**Peyote Stitch Basics**

**Flat, even-count peyote**
1. Pick up an even number of beads. These beads become the first two rows.
2. To begin row 3, pick up a bead, and go through the second bead from the end. (As you stitch, every other bead drops down half a space to form row 1.) Pick up a bead, and go through the fourth bead from the end. Continue across the row. End by going through the first bead picked up.
3. To count peyote rows, count the edge beads in a zigzag pattern.

**Flat, odd-count peyote**
1. Begin as for flat, even-count peyote, but pick up an odd number of beads. Work row 3 as in even-count, stopping before adding the last two beads.
2. Work a figure 8 turn at the end of row 3 as shown: String the next-to-the-last bead (#7), and go through #2, then #1. String the last bead (#8), and go through #2, #3, #7, #2, #1, and #8. This will position you to start row 4.
3. You can work this turn at the end of each odd-numbered row, but this edge will be stiffer than the other. Instead, in subsequent odd-numbered rows, string the last bead of the row, then loop through the edge thread immediately below. Go through the last bead to begin the new row.
4. Stitch the turn at the end of even-numbered rows as shown.

**Zipping up or joining flat peyote**
To join two sections of a flat peyote piece invisibly, match up the two pieces so the edge beads fit together. “Zip up” the pieces by zigzagging through the up-beads on both edges.

**Gradual increase**
1. The gradual increase takes four rows. At the point of the increase, pick up two thinner beads. Go through the next up-bead.
2. On the second row of the increase, when you get to the two thinner beads, stitch through them as if they were one bead.
3. On the third row, place two regular-sized beads over the two thinner beads.
4. On the fourth row, go through the first increase bead, pick up a bead, and go through the second increase bead. Continue across the row.
Gradual decrease
1 The gradual decrease takes four rows. At the point of the decrease, go through two up-beads.
2 On the second row of the decrease, put two thinner beads in the open space, and go through the next up-bead.
3 On the third row, go through the two thinner beads as if they were one bead.
4 On the fourth row, pick up one bead, and go through the next up-bead.

Rapid increase
1 At the point of the increase, pick up two beads instead of one. Go through the next bead.
2 When you reach the two beads on the next row, go through the first bead, add a bead, and go through the second bead.

Two-drop peyote
Work two-drop peyote stitch the same as basic peyote, but treat pairs of beads as if they were single beads.
1 Start with an even number of beads divisible by four.
2 Pick up two beads (stitch 1 of row 3), skip two beads, and go through the next two beads. Repeat across the row.

Rapid decrease
1 At the point of the decrease, go through two beads on the previous row.
2 On the next row, when you reach the two-bead space, pick up one bead.

Tubular or circular even-count peyote
1 Pick up an even number of beads to equal the desired circumference. Knot the thread to form a ring, leaving some slack.
2 Put the ring over a form if desired. Go through the first bead to the left of the knot. Pick up a bead, skip a bead on the previous round, and go through the next bead. Repeat around until you’re back at the start.
3 Since you started with an even number of beads, you need to step up to be in position to start the next round. Go through the first beads on rounds 2 and 3. Pick up a bead, and go through the second bead on round 3; continue.
4 If you begin with an odd number of beads, you won’t need to step up. The beads form a continuous spiral.