



The Bead Hold

HOW TO: Basic Peyote Stitch



Please Note: you can use any beads the same size for this project, but as a beginner we recommend the larger ones.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- 1 - 2 tubes of #6 Japanese seed beads
- 1 - 2 tubes of Miyuki Squares

These beads should be fairly close in colour for a subtle strip effect. If you have quite different colours that is fine, but be aware that there will be a very obvious stripe. **NOTE:** Iris/multi tone beads work well for this project

- #11 Japanese seed beads to attach a clasp
- A clasp or button
- Silamide to blend with your colours or Fireline
- 2 x #10 beading needles

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- A bead mat to work on
- A sharp pair of scissors

Preparation

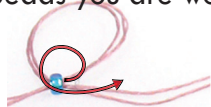
- Thread your needle with 3 good arm lengths of Silamide. Bring the needle to the middle of the thread.



- If you are using Fireline, use one strand only and thread up 2 arm lengths



- Anchor a stopper bead 15cm from the end of your threads, preferably a totally different obvious colour to the beads you are working with.



Dig your nail into this bead and make sure it can move up and down the thread - you need to be able to remove it at a later date.

A Note About Width

We are working with even count Peyote. To make a wider bracelet, start with 8 or 10 beads rather than the 6 recommended. The length of the first row of beads will be the width of the bracelet. You may need up to 3 tubes of each bead for a wide bracelet.

A Note About Tension . . .

It is very important to keep your tension tight throughout the project.

- grip your work between your thumb and forefinger so you can just see the last row of beads. This will help keep your tension nice and even and tight.
- pull your thread tight at the end of every row.
- make sure that when you pull your thread tight you grip the thread close to the bead and pull straight in the direction the thread is going - not to the side or backwards as this will loosen the beads off.
- in your initial rows you can push the stopper bead tight against the beads and this will tighten your tension. A stopper bead is also known as a tension bead.

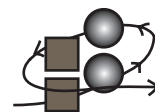
To start and finish your thread

Leave your current needle and thread where they are.

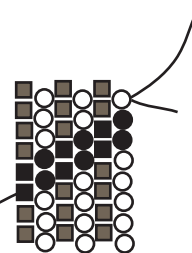
Thread up a second needle with 3 arm lengths of Silamide and double it like at the start. No stopper bead is needed, leave a small tail of thread instead.

You are going to sew three small circles around your beads to lock in your new thread.

1. Start on the opposite edge to where your current thread is coming out of. Think of a circle. Bring the new needle and thread through an edge bead and the next closest bead to it, on an angle (UP two beads), then down the two beads just above, then up the first two beads again. This over lapping circle locks in your thread.



2. Stitch three circles to join your new thread and finish up coming out of the same bead as your old thread, in the same direction. Stitch one row using the NEW thread. Then, finish the old thread the same way as above, working in a different area if you can. Once done, cut all the tails (but not the working thread!)



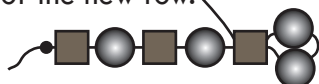
Make a start . . .

1. Thread on the following and slide them down to your stopper bead.

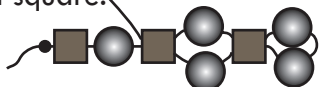
1 x square, 1 x #6, 1 x square, 1 x #6, 1 x square, 1 x #6



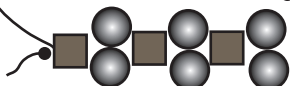
2. Thread on another #6 seed bead and let it drop onto the thread. Work toward the stopper bead. Bring your needle and thread through the first Miyuki square only (ignore the end #6 seed bead). Pull your thread up tight. The new #6 should sit right under the last #6. This is the first bead of the new row.



3. Pick up another #6. Bring your needle and thread through the next square.

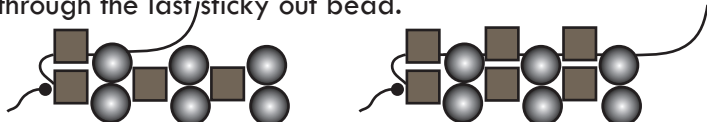


4. Pick up another #6. Bring your needle and thread through the square closest to the stopper bead but NOT through the stopper bead! Pull your thread firmly at the end of this row so all the beads sit tight and close together.



Now we will stitch back in the other direction with a new row of beads, this time picking up a square every time.

5. Pick up a square and stitch through the closest bead with its bottom sticking out (a #6). Pick up another square and stitch through the next bead with its bottom sticking out. Pick up another square and stitch back through the last sticky out bead.



How Do I Remember What Beads To Use On Which Row?

If you finish a row coming out of a square, the new row will be picking up squares and passing through #6's.

If you finish a row coming out of a #6, you will be picking up #6's and passing through squares.

6. Continue stitching back and forth in the above fashion until you have approximately 8cm of thread left, then change your thread.

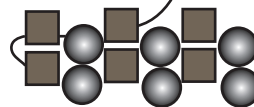
8. Now, use your original tails (next to the stopper bead) to attach one side of your clasp - you do this now so you don't get carried away and make the bracelet too long!

9. Keep stitching until you are ready to attach the second side of the clasp.

Attach one side of the clasp . . .

Use the tails of your thread from the start to attach a button/toggle to the first end. You may need to use one thread first and finish it, then stitch through the beads again with the second thread and finish it if you have trouble threading both ends through the needle.

First, slide off your stopper bead and bring your needle and thread through one of the middle beads in the end row..



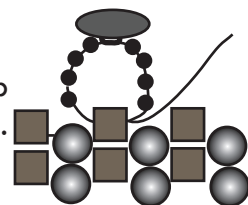
1. Pick up 4 x #11 seed beads, go through the loop of the button or clasp, and pick up another 4 #11 seed beads.



NOTE: If your button has 2 holes, pick up your 4 x #11's, go up one hole, pick up 3 x #11s, go down the other hole and pick up the last 4 x #11s.



2. Stitch back through the other side of the same base bead so that a loop is formed by the beads on the thread.



3. Now, stitch around the entire loop a second time, then a third time. This is very important as the clasp takes the most pressure and you do not want it to become weak and maybe break. Finish the thread/s.

Attach the other side of the clasp . . .

Once you are happy with the entire length of the bracelet, attach the other end of a toggle the same way as above using your working thread. Remember to allow for the length the second end of the closure will add to the bracelet.

If you have used a button, you will need to make a seed bead loop for the other end. As above, come out an end bead. Pick up enough seed beads to make a loop that fits over your button - not too big and not too small! Triple check it. Once you have the right amount, finish off as per above, stitching through the base bead and the loop 3 times.

Cut the tail of the new thread and the tail of the old thread as close as possible with a sharp pair of scissors. You may also want to daub the cut ends with some clear nail varnish to help stop them becoming fluffy. If you have a thread zapper, the thread will automatically be sealed.

For more tips, tricks, inspiration and tutorials and all your beading supplies visit us at

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