

Peyote stitch

Peyote stitch can be very confusing for beginners, especially if you need to follow an intricate pattern. The confusion starts from the very beginning, when you learn that the first row is actually two rows. The rows in peyote stitch are not continuous as in flat square stitch, which makes it harder to keep track of where you are in the pattern. Instructions also differ depending on whether you use even-count or odd-count peyote. Many books are devoted entirely to this stitch, but I will try to simplify it as much as possible.

In this book we will be using peyote stitch to create petals and leaves for different flowers. To make a leaf shape you will need to learn how to increase and decrease the number of beads in your beadwork.

I will start by showing you the basic peyote stitch. Start by stringing seven beads, and then pass the needle up through bead 5. See Picture 1, step I.

String one bead and pass the needle up through bead 3. See Picture 1, step II.

String one bead and pass the needle up through bead 1. See Picture 1, step III.

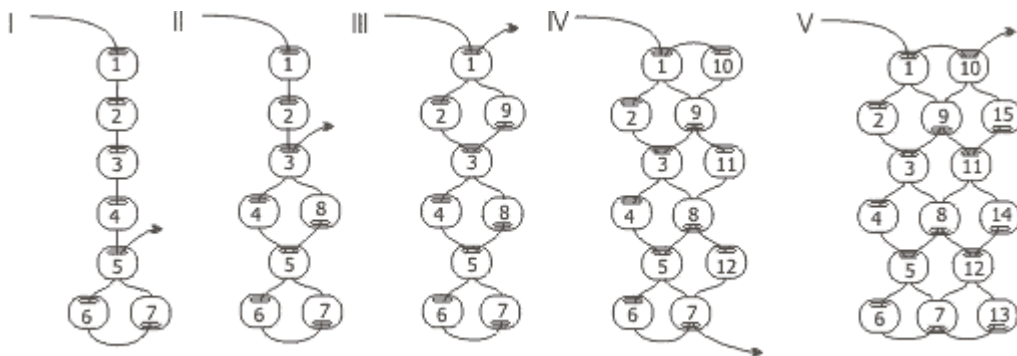
You have completed the first three rows.

String one bead and pass the needle down through bead 9.

String one bead and pass the needle down through bead 8.

String one bead and pass the needle down through bead 7. See Picture 1, step IV.

You have completed the fourth row.



Picture 1

String one bead and pass the needle up through bead 12.

String one bead and pass the needle up through bead 11.

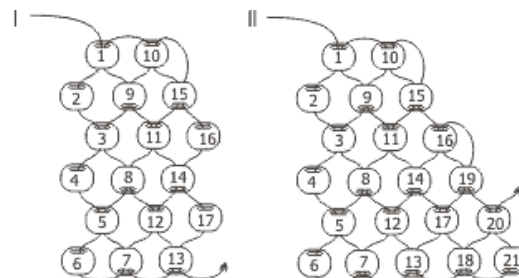
String one bead and pass the needle up through bead 10. See Picture 1, step V.

You have completed the fifth row.

Now I'd like to show how we can decrease the number of beads from the top. Your thread is coming out of bead 10. Pass the needle down through bead 15 without stringing a new bead, as you did before, and finish the row. See Picture 2, step I.

In the next row you won't be going all the way up.

After passing the needle up through bead 16, pass it down through bead 19 and finish the row. See Picture 2, step II.

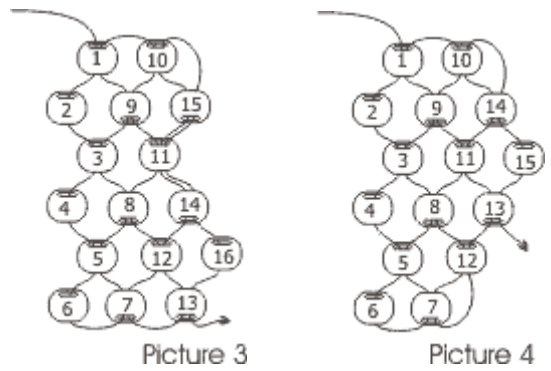


Picture 2

The next example, illustrated in Picture 3, shows how to make a steeper decrease. Your thread is coming out of bead 10. Pass the needle down through beads 15, 11 and 14 and finish the row.

Sometimes you will have to decrease the number of beads from the top *and* from the bottom. Picture 4 illustrates this. As you can see, it's very easy to create any shape with peyote stitch. These examples will help us to make leaves with smooth edges.

It's very important to keep an even tension throughout your work; uneven tension can create noticeably unattractive irregularities.

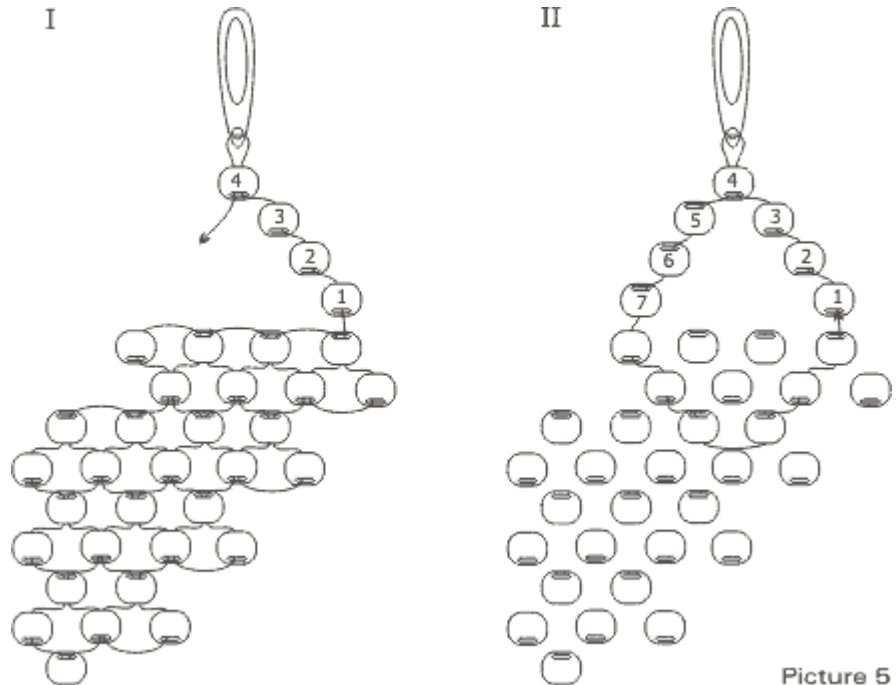


Picture 3

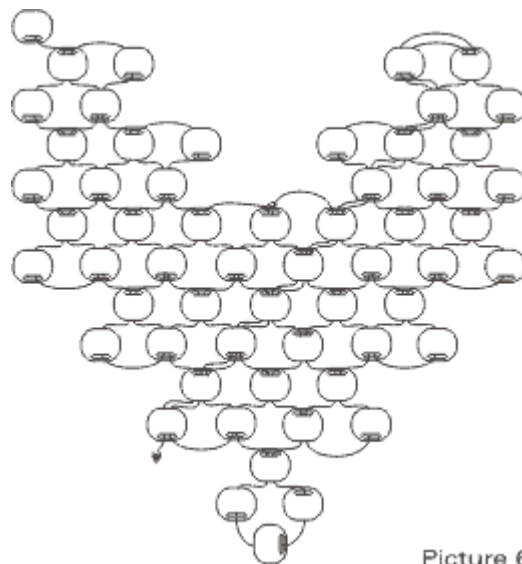
Picture 4

Attaching a Clasp

I would like to show how to attach a clasp to a V-shape peyote necklace. When you reach the desired length, string four beads, as shown in Picture 5, step I, and bring the needle through the hole in the clasp. Pass the needle down through the bead 4 and string three more beads. Following the beadwork, come back to bead 1, as shown in Picture 5, step II. Repeat this three times for strength. Finish the thread off, as shown in Picture 6. Make sure to cut the thread as close to your beadwork as possible.



Picture 5



Picture 6