

stitch pro {SHAPE WITH HERRINGBONE STITCH}

Jean Campbell



MATERIALS & TOOLS

Size 8° cylinder beads in 2 colors (A and B)
Size D nylon or 6 lb braided beading thread
Scissors
Size 10 beading needle

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There's a popular trend among beadwork designers these days: shaping peyote-stitched beadwork with increases that end up looking a whole lot like herringbone stitch. The technique can result in myriad geometric shapes, including the triangular shape shown here.

Round 1: Use 3' of thread to string 3A, leaving a short tail to weave in later. Tie a square knot to form a tight circle; pass through the first A strung.

Round 2: String 2B and pass through the next A of Round 1; repeat twice. Step up for the next and subsequent rounds by passing through the first B added in the current round (Fig. 1).

Round 3: *String 2B; pass through the next B added in the previous round (a herringbone stitch). String 1A; pass through the next B added in the previous round (a peyote stitch). Repeat from * twice. Step up (Fig. 2).

Round 4: Work 1 herringbone stitch with 2B and work 2 peyote stitches with 1A in each stitch; repeat twice. Step up (Fig. 3).

Rounds 5 and on: Repeat Round 4, adding 2B at the corners and increasing 1A on each side with each subsequent round. ♦

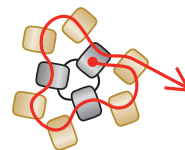


Fig. 1

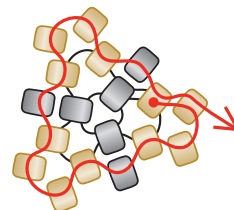


Fig. 2

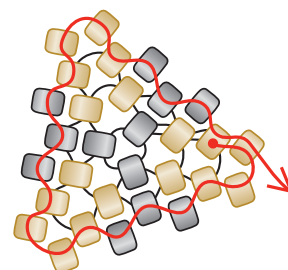


Fig. 3

Is it really herringbone stitch or just peyote stitch?

Beading technicians often split hairs about what to call certain beading maneuvers, and the technique shown here is no different. This method, in fact, could be considered a series of repeated peyote-stitch increases, since we're just adding 2 beads between each 2 beads of the previous round, but the result is a column that looks like it was made with herringbone stitch, quite a bit different than the surrounding beadwork. For the

purposes of instruction, I'm calling it herringbone stitch here, but you may see it called peyote stitch elsewhere.

Go Sculptural

To make three-dimensional shapes with this method, use different-sized beads for the herringbone-stitch corners. For the purple samples shown above, I used size 8° cylinder beads for the first rounds and the herringbone-stitch corners and size 8° seed beads for the expanses between corners.

The slight difference in the bead size and shape (the cylinders are a bit wider) gives the resulting work a gentle curve.

Other Shapes

You can easily form other shapes by beginning Round 1 with a number that's divisible by the number of sides you require. For example, to form a square, start with 4 beads; to form a pentagon (see blue sample above), start with 5; to form a hexagon, start with 6, and so on.