



Introduction • 6

Basics • 7

Materials • 8

*Thread and cord, beads, pearls, and crystals*

Tools • 18

*Pliers, cutters, and needles*

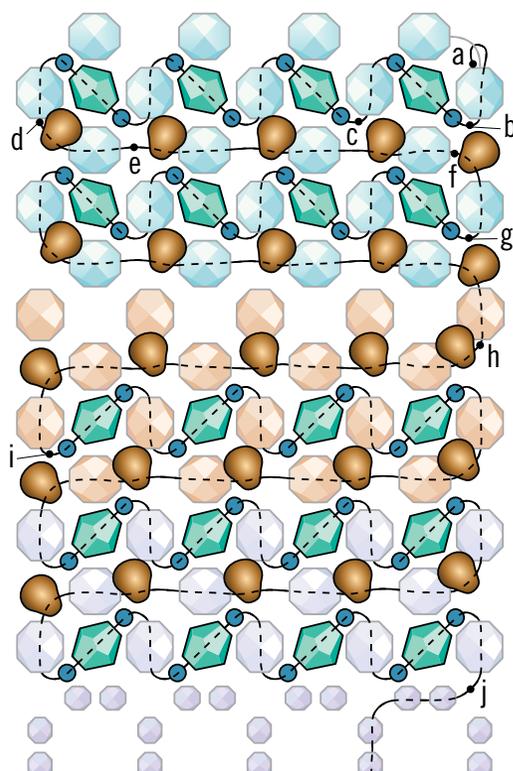
Beading fundamentals • 20

*Conditioning, knots, and wire loops*

# contents

## stitches

	PEYOTE STITCH	24
	NETTING	34
	LADDER STITCH	36
	BRICK STITCH	38
	SQUARE STITCH	40
	HERRINGBONE STITCH	42
	RIGHT-ANGLE WEAVE	46
	CROSSWEAVE TECHNIQUE	50
	FRINGE	51
	BEAD EMBROIDERY	53
	SPIRALS & HELIXES	55
	CHENILLE STITCH	58
	CHEVRON CHAIN	61
	ST. PETERSBURG CHAIN	64
	LOOMWORK	66
	BEAD CROCHET	68
	COMBINING STITCHES	70



Projects • 71

PEYOTE STITCH	
Paved in goldstone bracelet	72
Dragon scales bracelet	74
Heart of stone necklace	76
Heart's desire bracelet	78
NETTING	
Petite presentation	81
Diamonds and pearls	83
BRICK & LADDER STITCH	
Peanut party bracelet	86
HERRINGBONE & LADDER STITCH	
Blooming petals bracelet	89
Tila sunrise necklace	92
RIGHT-ANGLE WEAVE	
Extravaganza bracelet	98
Crystalline cuff	101
BEAD EMBROIDERY, BRICK STITCH & FRINGE	
Funky fringe earrings	103
SPIRAL ROPE	
Secret treasure bracelet	107
CHEVRON CHAIN	
Double chevron bracelet	109
Going in circles	111
CHENILLE STITCH	
Caterpillar bangle	114
ST. PETERSBURG CHAIN	
St. Petersburg leaf earrings	116
Russian eyelets	119
LOOMWORK	
Fast finish	122
BEAD CROCHET	
Braided bracelet	125

Contributors • 127

# introduction

---

Kalmbach Media is proud to present *The Bead Stitching Handbook*. The talented editors of *Bead&Button* magazine have collected all the information you need for successful bead stitching—in one handy volume. This book features 15 essential stitching techniques, information about the beads and tools you'll need to complete a new project, helpful tips for beading success, and 20 beautiful jewelry pieces to make and wear.

In this comprehensive guide to bead stitching, you'll find clear and complete instructions for your favorite stitches, such as peyote, herringbone, and right-angle weave—along with chenille stitch, chevron chain, bead crochet, loomwork, and more. Also included is a thorough discussion of the various supplies needed for detailed beadwork, such as crystals, pearls, and of course, seed beads of all sizes and shapes.

Once you've mastered the basics, you can stretch your beading skills by applying these stitches in the 20 step-by-step projects that follow. Ranging from beginner-friendly to advanced-intermediate, every design in this book has been editor-tested. You're sure to find a stitch or style to fit your taste.

We hope you enjoy this collection and use it as a reference in your everyday jewelry making for years to come.

Happy beading!



**Erica Barse**  
Senior Editor  
Kalmbach Books



## SEED BEAD FINISHES

Seed beads come in a dizzying array of colors and styles. While sometimes it's enough to just like a particular color, arming yourself with more information may help prevent some unpleasant surprises. Below is a guide to the different glass types used to make seed beads and some of the various finishes that you may find.

### GLASS TYPE

**Transparent:** Clear or colored glass that transmits light

**Opaque:** Colored glass that does not transmit light

**Color-lined:** Colored or clear transparent glass and has an opaque colored lining on the inside

**Metal-lined:** Clear or colored transparent glass with a core of real metal or metallic-colored paint.

The metallic lining gives these beads

extra sparkle. Some have a square hole, which increases the sparkle.

**Metallic:** A baked-on paint or electroplated finish resembling metal. Many are stable, but some wear off over time. To test for permanence, soak them in bleach or acetone. To prolong the life of the finish, spray the beads with an acrylic fixative such as Krylon (test first to make sure the fixative doesn't affect the color of the beads).

### FINISH

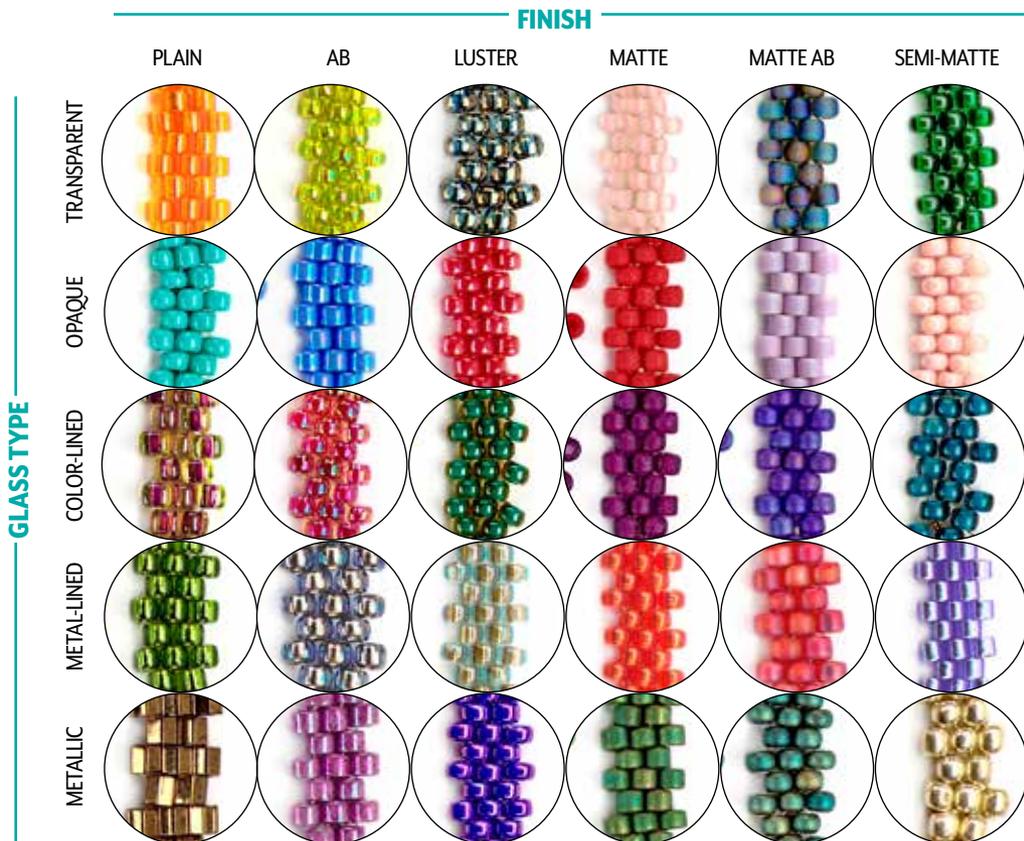
**AB:** An iridescent finish resembling an oil slick; sometimes called iris, rainbow, or aurora borealis.

**Luster:** A transparent glaze that lends extra sparkle.

**Matte:** An etched surface with a velvety, frosted look.

**Matte AB:** A matte finish with an AB coating, resulting in a soft, variegated look.

**Semi-matte:** A slightly etched surface with a silky finish.



# PEYOTE BASICS

The perfect technique for both flat bands and structural shapes, peyote stitch is wonderfully versatile. Regardless of the variation, all peyote techniques are based on the same basic thread path, which causes offset rows of beads to nestle together. If you're a beginner, start with "Peyote basics." Try a few easy projects with these skills, and then move on to the "Shaping" and "Advanced techniques." To learn to make peyote bezels, see p. 32.

## MATERIALS

### samples

- assorted 15°-5° seed beads
- Fireline, 6 lb. test, or nylon beading thread, size D
- beading needles, #12

### TECHNIQUES

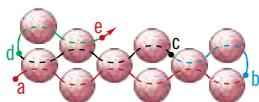
- beading fundamentals: attaching a stop bead, square knot (p. 20)

## FLAT PEYOTE

Learn the most basic form of peyote.

### FLAT EVEN-COUNT

The term "even-count peyote stitch" means that there are an even number of beads in each row.



**1** Thread a needle on a comfortable length of thread, and attach a stop bead about 6 in. (15 cm) from the end. The stop bead isn't absolutely necessary, but it will prevent your beads from sliding off the thread, and it will also help you maintain good tension while you're stitching. Pick up an even number of beads (**figure, a-b**). These beads will shift to form rows 1 and 2 as row 3 is added.

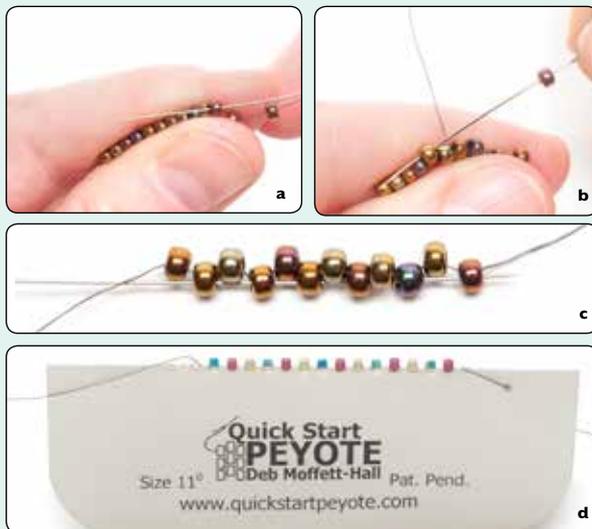
**2** To begin row 3, pick up a bead, skip the last bead strung in the previous step, and sew back through the next bead in the opposite direction (**b-c**). Position the new bead to sit next to the bead you skipped, so their holes are parallel. For each subsequent stitch in the row, pick up a bead, skip a bead in the previous step, and sew through the next bead, until your thread exits the first bead strung (**c-d**). The beads added in this row stick out from the previous beads and are referred to as "up-beads."

**3** For each stitch in subsequent rows, pick up a bead, and sew through the next up-bead in the previous row (**d-e**).

## Getting started

If you're struggling with the first few rows, try one of these three methods:

- After stringing the beads for rows 1 and 2, pinch the beads between your thumb and forefinger. Pick up the first bead for row 3, skip the end bead, and sew back through the previous bead (**photo a**). Continue holding the beads in place as you complete the row (**photo b**).
- If the pinch method doesn't work for you, try passing a wire, pin, or needle through every other bead in the first strand (**photo c**). This creates the peyote alignment, making it easier for you to see which beads to sew through in the next row.
- Another option is to use a Quick Start Peyote card. These durable, laminated cards have openings to hold the beads in row 1, turning them into up-beads from the start (**photo d**). This makes it a cinch to add subsequent rows. Get them at [www.quickstartpeyote.com](http://www.quickstartpeyote.com).



# CHENILLE STITCH

You'll love the beautiful results you get from this fast and easy stitch. Chenille stitch (meaning "caterpillar" in French) is essentially a combination of netting and herringbone stitches. When completed, it has the same basic look as netting but because of the thread path used to create it, it is sturdier and tighter. It is a fun and easy stitch to learn, and you can create lots of varied looks simply by using different beads. Chenille stitch is usually seen in its tubular form, but flat designs are also possible — we'll show you both.

## MATERIALS

### samples

- assorted seed beads and accent beads
- Fireline, 6 lb. test
- beading needles, #11

### TECHNIQUES

- beading fundamentals: attaching a stop bead, ending and adding thread (p. 20)

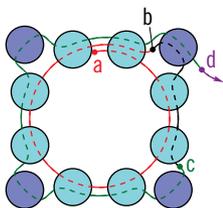
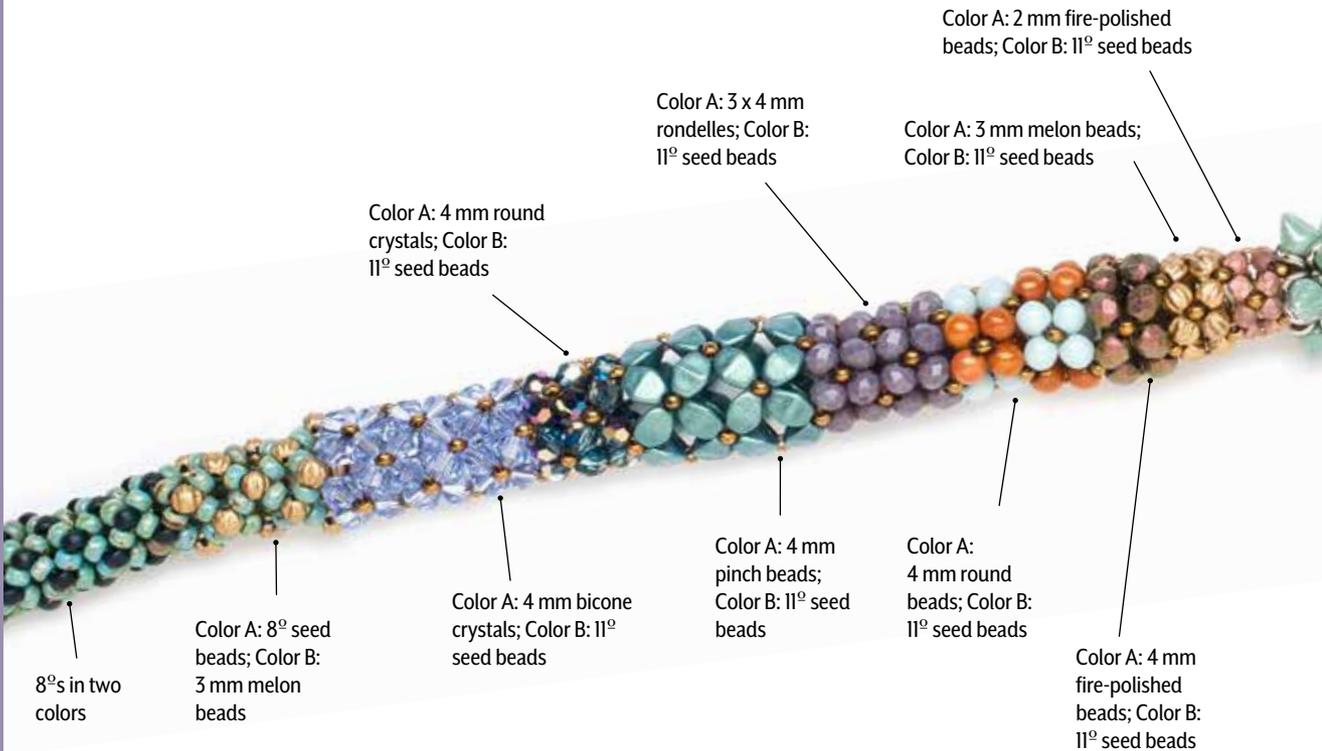


FIGURE 1

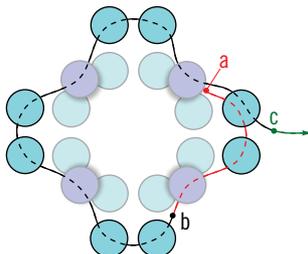


FIGURE 2

## TUBULAR CHENILLE STITCH

To learn this stitch, use two colors of 8° seed beads (colors A and B).

**1** On a comfortable length of thread, pick up eight color A 8° seed beads (any even number will work, but eight is good for learning). Leaving a 6-in. (15 cm) tail, tie the beads into a ring with a square knot, and sew through the first A (**figure 1, a–b**). This is round 1.

**2** Work in rounds as follows:

Round 2: Pick up one color B 8° seed bead, and sew through the next two As in the ring (**b–c**). Repeat this stitch three times, and step up through the first B added in this round (**c–d**).



# Tila sunrise necklace

Greet the new day with a rivoli enclosed in a basket of Tila beads, crystals, and other accents.

designed by Cary Borelli

### MATERIALS

necklace 19 in. (48 cm)

- 127 mm rivoli (Swarovski, purple haze)
- 20 5 x 5 mm Tila beads (Miyuki, transparent oyster luster)
- 16 6 mm round beads (opaque amethyst luster)
- 40 4 mm fire-polished beads (polychrome copper rose)
- 40 3 mm round beads (luster transparent amethyst)
- 64 3 mm bicone crystals (Swarovski, lilac shadow)
- 8 8° seed beads (Toho 993, gold-lined black diamond)
- 10 g 11° seed beads (Toho 1700, gilded marble white)
- 1 g 15° seed beads (Miyuki 312, amethyst gold luster)
- toggle clasp (brass)
- 2 6 mm filigree bead caps (brass)
- Fireline, 8 lb. test
- beading needles, #11

### TECHNIQUES

- beading fundamentals: ending and adding thread, square knot (p. 20)
- herringbone stitch: tubular (p. 42)
- ladder stitch: making a ladder, forming a ring (p. 36)

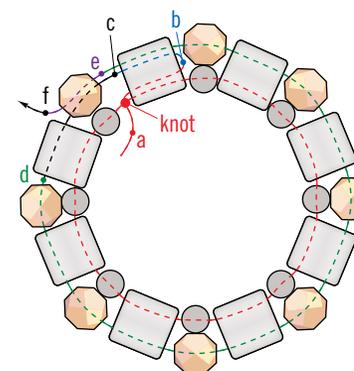


FIGURE 1

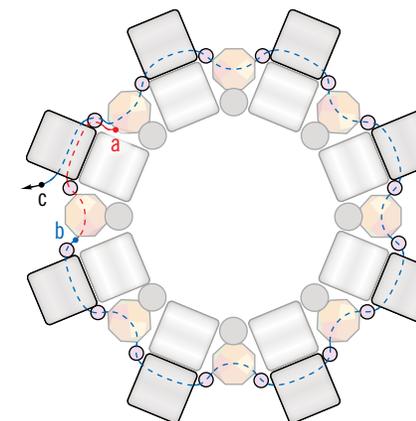
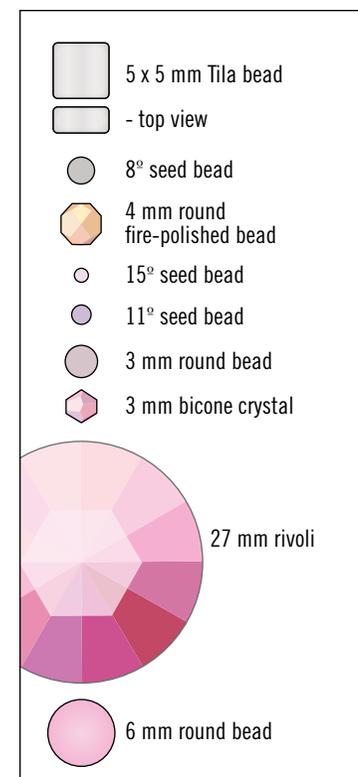


FIGURE 2



### PENDANT

**1** On 2 yd. (1.8 m) of thread, pick up a repeating pattern of a Tila bead and an 8° seed bead eight times. Tie the beads into a ring with a square knot, leaving a 6-in. (15 cm) tail. Continue through the first Tila (**figure 1, a-b**), and sew through the open hole of the same Tila (**b-c**).

**2** Pick up a 4 mm fire-polished bead, and sew through the open hole of the next Tila (**c-d**). Repeat this stitch seven

times to complete the round (**d-e**), and sew through the first 4 mm added in this round (**e-f**).

**3** Pick up a 15° seed bead, a Tila, and a 15°, and sew through the next 4 mm (**figure 2, a-b**). Pull the thread tight, and “flip up” the Tila to start creating a basket shape. Repeat this stitch seven times to complete the round, and sew through the first 15° and Tila added in this round (**b-c**).