## ODD-COUNT PEYOTE STITCH



Odd count peyote stitch is created in alternating rows that always form an odd number of staggered columns. It requires an extra step (a special turn at the left end of each row to reposition the needle), but it provides your pattern with a middle column. This allows for a symmetrical pattern across its width. You can make the strip as wide as you would like, as long as the total width is an odd number of columns. In this example, we are creating a total of seven columns.

1 Leaving a six inch tail (or longer if specified), add a stopper bead to keep your beads from sliding off your thread as you work. Choose a small bead that is a different color from the ones in your design. Loop through the bead twice and pull tight. [Diagram 1]

2 String beads for the first two rows (in this case seven). [Diagram 2]


3 Perform an even count turn. To do this: string another bead (8), skip an existing bead (7), and thread through an existing up bead (6). Pull the thread so that the new bead (8) is stacked on top of the existing bead (7). [Diagram 3A]


Diagram 3A
Tip: To help keep the first rows from tangling, slip an un-threaded needle or wire through every other bead to hold them in the correct position until they start to stagger on their own.
Make sure the beads are staggered as shown in the diagram with bead (1) as a down bead, bead (2) as an up bead, etc. [Diagram 3B]


4 Keep stringing a bead (9), skipping a bead (5), and threading through the next up bead (4). Continue through the last up bead in the row then down a row through bead (1). [Diagram 4]


5 Perform an odd count turn. To do this: with thread exiting bead (1), string a bead (11), and then thread through the last existing bead (1) again and back through the newly added bead (11). [Diagram 5]


Diagram 5

6 Continue adding a bead, skipping a bead, and threading through the next up bead in the row until you get to the end. [Diagram 6]


7 Perform an even count turn. Continue adding a bead, skipping a bead, and threading through the next up bead in the row until you get to the last existing up bead in the row (12).

Perform an odd count turn: thread through that existing bead (12) and the last existing bead in the row below it (11), string a bead (18), and then loop through the bead you just exited (11) and back through the bead you just added (18). [Diagram 7]


8 Continue weaving your piece alternating even count and odd count turns. Add thread as needed. To do this, stop in the middle of the row, leave existing thread so you know where you left off. Weava a new thread into the body of the piece exiting in the same place as the original thread as shown in [Diagram 8]. Tie off the first thread in the same manner then continue beading with the new thread.

Tip: You may find it easier to flip the piece over so that you are always moving from right to left. When following a pattern, note that the front of the pattern will always be with the tail on your left.

9 Remove the stopper bead. Weave the tails into the body of the piece to secure [Diagram 9] unless the tails will be used later to connect other elements.


Diagram 8


Diagram 9

NOTE: There are three alternative ways to do an odd-count turn.

## ALTERNATE 1



## ALTERNATE 2



ALTERNATE 3


Visit the Design Studio for a Video Tutorial about Odd-Count Peyote

