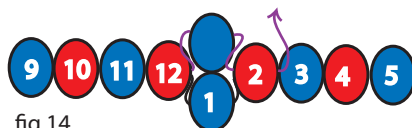


fig 14

c, Thread on the bead indicated on the chart above bead 1 of the first row. Pass the needle through bead 2 of the first row to start the peyote sequence (fig 14). Work to the end of the row to make a complete circle of keys and keyholes. The needle will be emerging through the last bead of the first row sequence.

d, You now need to reposition the needle to be in the correct place to make the first stitch of the next row. Pass the needle through the first bead of the row just completed to emerge just before the next keyhole around the circle - this is called the 'step up' stitch (fig 15).

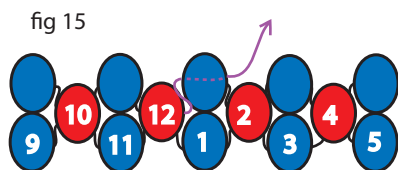
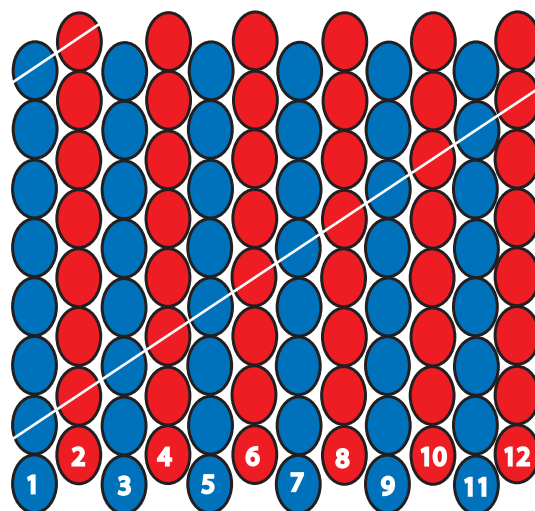


fig 15

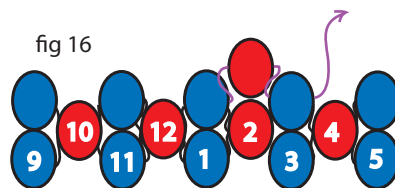


fig 16

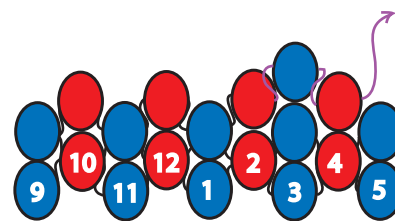


fig 17

You will notice that this has advanced the needle position by one bead from the edge of the pattern grid so the first bead of the new row will sit into the keyhole above the second bead of the first row (fig 16). Each time you finish a row you will need to 'step up' to the new row which will advance the needle one more space across the pattern grid (fig 17) - most pattern grids for circular peyote will have a diagonal line overlaid onto the grid to pick out the first bead of each row for you.

e, Work to the end of your grid and finish off the thread ends as before.

Peyote Stitch - Odd Count

If you have an odd number of beads in a row it alters the way you turn the corner at one end of the row. Odd count stitching does allow you to work patterns that radiate out from a central row, will decrease down to a central point or take a properly centred tapering fringe. The basic stitch within the row is identical to the simple even count peyote stitch technique shown above.

If you have not worked peyote stitch before go back to the even count instructions and make the practice square. This will give you a grounding in the basic stitch technique, how to turn a simple corner and keep your tension even throughout.

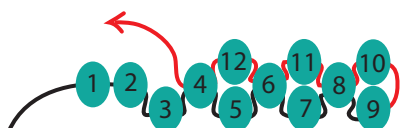
Learn the Stitch - Odd Count Peyote

You will need 2g of Delica beads or seed beads - this quantity will be plenty as all you need to learn is how to turn the corner. You will also need a beading needle and 1m of thread

a, Prepare the needle with 1.2m of single thread and a keeper bead. Thread on nine beads for your first row (fig 18). Turn the corner and work back across the row as before to add three new beads (fig 19). When you add the fourth bead you will need to make a slight adjustment to start to turn the corner.



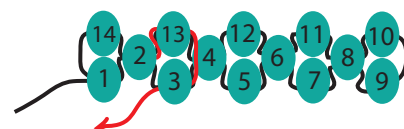
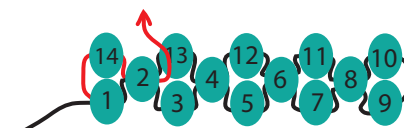
b, Thread on the thirteenth bead and pass the needle through beads 2 and 1 (fig 20).



c, Turn the needle and thread on bead 14. Pass the needle through bead 2 (fig 21).



d, Pass the needle through bead 13. Turn the needle and pass through bead 3 (fig 22).



e, Pass the needle through beads 2 and 1 (fig 23).

f, Turn the needle and pass it through bead 14 (fig 24).

g, You have brought the needle around in a figure of eight (fig 25) and can now thread on bead 15 - the first bead of the new row (fig 26).

h, Work to the end of the row as before. Turn the corner at the end of the row as for normal even count peyote. Work back across the next row as in fig 19. Add the next bead of the row as in fig 20.

j, Turn the corner as before (fig 27).

k, Work another six rows to practice the technique.

