

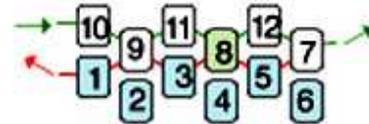


Fast Peyote

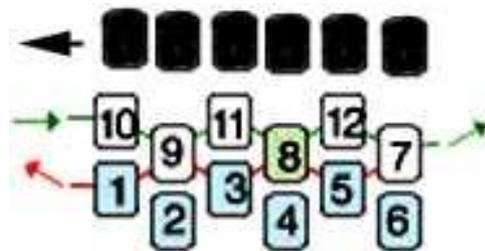
Well... to be quite honest, nothing in seed bead work is really fast, but this will cut time down on your even count peyote stitch.

Attach a stop bead to a comfortable length of thread and pick up an even number of seed beads. Jot down this number somewhere, you'll need it later. For these directions, I've picked 6 beads. As you know, these are the first and second rows of your peyote stitch, but "fast peyote" will allow you to do two rows at a time.

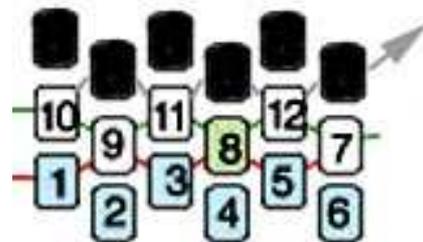
Work two rows of standard, flat, even-count peyote stitch (see diagram, right). This will give you something to hold onto once you begin your fast peyote.



Pick up that same number of beads you started with (the number you jotted down and in the case of this instruction sheet, 6). Drape them across your beadwork (see diagram, right).



You'll be sewing through the end up-bead of the previous row (in my diagram, this is #10) and going in the opposite direction. Skip the last bead picked up, sew through the next one, and continue through the next up-bead in the previous row (this is #11). Skip a bead in the last row you picked up and go through #12 (see diagram, right).



In other words, the trick here will be that you will go through every other bead in the beads you've just picked up, and will go through the "up" beads in your peyote stitch. Every other bead will be riding above the up bead in the previous rows.

Continue across, zigzagging through every other bead in the group you just picked up and going through all the up beads in the previous row. The biggest mistake that students just learning this stitch make is that they try to go through every bead they picked up in this group. Remember: you'll be going through every other bead only!

Repeat and continue by adding a new grouping of beads.