Odd Count Peyote*

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*These instructions assume you know how to do flat even-count peyote

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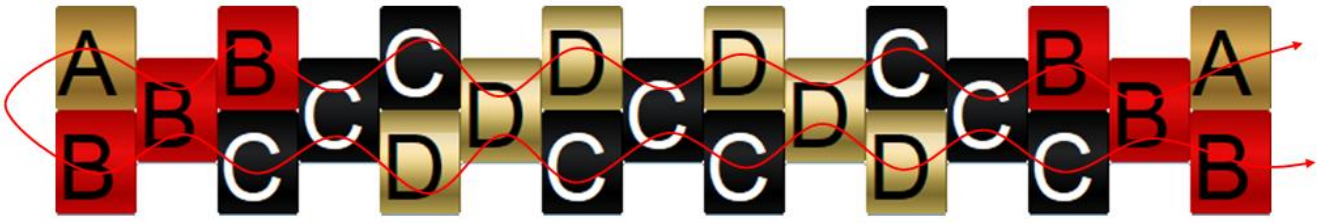
Starting

There are two primary methods to starting peyote. This is true for both even count and odd count peyote.

1. Two Needle Start
2. Traditional Start

Two Needle Start

For this method, you will stitch the first 3 rows at the same time. In my example, the design is symmetrical, so it won't matter which side of the graph you start on, but if you are doing a pattern that is not symmetrical and you plan to use the word chart, make sure to start from the side of the work indicated for row 3. For example, the word chart in the next pages shows the Row 3 direction as "R", which means you are beading from left to right, so you would begin on the left hand side of the graph.



Cut a comfortable length of thread and thread a needle on each end. On the left side, pick up 1A and on the right side, pick up 1B. Move these beads to the center of the thread. Pick up 1B and pass through it with both needles. Continue picking up the beads as shown in the diagram from left to right. The thread going through the top row (the left side) will become your tail thread. Skip down to Row 4 instructions below to continue working.

Traditional Start

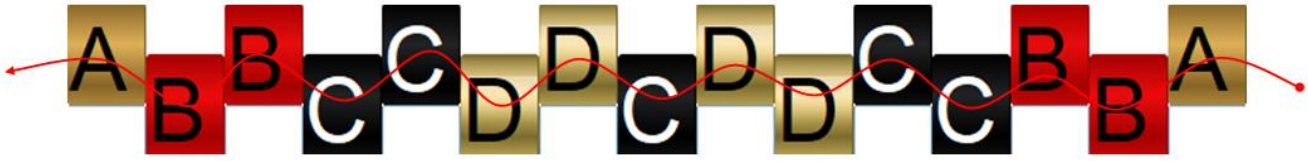
Many peyote patterns come with both a graph and a word chart. Because you pick up the first two rows at the same time, the word chart will be written that way as well, showing you the beads to pick up for those first two rows in the correct order.

Usually the word chart will contain L and R indications, showing you the direction you will be beading for each row. Now if you are like most beaders, you prefer to bead a particular direction, so you will flip your work over at the end of each row. If you lose your place in the word chart, make sure your work is oriented the same as the graph and then check the direction you need to bead the next row. This direction should match the row direction from the word chart as well. Since the letter in Row 1&2 is L, that means you will be beading from right to left as shown in the graph.

If you want, pick up a stop bead (not shown) and leave a 12" tail. If you are not going to use the tail turnaround method (my favorite method), you can leave a shorter tail to weave in later.

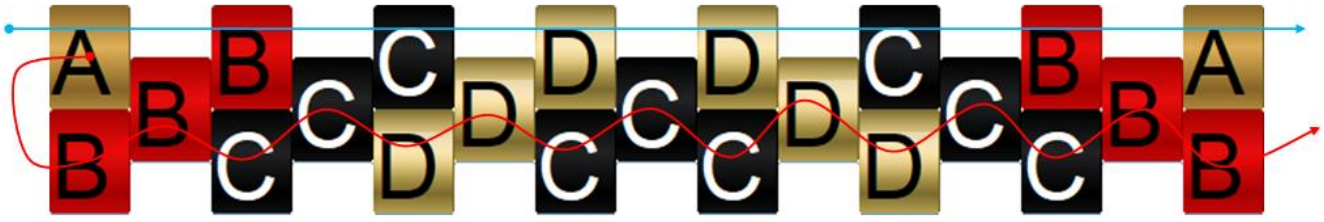
Pick up all beads as shown:

Row 1&2 (L) (1)A, (2)B, (2)C, (2)D, (1)C, (2)D, (2)C, (2)B, (1)A



Row 3 is a normal turnaround just like it would be with even-count peyote. Pick up one bead and skip a bead, passing through the next bead in the previous row. One trick to keeping your first row straight is to use a small piece of wire or a head pin and pass through the beads for row 1, causing them to push away from the beads in row 2. The blue line in my diagram below shows how this would be inserted. After you get row 3 and 4 added, you can remove this wire.

Row 3 (R) (1)B, (1)C, (1)D, (2)C, (1)D, (1)C, (1)B



Double check at this point that your work matches the graph. It's easy for the strip to get turned around at any of the single bead points. The wider your pattern, the easier it is to have a mistake so you need to be very careful.

At this point the last bead in row 3 is loose. You don't have anywhere to stitch into to secure that bead and turn around for row 4. This is where the odd-count turnaround comes in. There are several methods, a few of which I'll spell out here. You will have to do this odd-count turn at the end of each odd numbered row to set up for the next row.

Turnaround methods:

1. Figure 8
2. One bead turnaround
3. Thread catch
4. Tail method
5. Two needle

Figure 8 Turnaround

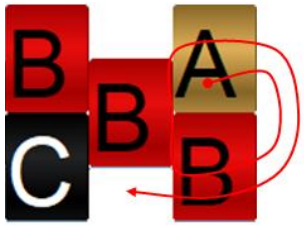
The first method I ever learned for the odd-count turnaround was the Figure 8. This method is probably the most common method, although I don't recommend it, as it causes one side of the work to have more thread in the 3 edge beads and can cause the work to warp a little bit.

Left diagram below: To do the Figure 8, after picking up the last bead in row 3, pass back through the adjacent bead in row 1 plus two more beads diagonally. Pass through the adjacent bead in row 1 and the next bead in row 2 and the last bead in row 1. Pass through the last bead in row 3 and you are now set up to work row 4 as usual.

Right diagram below: Technically, the left diagram isn't a figure 8 – to do it that way, before picking up the last bead in the row, you would first pass through the last edge bead of the previous odd row and then pick up the new bead before passing through the second bead in the previous even row. Either method will have the same result.

One Bead Turnaround

The one bead turnaround is similar to the figure 8 but doesn't pass through as many beads. Before picking up the last bead in the new odd row, pass through the last bead in the previous odd row. Pick up the new bead and pass through the last bead in the previous odd row again. Pass through the last bead added again. You are now set up to add the next even row as usual. I don't particularly like this method, as the new bead is not attached to the last bead in the previous even row.

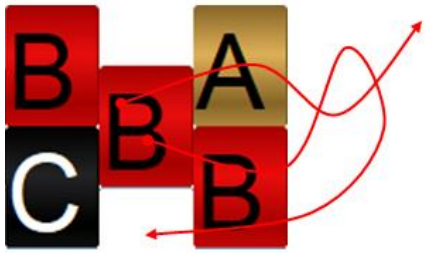


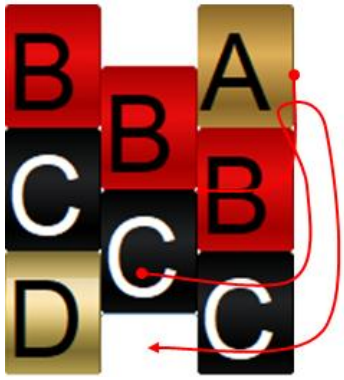
Thread Catch Turnaround

The thread catch method is an easy method but depending on tension, it may result in a more bulky thread edge than other methods.

Left diagram: on the first turnaround row, the tail thread is coming out of row 1. After adding the last bead in row 3, wrap the working thread around the tail and then go back through the last bead added. Work the next row as usual.

Right diagram: on subsequent turnaround rows, after adding the last bead in the row, pass the needle under the adjacent thread bridge between the previous odd rows and then pass back through the last bead added. Work the next row as usual.



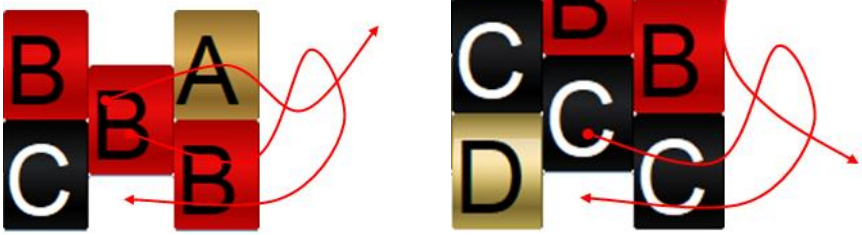


Tail Method Turnaround

The tail method is my preferred method. It's similar to the thread catch turnaround.

Left diagram: the turnaround on row 3 is the same as the thread catch method. After adding the last bead in row 3, wrap the working thread around the tail and then go back through the last bead added. Work the next row as usual.

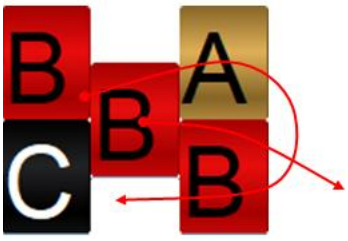
Right diagram: the turnaround on row 5 and subsequent odd rows is the same as the first turnaround. After adding the last bead in the row, instead of passing under the thread bridge wrap the working thread around the tail and then go back through the last bead added. This will move the tail over to the next row. Tug on both the tail and working threads to tighten the work and snug the last bead in the odd row into place.



Two Needle Turnaround

Two needle odd-count peyote is most similar to the tail method. To do this method, you will need to have a needle on both the working and tail threads. Every two rows, you will switch working and tail threads.

After adding the last bead in the new row, pass the tail thread through that new bead. The previous working thread now becomes the tail thread and the previous tail thread is now the working thread. Continue working to add the next 2 rows as usual and at the end of the next odd row, switch the threads again.

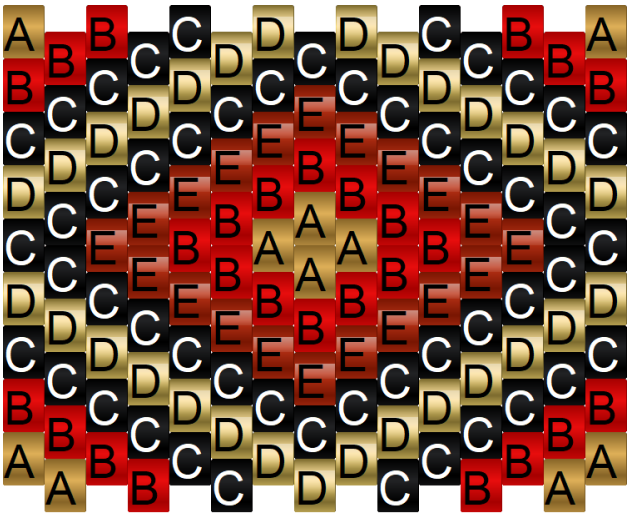


You can switch between the tail method and the two needle method as desired as you work. Both methods cause the tail thread to move down the work along with the working thread.

Odd-Count Continued…

Once you have turned around, work row 4 and 5 as usual. At the end of row 5, you will need to do your preferred method for the odd-count turnaround again, and each odd row for the length of the piece.

Row 4 (L) (1)C, (1)D, (1)C, (1)E, (1)C, (1)D, (1)C
Row 5 (R) (1)C, (1)D, (1)C, (2)E, (1)C, (1)D, (1)C
Row 6 (L) (1)D, (1)C, (1)E, (1)B, (1)E, (1)C, (1)D
Row 7 (R) (1)D, (1)C, (1)E, (2)B, (1)E, (1)C, (1)D
Row 8 (L) (1)C, (1)E, (1)B, (1)A, (1)B, (1)E, (1)C
Row 9 (R) (1)C, (1)E, (1)B, (2)A, (1)B, (1)E, (1)C
Row 10 (L) (1)C, (1)E, (1)B, (1)A, (1)B, (1)E, (1)C
Row 11 (R) (1)D, (1)C, (1)E, (2)B, (1)E, (1)C, (1)D
Row 12 (L) (1)D, (1)C, (1)E, (1)B, (1)E, (1)C, (1)D
Row 13 (R) (1)C, (1)D, (1)C, (2)E, (1)C, (1)D, (1)C
Row 14 (L) (1)C, (1)D, (1)C, (1)E, (1)C, (1)D, (1)C
Row 15 (R) (1)B, (1)C, (1)D, (2)C, (1)D, (1)C, (1)B
Row 16 (L) (1)B, (1)C, (1)D, (1)C, (1)D, (1)C, (1)B
Row 17 (R) (1)A, (1)B, (1)C, (2)D, (1)C, (1)B, (1)A



Continue working until the strip is the desired length, using the word chart or graph as desired.

Using a Beadslide clasp with Peyote

To add the clasp, add a row of square stitch to the “up” beads on the end of the strip. Add an additional bead in between each of the beads in the new row if desired. Slide the clasp tube over this new row of beads. Close the ends of the tube. Repeat on the second side.