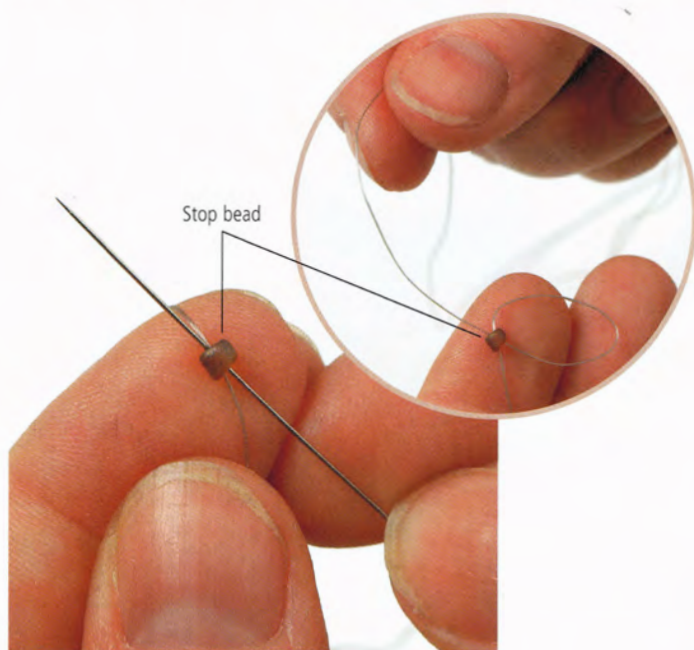


# Technique: PEYOTE STITCH

Peyote stitch is one of the most versatile off-loom techniques, producing a flexible piece of beadwork that feels almost like fabric. The tension of the thread plays a major part in the appearance and texture of the stitch. A stop bead is used to prevent beads from falling off the tail end of the thread, as well as to tighten the tension of the beadwork. Peyote is best worked with a single strand of thread, but use two strands to create a firmer base for freestanding and three-dimensional beadwork.

## EVEN-COUNT PEYOTE

For beginners, peyote stitch is easier to achieve with an even number of beads. An odd count involves manoeuvring the needle and thread through several beads to arrive in the right place and direction to start the next row, so it should only be attempted once you have mastered working with an even count.



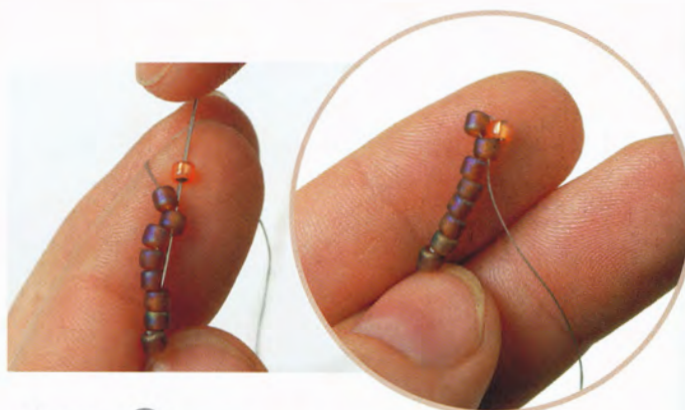
**step 1** Thread a beading needle with 1m (1yd) of beading thread. Slide a bead to within 15cm (6in) of the tail end of the thread. Bring the needle back up through the bead to create a loop around the bead. This is called the stop bead.

## Getting the tension right

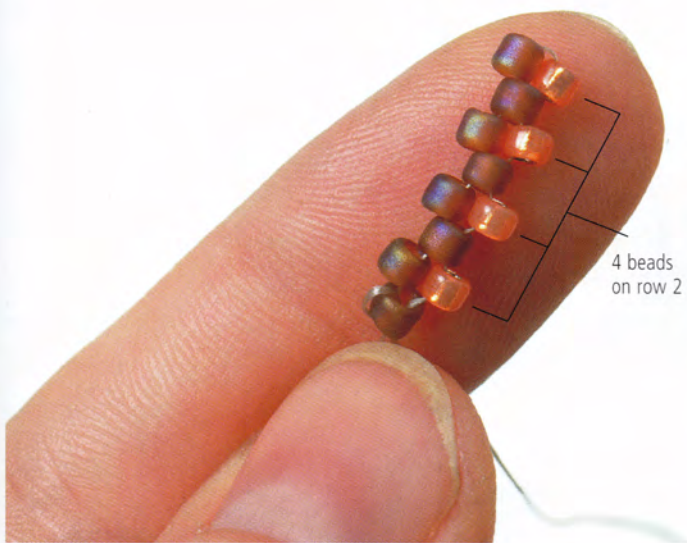
The first two or three rows of peyote stitch can be difficult to control because the beads move about a lot, so it is best to hold the rows between a thumb and forefinger rather than trying to bead on a table. To tighten the tension, pull the working end of the thread firmly in the direction you are beading. When the row is complete, use a thumbnail to push the stop bead towards the main beadwork.



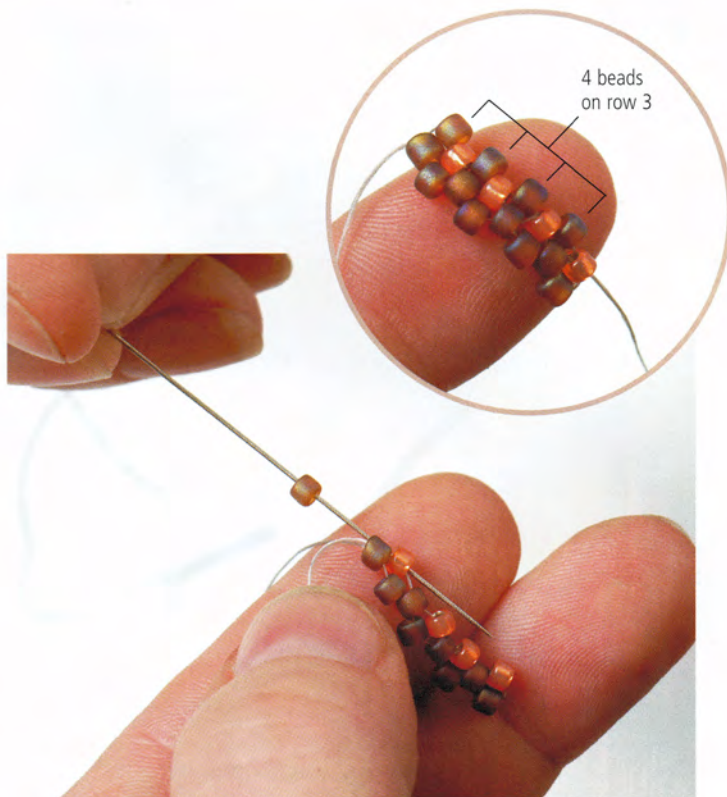
**step 2** Thread on seven more beads, pulling the thread through so that all eight beads sit snugly together.



**step 3** Holding all the threaded beads between a thumb and forefinger, pick up another bead with the needle, then take the needle through the next to last bead on the first row.



**step 4** Continue along the row, taking the needle through every other bead, until you have added four beads. Two colours of beads are used here to make the different rows easy to see. Note the gaps between the beads on row 2. This is where you need to place the beads for the next row.



**step 5** Pick up another bead with the needle to start row 3. Take the needle through the last bead added on row 2, which should be sitting slightly raised above the first row of beads. Continue in this way to the end of the row. You should have added four beads on row 3.



**step 6** At this point, starting row 4, you may find it easier to flip the beadwork over as shown. Continue adding rows of beads until you are confident about working the stitch.