

Finger Food!

Playful peyote rings for absolute beginners

Leslie Rogalski, editor in chief

This is an ideal project for beginners who want to learn peyote stitch. These even-count peyote rings use an easy-to-follow striped pattern and are only 4 beads across. You'll learn the stitch and be able to make one in under an hour! Once you're familiar with the technique, try making rings that are 6 or 8 beads across and play with different colors. Even-count peyote permits only mirror symmetry, so any center stripe must be an even number of beads, at least 2 beads wide. Size 11° cylinder beads make the best fitting beadwork for this project.

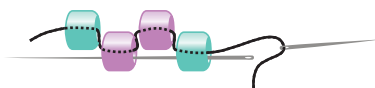


Photo: Frank DeSantis

The best beginner peyote tip ever!

Peyote has a distinct in and out (or up and down) positioning of beads. New beads are stitched between the out beads. The first few rows of peyote tend to twist, making it harder to recognize which bead you next pass through. The first beads you string create the first 2 rows, and stitching the third row is where many beginners get lost. In even count peyote, stitching is always done through the out beads, with new beads fitting between them like bricks, or like the teeth of a zipper.

To pull the first row away from the second and make it instantly clear which beads are the out beads: Take another long, thin needle and pass it through every other bead, starting with the last bead you strung, and making sure not to pass through the bead with the tail thread. Pull row 1 down, away from row 2. Row 2 beads stick up, so they're the out beads.



WHAT YOU NEED

- Matching colors of size 11° cylinder beads
- Size 12 (thin) beading needles
- WildFire beading thread
- Scissors
- Bead mat

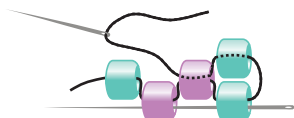
Please refer to our peyote Bead by Bead on page X for added help with the peyote stitch!

1 Start with a 4-bead-wide ring in two colors, one for an inside stripe 2 beads wide, and one for the outside borders. Pour out 4 piles in order of the stripes: A-B-B-A.

Tip: Pouring the beads next to each other helps you decide if you like the colors together.

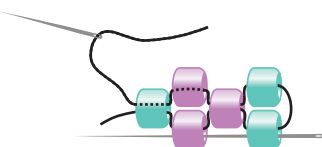
2 String a 30" length of WildFire on a needle. To prevent losing beads during your first few rows, string a stopper bead or place a small sized Bead Stopper leaving a 6" tail. You can also wind the tail around your non-dominant forefinger and hold it as you proceed.

3 String your first 2 rows, picking up 4 beads in order as they're piled: A-B-B-A. Slide them all down to the stopper or your finger. Righties have the needle exiting towards the right,

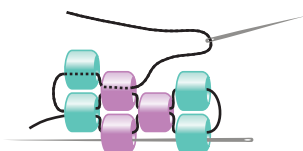


lefties towards the left.

4 Row 3: string 1 A, skip the border bead A in row 1 (which



means, don't sew through it) and pass through color B. The new A bead should sit right on top of the A you just skipped in row 1.



5 String 1B, skip over the second B you strung in row 1 and pass through the other border A in row 2. Again, the new bead should sit directly on top of the skipped bead. Your beadwork should look like this:

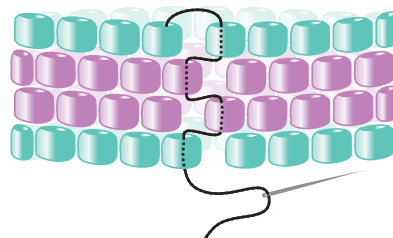


5 Row 4: string 1A. Skip the border bead A in row 1 and pass back through 1B in row 2. The new A bead should sit right on top of the A you just skipped in the previous row.

6 String 1B, skip the B bead in the previous row and pass through the other border A bead. Notice how the beads fit between each other as you stitch. You can see the stripes forming.

7 Continue working in peyote until the band is long enough to fit comfortably over your finger. To "zip" together the ends, you do not string any new beads, but sew through the in and out beads so they interlock. Look at the ends of an edge stripe. One end bead must be an in bead, the other an out bead, to interlock properly. Add or remove a row of beads to suit your desired fit.

8 Bring the ends together in a ring. Notice how the in and out



beads will fit together. Pass through beadwork to exit an end border bead. Depending on your ring length, you may be exiting either an in or an out bead. If you're exiting an out border bead, you will pass through a B bead on the other side. If your border exit bead is an in bead, you will pass through the border out bead on the other side. Continue to sew back and forth through the out beads in a zigzag fashion and snug the thread to pull your ring together.

9 Try on your ring. If satisfied with the fit, tie a discrete, secure square knot with the tail and working threads, keeping the knot close to the beadwork. Weave any remaining threads into the beadwork along existing thread paths as if working in peyote.

10 Thread the tail on the needle and repeat to weave in this thread as in Step 9.

For even more fun, attach a flat disk, button or other bauble to the ring: Using a doubled thread, pass from the inside of the ring out, not through a bead but between the beads. Pass through the button or disk, and back through to the inside of the ring. Repeat twice, and knot securely. Weave in ends and trim.

Resources: Check your local bead shop. WildFire beading thread: Beadalon, www.beadalon.com