



Basic Beadwork Stitches

Peyote Stitch

Peyote Stitch is one of the most popular beadwork stitches. It is quick to do and produces a fabric that bends easily along the rows, though not from side to side.

It is easiest to work a flat piece of Peyote Stitch with an even number of beads making the width of the piece.

1. EVEN COUNT PEYOTE STITCH

First three rows

1. Put on a stop bead about 30 cms (12") from the end of the thread by passing through it a couple of times. (Diag 1)



Diag 1

2. Pick up an even number of beads which, when pushed closely together on the thread, give the width you want for your beadwork, here shown as 16 beads. (Diag 2)



Diag 2

3. Pick up 1 bead, miss the last bead you picked up in Step 2 and pass through the bead next to it, pointing towards the tail of thread. Pull the thread tight. (Diag 3)



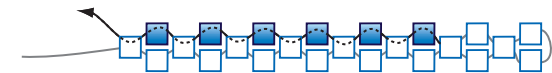
Diag 3

4. Pick up one bead, miss the next bead along and pass through the bead next to it, pointing towards the tail of thread. Pull the thread tight. (Diag 4)



Diag 4

Repeat Step 4 across the line of beads and remove the stop bead. (Diag 5)

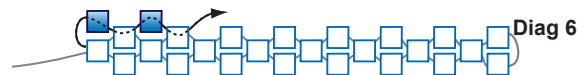


Diag 5

By the end of this row, you will have added 8 new beads. All the beads which you missed will have been pushed downwards and the new beads will be sitting on top of them.

Subsequent rows

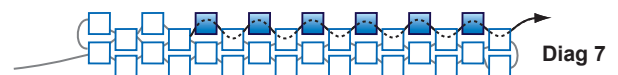
5. Pick up one bead and pass through the last bead you added on the previous row. * Pick up one bead and pass through the next bead added on the previous row. (Diag 6)



Diag 6

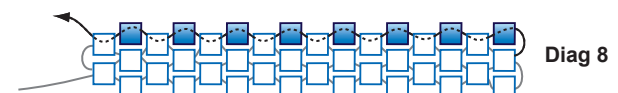
Repeat from * across the line of beads.

By the end of this row, you will have added 8 new beads and they will be filling the gaps left between the beads of the previous row. (Diag 7)



Diag 7

6. Repeat Step 5, this time going from right to left. (Diag 8)



Diag 8

Repeat Steps 5 and 6 backwards and forwards across the work until it is the length required.



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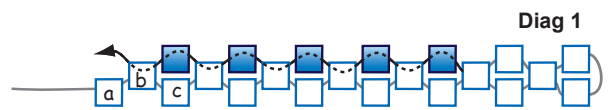
There are occasions when it is useful to work with an odd number of beads giving the width of the work. For example, a pattern might be symmetrical either side of a single central bead. Working odd count Peyote Stitch is a little more fiddly than even count, so practice that first.

2. ODD COUNT PEYOTE STITCH

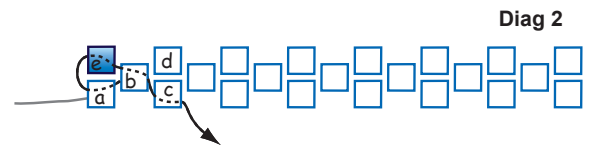
First three rows

1, 2, 3 & 4. Work Steps 1 - 4 as for even count, except that you pick up an odd number of beads in Step 2. The illustrations below show 15 beads across.

Repeat Step 4 across the line of beads until you have passed through the second bead picked up in Step 2 (bead 'b'). Remove the stop bead so that it is out of your way. You will see that, if you were to pick up another bead now and miss a bead, there is no "next bead" to go through. (Diag 1)



Don't panic! Pass through bead 'a', now pick up your final bead (bead 'e') and pass back down through beads 'b' and 'c'. (Diag 2)



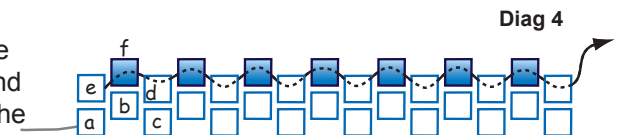
Turn and pass through beads 'd', 'b' and 'a' again to bring the thread out at the side of the work; pass up through bead 'e'. (Diag 3)



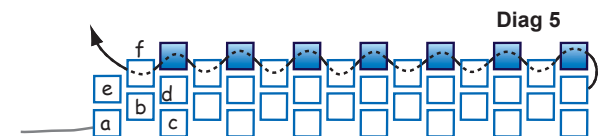
The row is complete, with 8 new beads added, and you are in the right position to start the next row.

Subsequent rows

5. (Left to right) Work across the row, picking up one bead at a time and passing through the beads added in the previous row. By the end of this row, you will have added 7 new beads and they will be filling the gaps left between the beads of the previous row. (Diag 4)



6. (Right to left) Work across the row, picking up one bead at a time and passing through the beads added in the previous row until you have passed through the first of them (bead 'f'). (Diag 5)



On the edge of the work on the left, you again need to weave around to secure the final bead in the row. Pass through the bead on the edge of the work (bead 'e'), pick up your final bead (bead 'g') and go back down through bead 'f'. Turn and pass through beads 'b' and 'e' again; turn and pass up through bead 'g'. (Diag 6)



The row is now complete, with 8 new beads added, and you are in the right position to start the next row.

Repeat Steps 5 and 6 backwards and forwards across the work until it is the length required.



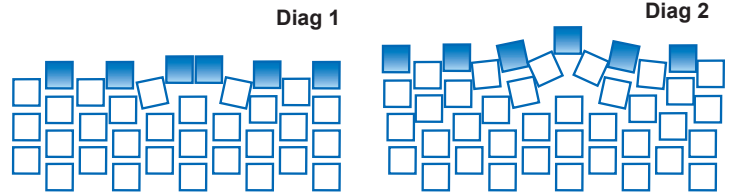
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Shaping

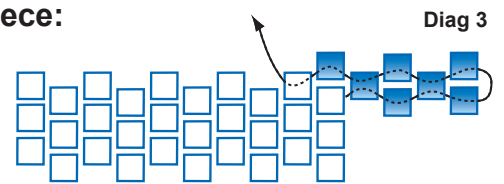
To increase in mid-row:

at the point of increase, add two beads instead of one and work into each of them on the next row. Where there had been ten beads across the row, there are now twelve. (Diags 1 & 2)



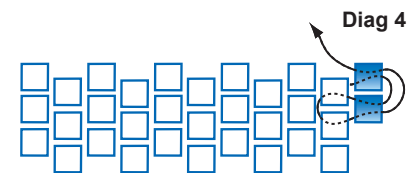
To increase by an even number of beads on the edge of a piece:

at the beginning of a row, thread on an even number of beads to give the extra width desired. * Pick up one bead, miss a bead and put the needle back through the next bead. Repeat from * across the new beads, finishing by going through the edge bead of the work already in place. Continue the row as normal. (Diag 3)



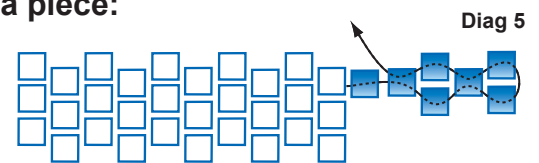
To increase by one bead on the edge of a piece:

at the end of a row, pick up 2 beads and put the needle back through the bead which your thread is coming out of. Turn and go through the bead immediately below it and up through the 2nd bead picked up. Turn and go through the 1st bead picked up. You are now in the right position to start the next row. (Diag 4)

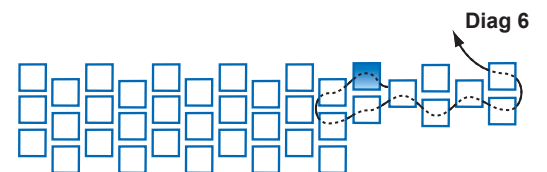


To increase by several odd number beads on the edge of a piece:

at the beginning of a row, thread on an odd number of beads to give the extra width desired. * Pick up one bead, miss a bead and put the needle back through the next bead. Repeat from * across the new beads until there is only one gap left before the edge of the work already in place. (Diag 5)

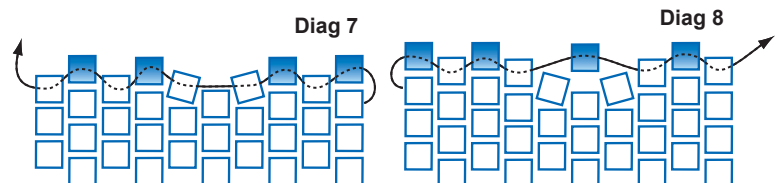


Pick up one bead, go through the bead on the edge of the work, turn and go through the bead immediately below it and up through the 1st of the new beads. Weave back along to the end of the new beads, turn and go up through the end "half up" bead. (Diag 6)



To decrease in mid-row:

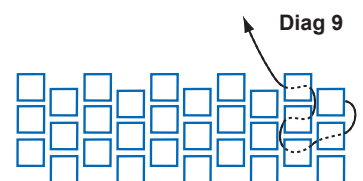
simply go through two beads without picking up a bead to fill the gap between them and pull up tight. Work the next row as normal. (Diags 7 & 8)



To decrease on the edge:

at the end of a row, simply turn before you have completed the row.

At the beginning of a row, start it in from the edge - you might omit just one bead, or several, but either way you need to weave down into the beadwork and bring the needle out through the bead where the next row is to start. As an example, Diag 9 shows a suggested route for decreasing by one bead at the beginning of a row. (If you decrease by one bead at the beginning of every row, you will have smooth decreasing coming to a point.)





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Some Tips

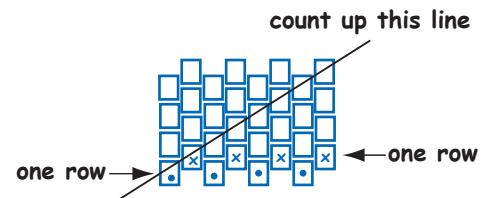
1. 'ROWS'

In Peyote Stitch, half the beads are put on in one pass across the work and the other half in the next pass across. We refer to each pass across the work as one row. But remember that it takes two rows to put on the full number of beads for the width of the work.

2. COUNTING PEYOTE STITCH

If you need to work a specific number of rows, either count diagonally up the work, or add together the number of beads on each edge of the work to give the total number of rows.

If it is a straight flat piece, there will be half as many beads on the edge as you have rows. So the piece illustrated here is 8 beads wide by 8 rows high, with 4 beads on each edge.



3. BEADS

Peyote Stitch is best worked in beads which are of even shape and size. Cylinder beads, eg Delicas, are particularly suitable because of their straight sides which sit neatly together.

4. FOLLOWING A CHART

Following a chart in Peyote Stitch is tricky because the staggering of the beads makes it difficult to keep your place. Try using a post-it note to mark the row you are working on, repositioning it each time you complete a row. Or, make a photocopy of the chart and strike each row through with a pencil as you complete it. (A magnetic board with ruler, like the ones cross stitchers use, also works very well.)

If you were to turn a piece of Peyote Stitch on its side, it would look like a brick wall.

This means that the same graph paper can be used for both Peyote Stitch and Brick Stitch and that charted designs intended for one stitch can be used for the other, just by turning the chart through 90 degrees.

5. HOLDING THE WORK

Try to hold the work so that the thread coming away from it is held taut over your index finger by your middle finger. As you add the next bead, only release the thread when you have pulled the thread almost all the way through. Then give a final little tug before replacing the working thread over your index finger. If you do this for every stitch, you will find that your tension will be even and the risk of splitting the thread is reduced.

6. SHAPING

You might want to work some shaping into your Peyote Stitch, either to change the outline of the beadwork or to produce 'darts' or fuller sections within the body of the work. We have included some simple steps for doing basic shaping, but there are many other possibilities for you to explore, depending upon the final effect you wish to achieve.