

Easy peyote cuff

Weave a simple bracelet with plenty of style

by Mindy Brooks

A reader sent us a tip for helping children learn peyote stitch by using large beads and elastic thread (see “Tips & Techniques,” p. 8). Frankly, that seemed like an especially good way to teach the stitch to adults, too, and the idea led to the handsome peyote cuff shown here.

stepbystep

With just four beads in each row, this bracelet works up quickly, and the elastic thread helps keep the tension even as you stitch.

1 Thread the needle with a 7-yd. (6.4m) length of elastic. (This should be enough thread to complete the bracelet without having to add more.) Working with the elastic doubled, string a stop bead (any bead will do) and position it about halfway down the elastic. Take the needle through the bead again to keep it in place, and wrap the long tail of thread around a piece of cardboard so it will stay out of your way (**photo a**).

2 String 8 beads onto the elastic and move them close to the stop bead. Work in flat peyote stitch (see “Basics,” p. 94) (**photo b**), stretching the elastic very gently to keep the beads in place. To avoid having a tangled mess of elastic when the working thread is

long, hold it away from the beads and keep it under slight tension.

3 When you have about 1 ft. (30cm) of thread remaining, cut it at the fold, leaving the tails long. Clamp them or tape them to the bracelet to keep the beads in place as you work the other half.

4 Unwind the elastic on the cardboard. Thread the cut ends through the needle and continue working in peyote until the bracelet is a comfortable fit around your wrist. End the bracelet with an even number of rows.

5 Stretch the bracelet several times to distribute the thread’s tension along its length. Sew the bracelet’s ends together by zigzagging between beads (**photo c**). Work the elastic back through several beads in the last row.

6 Run the tails set aside in step 3 through several beads in the last row until the two pairs of ends meet. Tighten the elastic slightly so that no thread shows between beads. Knot the elastic ends together with a surgeon’s knot (see “Basics”), dab the knot with glue, and pull the knot into a bead. Before you trim the ends, run them through a bead or two and dab with glue to keep them in place. ●

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a



c



b

materials

- 2 Tubes 5° hex-cut beads
- Gossamer Floss (available from TSI, 800-366-2156)
- Tapestry or embroidery needles, size 20-24
- G-S Hypo-Tube Cement