Poodle Beads

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A basic peyote tube takes on a fun, new look simply by adding looped fringes around the edges. String one single bead as a pendant or make a bunch and string them with other beads for a bracelet or necklace. Try crystals instead of seed beads for the loops and give these puppies real personality! These beads were named by a dog-loving friend even though she does not shave her poodles into ruffs. Ruff!

ADVANCED BEGINNER

WHAT YOU NEED

- 3 g size 6° seed beads (for the peyote tube)
- Color shown: matte brown AB
- 3 g size 8° seed beads (for the loops)
- Color shown: matte olive green
- Black .006 WildFire beading thread
- Size 10 or 12 needle
- Scissors
- Bead Stopper

Artist's Tip

Round seed beads (not cylinder beads) work best for the looping fringes, but cylinder beads work fine for peyote tubes.

Stitch a peyote tube

1. On a 4' piece of thread, string 8 size 6° beads. Attach a Bead Stopper leaving a 6" tail.

2. Use only size 6° beads for the tube. String 1 bead, and pass back through the next-to-last bead just strung. This bead will sit directly above the bead passed through.

3. String 1 bead, skip a bead, and pass through the next bead. String 1 bead, skip a bead, and pass through the next. Repeat, working in peyote stitch. The beads will push against the first beads you strung and give them a staggered appearance.

4. At the end of the row, reverse direction to work back for the next row: string 1 size 6°, skip the end bead, and pass through the next bead.
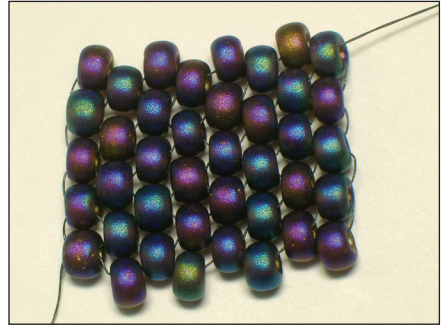

5. Pull the thread snug; wiggle the beadwork between your fingers to assist in allowing the thread to pull tighter. You should now be able to remove the Stopper. Continue in peyote stitch.

6. At the end of the row, reverse direction as in Step 3.

7. Continue until you have a strip with 5 beads along each side.

Make the peyote tube

8. Pass across the tube into the end bead opposite the side where your thread exits. Notice you pass into an "out" bead.

Note: A paper tube is shown here for illustrative purposes so the thread can be more easily seen. When you make your peyote tube you do not need this paper tube.

9. Crisscrossing back and forth, "zip" the two sides of the tube together, passing through the out beads.
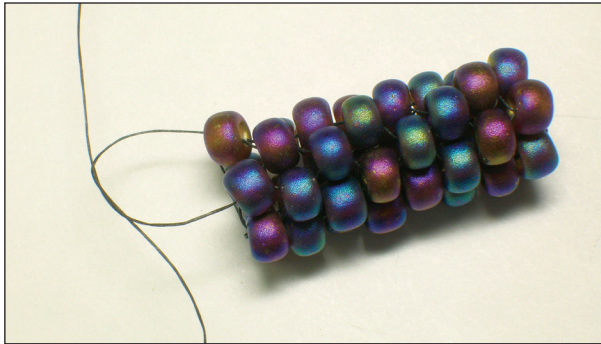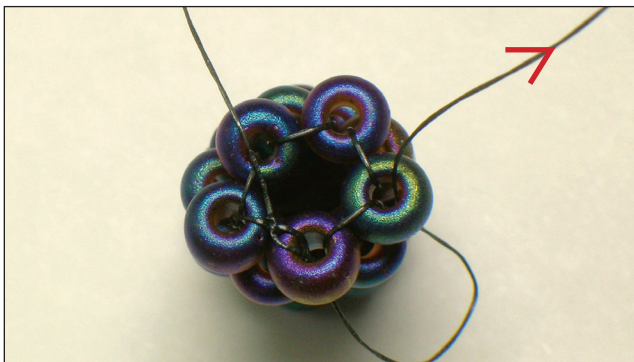
10. Your thread should be exiting out the end bead of the side opposite the side with the tail. Tie the tail and your working thread together in a secure square knot. Do not trim any threads!
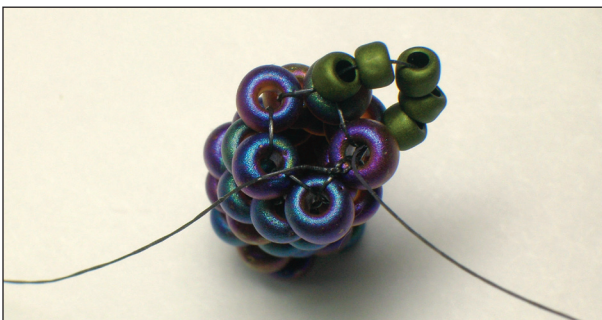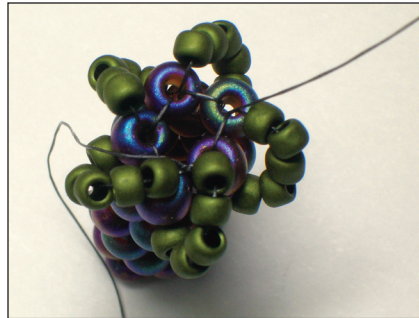

Make the loops

11. Your needle needs to be exiting out one of the five end beads. Since tying the knot places your thread between beads, reposition the needle: pass in (toward the tube beadwork) through one bead next to the knot and out (away from the beadwork) through an adjacent bead.
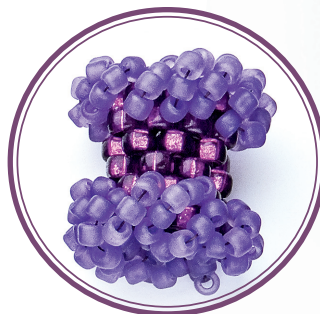

12. Use only size 8° seed beads for the loops. Loops are stitched on a diagonal. With your thread exiting out one end bead, pick up 5 size 8° seed beads and pass in a circular motion up through the next bead around the end of the tube.

13. Make 5 loops, working around the five beads at the tube end; repeat for a total of 10 loops. Make sure your loops do not cross over each other, but lay beside each other.

14. When 10 loops are completed, tie the tail and working thread together as in Step 10.
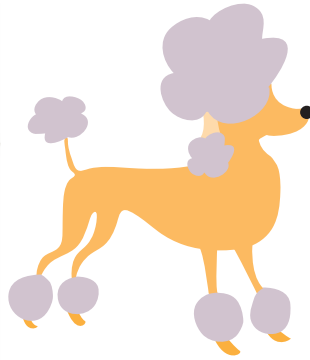

Voilà!

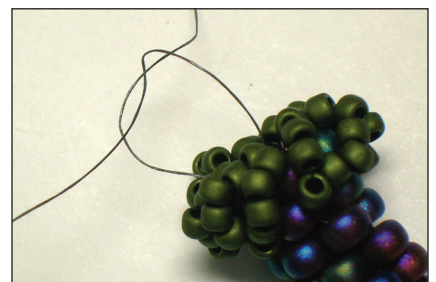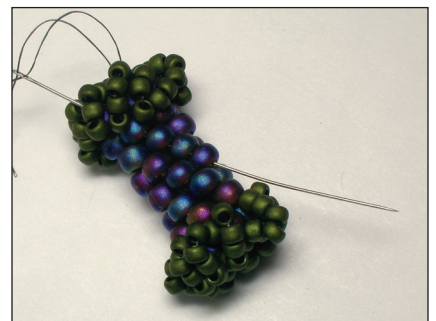String poodle beads with other beads for fun, fast, finished jewelry.

15. Weave your needle through the tube beadwork, following the existing thread paths (on a diagonal) to exit a bead on the other end of the tube.

16. Repeat to add 10 loops to this end. Weave back through the tube beadwork to the tail and knot again. Thread the tail onto the needle and weave in both ends simultaneously.

RESOURCES: Check your local bead shop.