





Mimic fine needlework with peyote stitch

designed by **Rebecca Peapples**

Staggered rows of two-drop peyote make a striking necklace

Bargello, also called “flame stitch” because its characteristic zigzag pattern resembles flames, is an Italian upholstery and needlework stitch from the seventeenth century. In this dramatic neckpiece, Rebecca Peapples has gracefully re-created the bargello effect using two-drop peyote.

A zigzagging pattern of cylinder beads gives this necklace great shape.

MATERIALS

necklace 20 in. (51 cm)

- 23–30 4mm round or drop-shaped glass, pearl, or gemstone beads
- Japanese cylinder beads
10g color A
7g color B
7g color C
- 3g size 11° Czech seed beads, color A or B
- 3g size 15° Japanese seed beads, color C
- 10mm bead for clasp
- Nymo B or D, conditioned with beeswax or Thread Heaven
- beading needles, #12

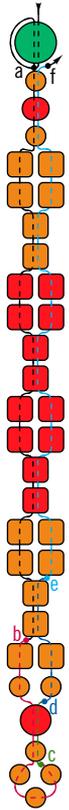


FIGURE 1

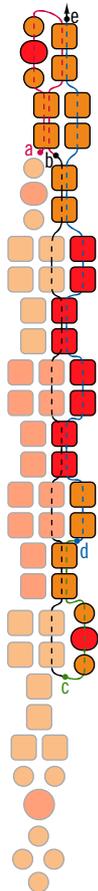


FIGURE 2

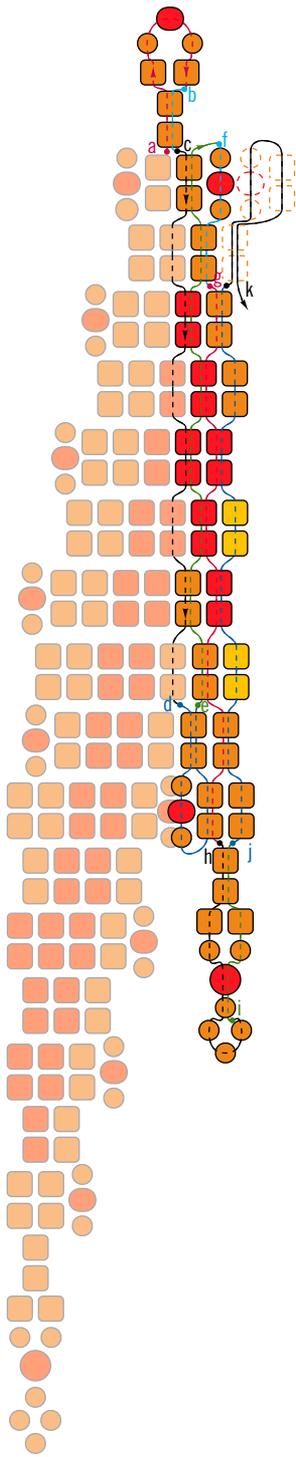


FIGURE 3

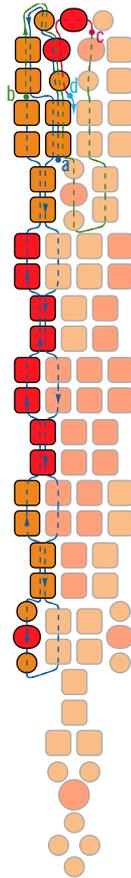


FIGURE 4

stepbystep

Getting started

[1] Thread a needle on a 2–4-yd. (1.8–3.7m) length of conditioned Nymo, and, leaving a 1–2-yd. (.9–1.8m) tail, attach a stop bead (Basics, p. 140).

[2] Pick up a 15° seed bead, an 11°, a 15°, four color A cylinder beads, eight color B cylinders, and four As (figure 1, a–b).

[3] Pick up an A, a 15°, a 4mm round bead, and four 15°s (b–c). Go back through

the first of the four 15°s and the 4mm (c–d). Pick up a 15° and an A, and go through the last two As from the previous step (d–e). (If you’re using top-drilled drop beads, simply pick up an A, a 15°, a drop bead, a 15°, and an A, and go back through the last two As from the previous step.)

[4] Work four stitches in two-drop peyote (Basics), using a pair of As, a pair of Bs, a pair of Bs, and a pair of As. On the last stitch, go through the first three beads picked up in step 2 (e–f).

Necklace

[1] Pick up two As, a 15°, an 11°, a 15°, and two As, and go back through the first two As just picked up (figure 2, a–b). This sequence will be referred to as a long turn.

[2] Work four stitches in two-drop peyote using the same A, B, B, A sequence used in step 4 of “Getting started” (b–c).

[3] Pick up a 15°, an 11°, and a 15°, and go back through the last two As added in the previous step (c–d). This sequence will be referred to as a short turn.

[4] Work four stitches in two-drop peyote using the A, B, B, A sequence. After picking up the last two As, go through the second pair of As from the long turn (d–e).

[5] Repeat steps 1–4 three times.

[6] Pick up three As, a 15°,

EDITOR’S NOTE: The bargello effect is created by using a gradation of three to five colors. Rebecca varies the look of her necklaces by changing her cylinder-bead color selection. In the red necklace (opposite) she used three colors, as in the instructions. In the brown necklace (p. 68, bottom) she used a fourth color and arranged them from lightest on top to darkest on bottom with two midrange colors alternating in the center.

an 11°, a 15°, and an A (figure 3, a–b), and go through the first two As just picked up (b–c). This sequence will be referred to as an apex unit.

[7] Work four stitches in two-drop peyote, using the A, B, B, A sequence (c–d). Make a long turn (d–e), and work four two-drop stitches using the A, B, B, A sequence (e–f).

[8] Work a short turn (f–g), then work four two-drop stitches using the A, B, B, A sequence (g–h).

[9] Pick up three As, a 15°, a 4mm, and four 15°s (h–i). Go back through the first of the four 15°s and the 4mm, pick up a 15° and an A, and go back through the first two As picked up in this step (i–j). This sequence will be referred to as a drop unit.

[10] Work four stitches in two-drop peyote, but substitute color C cylinders for the Bs (j–k). Repeat steps 1–9 using Cs instead of Bs. After making the next drop unit, switch back to using Bs. Continue working in this pattern, alternating Bs and Cs, until the first half of your necklace is the desired length. End with an apex unit, and embellish the edge with short-turn bead groups, if desired.

[11] To make the other half, flip your work, and remove the stop bead. Thread a needle on the tail, and repeat steps 1–10. After stitching two rows (figure 4, a–b), you may want to reinforce the center point. To do so, weave

through the beadwork to exit the top of the 11° used in the first long turn of the first side (b–c). Pick up an 11°, and sew into the 11° and 15° of the first long turn made in this step (c–d). Retrace the thread path a few times, zig-zag back to where you left off, and resume stitching.

Clasp

[1] Exit an A near the top of either end. Pick up two 15°s, an 11°, the clasp bead, and an 11°. Go back through the clasp bead and the first 11° picked up. Pick up two 15°s, and sew into the A adjacent to the one your thread is exiting. Retrace the thread path a few times. Secure the tail in the beadwork with a few half-hitch knots (Basics) between beads, and trim.

[2] Use the tail on the other end to make a loop. Pick up three 15°s, an 11°, and enough 15°s to fit around the clasp bead. Go back through the 11° (photo a). Pick up three 15°s, and sew into the A adjacent to the one your thread is exiting (photo b). Retrace the thread path, secure the tail, and trim. ●

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