

# Basics of Even Count Flat Peyote Tutorial

By Gail Nettles  
"Beaded Jewelry Diva"  
<http://www.beadedjewelrydiva.com/>  
All Rights Reserved  
© Copyright 2010



**First, the boring stuff:**

Here's how you can use this tutorial, Basics of Even Count Flat Peyote.

Since this Basics ebook is free, you can print a copy for your own use, and feel free to share the ebook with others.

**All rights are reserved for this ebook and the photos.** This means you can't use the text or the photos for your own publication without my express written permission.

Any questions on this, feel free to email me at [gailn@beadedjewelrydiva.com](mailto:gailn@beadedjewelrydiva.com) and I'll do my best to answer you in a timely manner.

One more thing; I recommend that you read through this ebook once all the way through *before* starting your project.

OK, now that the boring stuff is done, let's talk about even count flat peyote!

## **Welcome to the Wonderful World of Even Count Flat Peyote!**

Even count flat peyote is one of the easiest beadweaving stitches around. It's also a fast stitch, so once you get the rhythm, your work will progress quickly.

And did I mention your work will also be gorgeous? In fact, it can be so compelling, and you can do so much with it, that you'll be tempted to stay just with this one stitch happily ever after.

### **A Short History of Peyote Beadweaving**

The name peyote draws from the stitch used by Native Americans. Called the gourd stitch when used for everyday objects, it's also called peyote when used to make items used in sacred ceremonies.

But this stitch wasn't just made by the Native Americans. Far across the Atlantic Ocean, beadweavers in Africa also used peyote in their ethnic beadweaving.

And did you know that peyote has ties to stitches called netting? Sometimes peyote is also called 1-bead netting.

Now that you know a little bit about it, let's take a look at what you're going to need before creating your own jewelry.

### **Basic Beadweaving Supplies**

First, you'll need some basic beadweaving supplies, which will be needed for pretty much any beadweaving project (whether peyote or some other stitch).

Your basic beadweaving kit should include:

- Seed Beads
- Needles
- Thread
- Scissors and/or wire clipper

Optional supplies include:

- Findings (earwires, buttons, clasps, etc.)
- Beading Mat
- Beading Tray
- Larger Beads (pearls, crystals, gemstones, etc.)

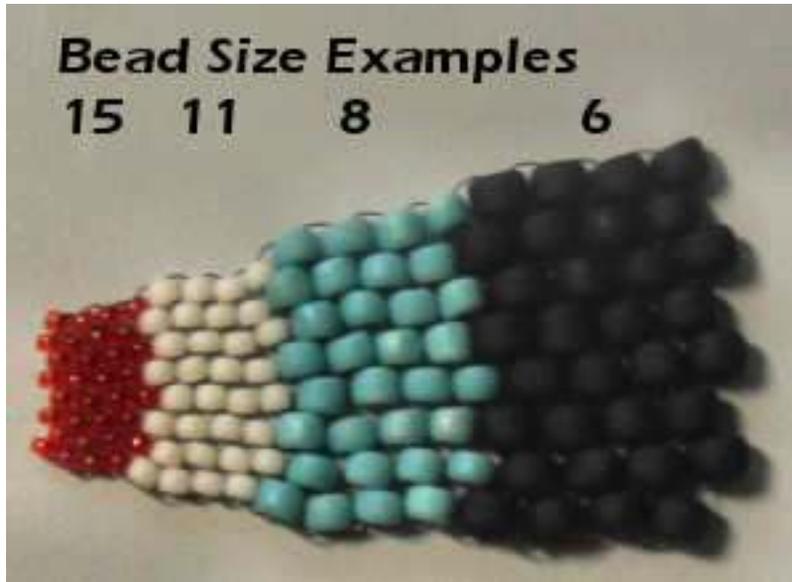
To get the low-down on all these, check out the free "Basics of Beading Supplies" ebook at <http://www.beadedjewelrydiva.com/basics-tutorials/> which covers all of these supplies.

## Seed Beads

Beads, glorious beads! They beckon to us in their tubes, bags and hanks, begging us to be made into beautiful jewelry.

But before you go wild and purchase the whole bead store, or if you are on a tight budget, then here are some things to know about seed beads before you get out your pocketbook.

### Bead Sizes



Here's an example of the most common bead sizes that you will come across; sizes 15, 11, 8 and 6.

As you can see from the photo, which I've labeled with the bead sizes, size 15 is the smallest and size 6 is the largest. Each size swatch has the same number of beads.

There are size smaller than 15 and larger than 6, but it's rare that you will come across them in the course of your bead shopping. And it's also

extremely rare that you'll see a project that uses these very small and very large bead sizes.

All the beads shown above have what's called a matte finish, except for the red beads, which are transparent. (I went looking through my stash for matte size 15 and I couldn't find any...one more bead type I need!).

I could go on and on (and on) about seed beads! If you want to know more about the various kinds of seed beads (and photos, of course), get the free "Basics of Seed Beads" tutorial on the <http://www.beadedjewelrydiva.com/basics-tutorials/> page.

## Basic Even Count Peyote Beading

There are two ways to do peyote; one way is "even count" and the other is "odd count". The "even" and "odd" refer to the number of beads you use to start your project.

Even count peyote is the easier of the two to learn (although once you are familiar with even count, odd count will come a lot easier).

The only disadvantage to using even count peyote is that you cannot use a design that needs to be exactly centered with an odd number of columns. However, there are a multitude of designs that are perfect for even count peyote, like the project in this ebook.

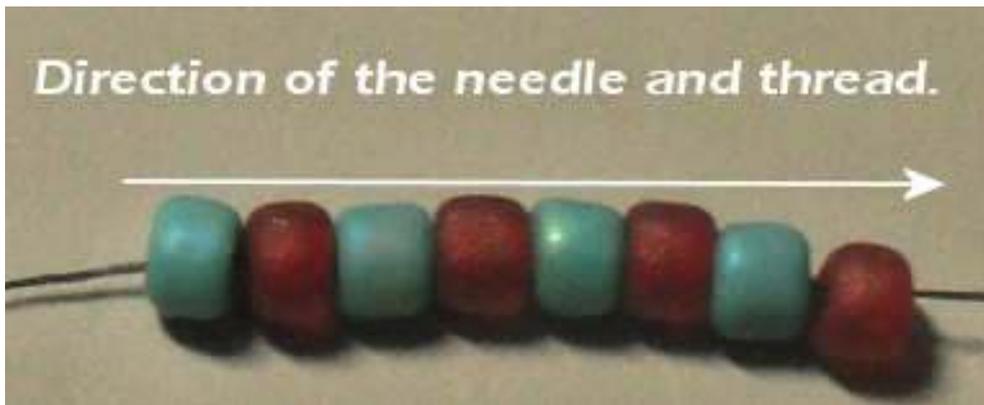
So let's get started in learning how to do the peyote beadweaving stitch. I am going to demonstrate using size 8 seed beads, so you can more easily see how I am working the stitch.



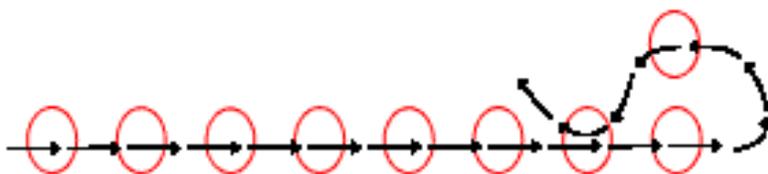
Start by threading on a stop bead. A stop bead is a bead that is a different color or size from the beads you will use in your project, and it exists to help your beads from falling off the thread, plus create the proper tension for the first few rows.

Put your needle and thread through the stop bead, then put it through one more time. Alternately, you can just tie a loose single knot around your bead.

Once you have your stop bead on, string on however many beads your project calls for, plus 1. The below photo shows 8 beads strung on.



Now pick up one more bead and circle back around, skipping the last bead and putting your needle through the next bead, like what is shown in the graphic below.

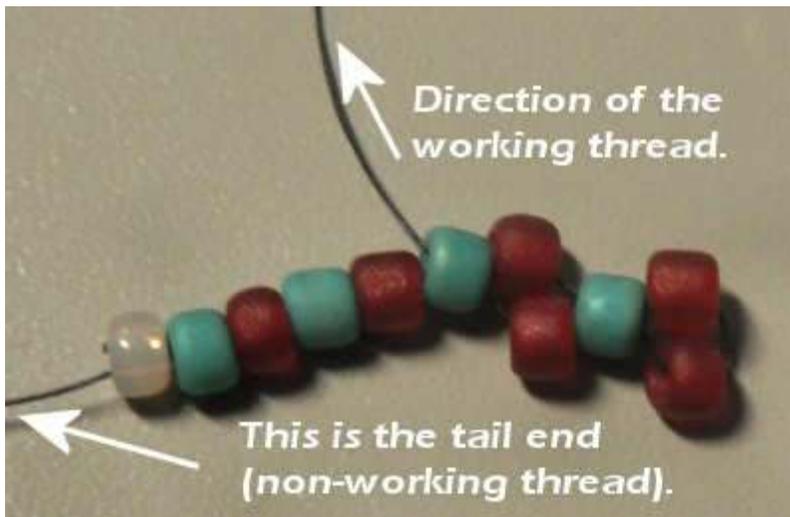


Here's a photo showing what it looks like.



Circle back around and skipping bead number 8, put your needle through the next bead. Pull snugly and your beads will sit on top of each other.

Skip bead number 6 and put your needle through bead 5. Here's another photo for you.



(The white bead on the end is just the stop bead.)

Keep on doing the same for the rest of the beads; skip the red beads and put your needle through the blue beads. One more photo:



Got the hang of it now? Good!

Once you get to the end of the row, your bead will be coming out of the last one (in this case, a blue bead). Pick up a blue bead and stitch back into the red bead. From this point on, you're just "filling in the ditch" that each previous row has created.

Don't worry if you don't quite have the hang of it yet; just keep practicing, preferably with size 8 or even size 6 seed beads until it clicks for you.

### **Some Things to Know**

As with just about every beading stitch, the first few rows are the hardest to keep straight. Not to worry, once you've completed a few projects, you'll start to find it easy to keep the initial rows straight.

Here's something confusing that you need to know if you follow a peyote graph chart. When you string on your initial row of beads, it's actually considered rows 1 and 2. When you add your first bead on the next row, it's considered row 3. Yep, told you it was confusing! But not to worry; I show an easier way to count rows in the project in this ebook.

Unless you start with several yards of thread on your needle, you'll have to tie off your old thread and start a new one at some point. Here's what I do to make it easier.

When you have about 5 inches of thread left on your needle, unthread it, but leave the thread coming out of the last bead you worked. This will show you where you need to start up again.

Thread on a new length to your needle, and on the "backside" of your work, and starting a few rows below where you ended, weave your needle through two or three beads, then tie a half-hitch knot. Weave through a few more beads, tie another half-hitch. Then weave your needle through the beads until it's coming out of the last bead you worked, where the old thread is

hanging out. Work another row, then thread the old thread through a short needle and weave it back into the work (once again, on the "backside"). Once you've tied a couple of half-hitches, put your needle through one more bead, then clip the thread as close to the work as possible.

### **Two-Drop Peyote**

Once you have the hang of regular peyote, a 2-drop stitch is quite easy. And what's nice is that it works up really fast!

All you need to do is instead of using 1 bead for a stitch, you do them in groups of two. Here's an example.



See how each stitch is actually made up with two beads instead of just one?

You can also work three-drop peyote, by using three beads per stitch.

Two-drop and three-drop peyote works up much faster than does regular peyote, but it's not always appropriate depending on the pattern of your project. But I do encourage you to experiment!

Now how about making a simple (but still really pretty) bracelet with your new skills! It's called "Windows and Doors", and it's the bracelet you see on the cover of this ebook tutorial.

## Windows and Doors Bracelet

This is a fun bracelet to make, and it's displayed on the cover of this ebook. It involves making horizontal and vertical lines in three colors. Now you don't have to use the colors I do – feel free to use whatever tickles your fancy! But for ease of writing out the instructions, and so you can follow along in the photos, I'll call the colors as what I used.

### ***Supplies Needed:***

- Size 8 seed beads in three different colors. I used purple, blue and cream; you can of course use any colors that you like. For this bracelet, I used roughly 5 grams per color.
- One button, in a color to match or complement your beads. I used a gold-colored button with a shank for this bracelet.
- Size 10 or size 12 beading needle.
- Thread – I use 6-lb Fireline, but you can use Nymo, Silamide or something else.

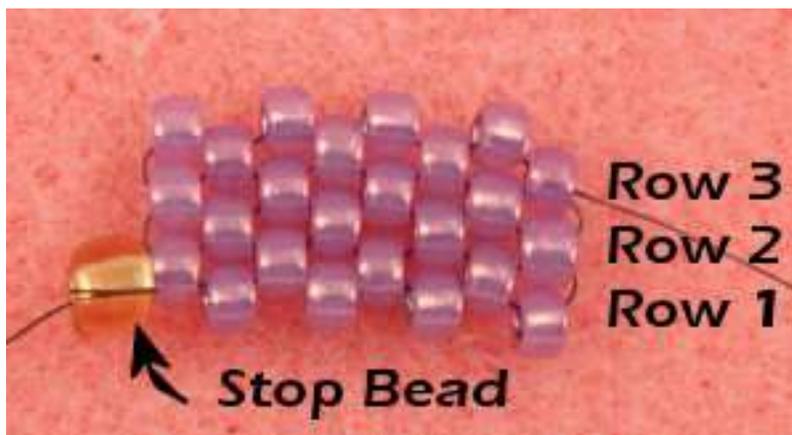
The directions I give are for a bracelet that is just shy of 7 inches long (including the clasp). If your wrist size is smaller or larger, you'll have to make some small adjustments in the number of rows you stitch. (See page 12 for how to adjust the size.)

### ***Instructions:***

**Please read the instructions all the way through before you start this project!**

Thread your needle with a comfortable length of thread. I use around 6 feet at a time, but you can use more or less as suits you.

String on a stop bead (see page 4 if you need a refresher) and leave at least a 10-inch tail. Make this stop bead be a different color or size, so you don't confuse it with your bracelet beads.

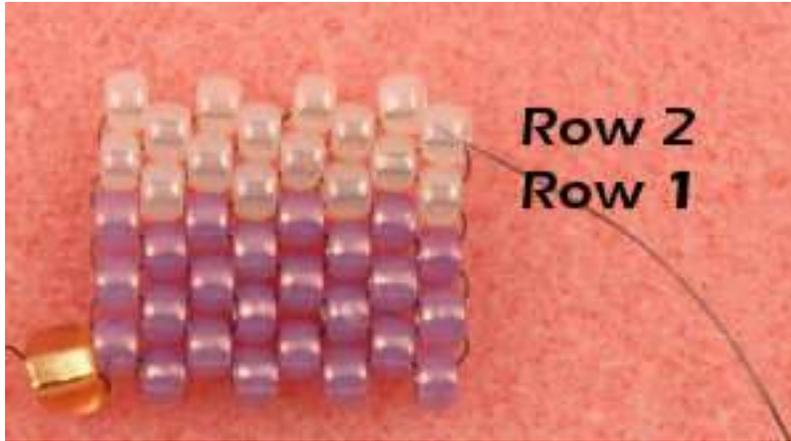


String eight purple seed beads on your thread. Do even count peyote for three rows.

I'm counting the rows by the number of beads on each side of your work.

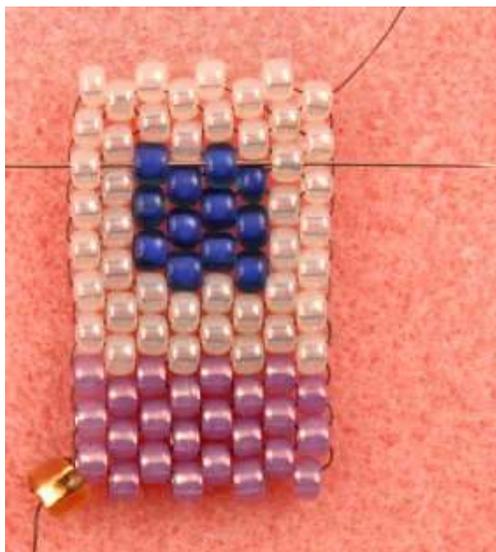
And since a picture is worth a thousand words, here's a photo of what yours should look like.

See what I mean by three rows?

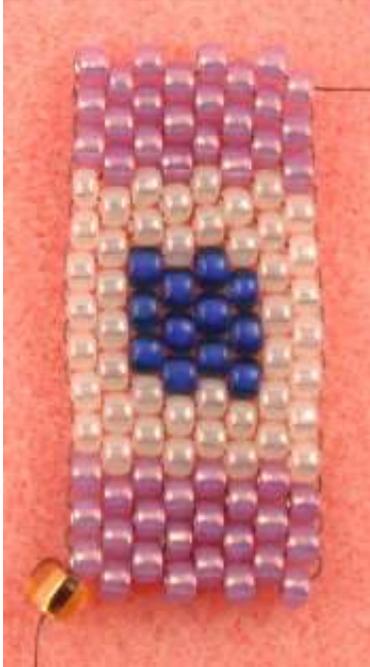


Starting with the next row, use all cream beads, until you have 2 rows of cream color.

For the next several rows, we'll be working a window, so you want to use 1 cream bead, 2 blue beads and 1 cream bead. Work this until you have three rows of blue beads.



For the next two rows, use all cream beads. If you have difficulty in seeing if you have two rows, stick a needle or piece of wire into the top row of the blue beads; count up from there.

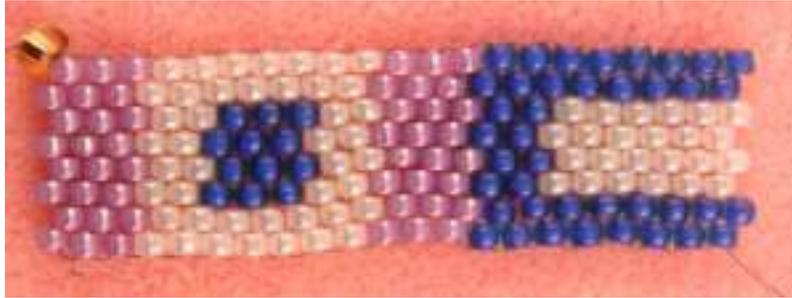


Next, we're going to separate the window from the door. Work three rows of the purple beads.

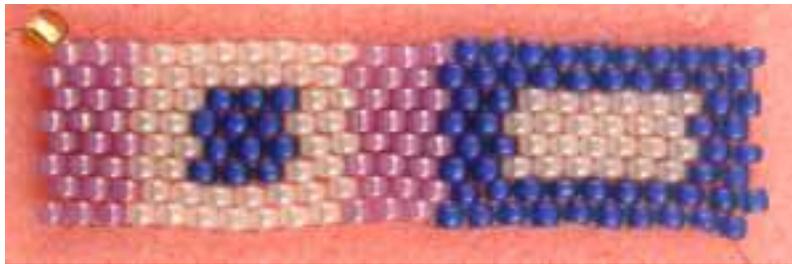
Time to start on the door! Work two rows of the blue beads. This is the start of the doorframe.



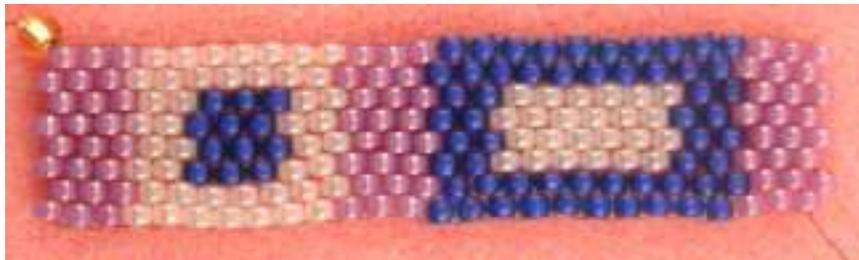
Next, work six rows of the following pattern: one blue bead, two cream beads and one blue bead.



Next, do two rows of all blue beads.



Next, three rows of all purple to separate the doors.



From here on out, do everything in reverse. Make a door with a cream frame and blue door. Add a purple separator. Then make a window with a blue frame and a cream windowpane. And then, of course, a purple end.

Ta-da! You have a "Windows and Doors" even count peyote bracelet! Here's what it looks like, before the clasp is put on.



Here's a note for anyone who needs a longer or shorter bracelet than what I have described.

If you need it shorter, use only two rows of purple on each end, and two rows for each purple separator.

If you need it longer, make the purple separators four rows instead of three rows, and add an extra row of purple to each end.

You can also adjust the length by how you attach the button for your clasp.

If the bracelet is just a *little* too small for your wrist at this point, and you don't want to take it apart and start again, here's something for you. Add two rows of blue to one end and two rows of cream to the other end. Here's how this looks.



Now you know why I said leave at least a 10-inch tail to the bracelet; it's there not only for the clasp, but also in case you need to make a slight adjustment!

### **Attaching the Clasp**

The next step is attaching the clasp. I've chosen to use a button, but you can also use anything else you like – a store-bought toggle clasp, make your own toggle clasp, a lobster-claw – the possibilities are endless.

A button clasp is great because it lets you still adjust the length if you need it, by how large the button and where you sew that button onto the bracelet – at the very end or inwards some. Cool, huh?

Let's get started.

Go to the end that had the stop bead, and weave your needle through the beads until you are about at the middle of the first row of the beads.

Take your needle, pick up a seed bead (doesn't matter what color), the shank of the button, and then another seed bead.

Then pass your needle down through the beadwork, just like if you were sewing a button on cloth.

Pass the needle back up through the seed bead, the button shank the other seed bead, then down back through the bracelet.

Do this at least three times; more if you have enough thread left. You want the button to be as secure as possible on the bracelet.

When you are finished, and with your needle on the backside of the bracelet, weave through a few beads, then tie a half-hitch knot. Weave through another two beads, tie another half hitch, then into one more bead. Cut the thread as close to the beadwork as possible.

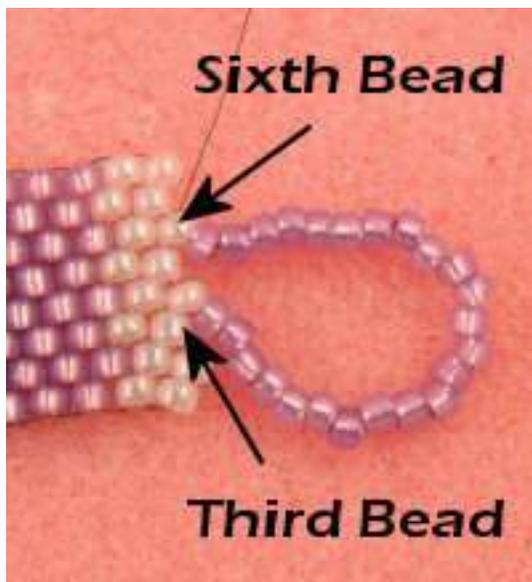
Your bracelet, with the button, will look something like this.



To complete the bracelet, you need to add a loop to the other end. I will show you a simple loop, as well as a peyote stitched loop. Both start the same way, so you can choose how simple or fancy you want to go.

On the opposite end of the bracelet from the button, thread your needle through the beadwork until you are at the third bead on the last row of the bracelet. String on as many beads as you need to fit over the button, but make sure it's an even number, if you want to try the peyote loop.

For my particular button, I used 24 seed beads for the loop; yours may need more or less, depending on the size of the button you've selected, and the width of your seed beads.



Once you have all the beads on, put your needle back through the 6<sup>th</sup> bead at the end of the bracelet. This centers the loop.

#### **Simple Loop:**

If you want to stay with a simple loop, then weave your needle back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> bead, and run the thread back through the loop, to reinforce it. This will also make the loop look straighter.

Do this at least twice; three times is better. You don't want your loop falling apart on you as you take your bracelet on and off!

Then skip to the "Tie off Your Thread" section.

## **Peyote Loop:**

But if you want to do a peyote loop, here are the steps.

Once you have centered your loop, weave back though to the 3<sup>rd</sup> bead. Make sure you are exiting the bead in the same direction as your initial loop.

Put your needle through the first bead, pick up a bead, skip a bead, then put your needle through the next one. Yep, it's your basic peyote stitch. Work peyote all the way around.

You'll end up looking something like the photo to the right.

If you like this look, skip to the "Tie Off Your Thread" section.



But if you want just a little extra, you can add another round of peyote, with a bit of a difference.

I've changed bead colors so you can see this more clearly (plus I think it adds a little something extra).

Notice the top of the loop; there are three stitches where I used two beads instead of one. This is because spaces between beads at the top of the loop are further apart, because of the curve.

One bead would end up showing a lot of thread. Two beads fill the space nicely.

Here's something you need to know, however, if you have a different bead count than me for the initial loop – remember, I used 24 beads.

If you used a different number of beads for your first loop, you might need to adjust how many stitches need two beads. You'll have to work this round carefully to make sure your two-drop bead sections are centered properly.

Once you have all the peyote stitching you want, exit the last bead on the loop and put your needle into the bracelet portion, on the backside. You are now ready to tie off your thread.

### **Tie Off Your Thread:**

Then weave your needle on the backside of the bracelet. Tie a half-hitch knot, then through three more beads. Tie another half-hitch, weave through two more beads. One more half-hitch, weave through one more bead, and then cut your thread close to your work. You're done!

Here's the completed bracelet.



### **Before You Go...**

I hope you've enjoyed this tutorial, and that you will use the steps to create beautiful peyote jewelry.

But before you go, I also have more tutorials for you! Some are freebies, some cost a teeny-tiny amount. But if you liked this tutorial, you'll probably like some of my others as well!

Come on and visit me at <http://www.beadedjewelrydiva.com> and pick out the ones you'd like. Then enjoy the wonderful world of making your very own beaded jewelry!

Grail  
😊