

# Two-Needle Peyote Start

*Take the tension (and tension problems)  
out of starting peyote stitch*

by Barbara L. Grainger

How many times have you tried to start a peyote stitch project and found yourself with a tangled mess, vowing you'll never try to do peyote stitch again? I know just how it feels. Several years ago I found Judith Glassman's two-needle start in her book, *Step By Step Beadcraft*. I've used it often with great success. This method builds the first three rows at once. My students have all been thrilled at how easy it makes starting a peyote project – even in the middle.

## stepbystep

Note: these directions are for peyote stitching from the bottom up. To peyote stitch from the top down, transpose row 1 and row 3 so that row 1 is on top.

- 1 Thread two needles onto a single thread, one at each end.
- 2 Pick up 2 beads: a row 1 bead on the bottom needle and a row 3 bead on the top needle. Slide them both to the center of the thread sitting side by side (figure 1).
- 3 Pick up the next row 2 bead and pass both needles through it at the same time in the same direction. Pull the bead next to the first two beads (figure 2).
- 4 Pick up 2 beads, the next row 3 bead on the top needle and the row 1 bead on the bottom needle, and pull them next to the single bead with #3 above #1. You may need to persuade the beads to sit properly by holding both threads and gently pushing them toward the single bead (figure 3). Keep an even tension.

- 5 Repeat steps 3 and 4 until the piece is as wide as needed.

- 6 **For even count flat peyote** – End with a single bead as in figure 2. Drop the bottom needle and use the top one as the working thread to begin row 4 (figure 4).

- 7 **For odd count flat peyote** – End with 2 beads as in figure 3. Pass the needle from row 3 into the last bead of row 1, heading back toward the work. Tie this thread off or use it later. Pass the needle from row 1 into the last bead of row 3, heading back toward the work and use it to begin row 4 (figure 5).

- 8 **For tubular peyote, even count** – Build the first three rows as for flat peyote, even count. Make a tube by bringing the beginning beads around to meet the last bead added. Make sure the strip isn't twisted. Then pass the bottom needle through the first bead in row 1 and the top needle through the first bead in row 3. Knot the bottom thread around the thread between beads #1 and #2. Use the top needle as the working thread to begin row 4 (figure 6).

- 9 **For tubular peyote, odd count** – Build the first three rows as for flat peyote, odd count. Join into a tube as above, but pass both needles through the first bead in row 3. Knot the bottom thread around the thread between beads #3 and #2. Use the top needle to begin row 4 (figure 7). •

Barbara is the author of *Peyote At Last*. Contact her at PO Box 5264, Oregon City, OR 97045 or DoveLady01@aol.com

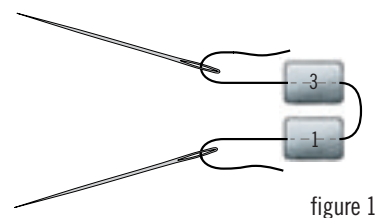


figure 1

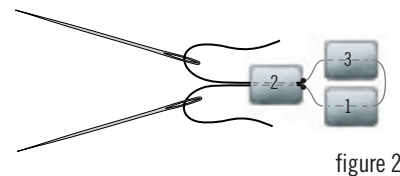


figure 2

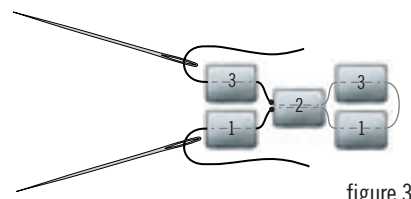


figure 3

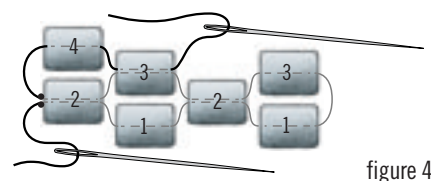


figure 4

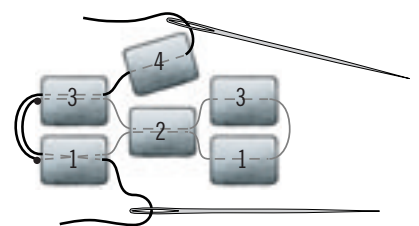


figure 5

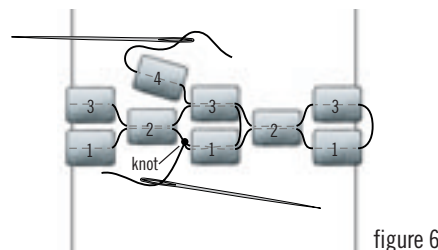


figure 6

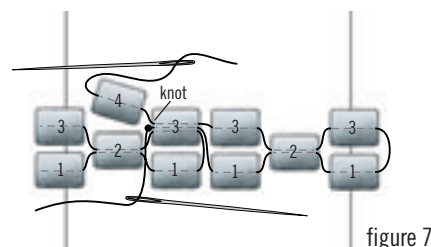


figure 7