



Peyote Stitch Instructions

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 across the width of the work.

First three rows

1. Put on a stop bead about 15 - 20 cms (6" to 8") 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 in the previous row. * Pick up one bead and pass through the next bead added in the previous row. (Diag 6)



Diag 6

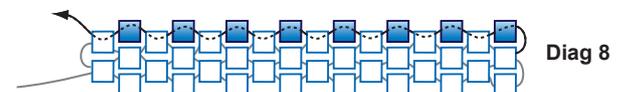
Repeat from * across the line of beads.

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 in the opposite direction. (Diag 8)



Diag 8

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



Peyote Stitch Tips

These tips will help you make the most of these Peyote stitch instructions.

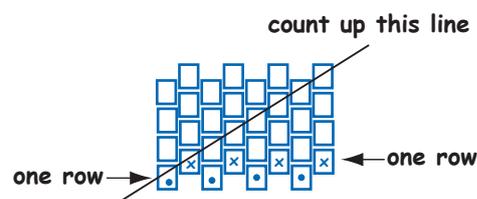
1. 'ROWS'

In Peyote Stitch (after the first two rows) 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. FOLLOWING A CHART

Remember that you must start by picking up the beads for the first two rows of Peyote stitch.

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.

4. DESIGNS WITH AN ODD NUMBER OF BEADS

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.

It is possible to work Peyote Stitch with an odd number of beads, but it is a little more fiddly than even count and most people prefer to avoid it. They do this by working the design with one bead less than the full width. The work is then turned on its side and a row of Brick stitch is worked along the edge to add the missing beads. There are basic Brick stitch instructions available to download from the National Beading Week website.

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.