

Swatch Ring

Dustin Wedekind

Needing to see how beads of graded sizes fit together, I worked a small peyote-stitched strip. In no time at all, the strip was long enough to fit around my finger. And after a bit more time, I now have several rings in myriad colors available for reference, right at my fingertips. The real magic of the rings is how wonderfully they shape themselves, freeing you from even thinking about stitch count.



MATERIALS & TOOLS

Size 15°, 11°, 8°, 6°, and 2° seed beads in 2 colors or finishes
Size B beading thread
Beading needle

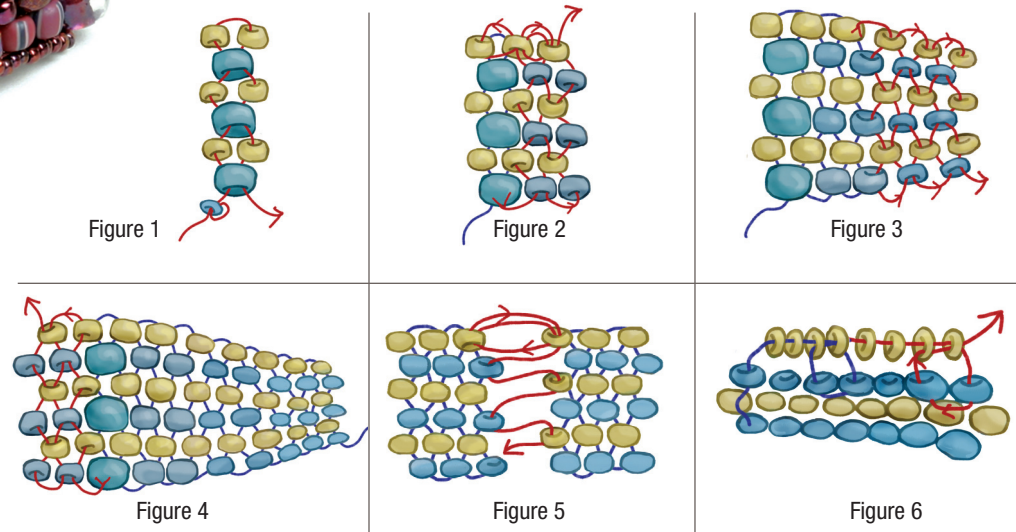
1: Peyote-stitch a narrow strip, beginning with the largest beads, then with decreasing bead sizes:

Start: Use 5' of thread to string 1 bead; slide it to the center of the thread and pass through it again to form a tension bead. String 1 size 2° and 1 size 6° three times. String 1 size 6° and pass back through the last size 2°; repeat twice (**Figure 1**).

Rows 1–3: Work 1 size 6° in each stitch (**Figure 2**). To help keep the beads snug, you might need to pass through the first few rows again, especially the rows that change bead size. Also, at the end of each row, pass through the previous edge bead and the last bead passed through to secure the row just worked.

Rows 4–8: Work 1 size 8° in each stitch (**Figure 3**).

Rows 9–14: Work 1 size 11° in each stitch.



Rows 15 and on: Work a few rows with 1 size 15° in each stitch until the strip nearly reaches halfway around your finger.

2: Remove the tension bead and use the tail thread to work the other half of the strip (**Figure 4**). When the strip is long enough to wrap around your finger, stitch the rows together to form a ring (**Figure 5**).

3: To protect the exposed thread on each side of the strip, backstitch a single row of beads along each edge of the ring using size 15°s or 11°s: Exiting from an edge bead, string 4 beads and

slide them down to the work; pass down through the next edge bead, up through the previous edge bead, and through the last 2 beads just strung (**Figure 6**). Repeat around and pass through all the beads again to reinforce. Weave through beads to secure the thread and repeat on the other side of the ring. ♦

Dustin Wedekind is senior editor of *Beadwork* magazine. His new book *Getting Started with Seed Beads* (Interweave Press, 2007) will be available in May. If you have seed bead insights, requests, or inquiries, please e-mail dustinw@interweave.com.

