

Ballerina BEAR

A fun introduction to
3-D peyote stitch
by Randy Wilson

materials

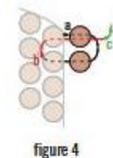
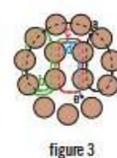
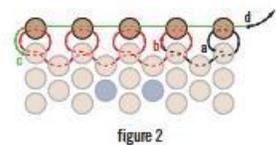
- 3g Japanese seed beads, size 110, each of 2 colors (color A for the head, color B for the torso)
 - 3 Japanese seed beads, size 110, black for nose
 - 2 Japanese seed beads, size 110, for eyes
 - 1 4mm Round or faceted bead
 - 4 9mm Plastic pony beads
 - 1 2-in. (5cm) Head pin
 - 1 Drinking straw
 - Nymo D beading thread or Fire line fishing line, 6-lb. test
 - Beeswax (if using Nymo)
 - Beading needles, #13
 - G-S Hypo Cement, super glue, or white glue
- Tools: chain- and round nose pliers, wire cutters

The design for these bears came to be as I was looking for a project that would use up plastic pony beads that I had purchased and never used. I experimented a little and found that size 110 seed beads stitched into a peyote tube with square-stitched ends perfectly covered two 9mm pony beads and created a little shape with unlimited potential for embellishment.

This 3-D bear makes a beautiful focal bead for a little girl's necklace. Who'd guess that plastic pony beads could be the inspiration for such a cute little bear?

stepbystep

First make the bear's head, by peyote stitching a tube over two 9mm beads and closing up one end. Embellish the tube with seed beads to add eyes, ears, and a nose. Make a second peyote tube for the bear's torso. Sew arms, legs, a tail, and a ruffle for the tutu on the torso bead. Add a wire loop bezel above the head and finish by stitching together the open ends of the head and torso.



head

1) Cut a 1/2-in. (13mm) piece of straw, slit it lengthwise, and slide a pony bead over it. Apply a ring of glue around the straw and the inside edge of the pony bead (photo a). Slide a second pony bead over the straw and up against the first bead. The straw will be hidden inside the two beads (photo b). Allow the glue to dry.

2) Thread a needle with a 5-ft. (1.5m) length of thread. If using Nymo, condition it with beeswax before threading it on the needle.

3) String 22 color A seed beads leaving approximately a 20 in. tail (51cm). Sew back through all the beads again in the same direction to make a ring (figure 1,a-b).

4) Place the ring of beads over the pony beads. Size 110 seed beads aren't all the same size so you may need to adjust the number of beads to fit over the pony bead core.

Add/remove beads from the ring in sets of two so the ring stays an even number.

5) Once the ring is adjusted to fit around the pony bead core, sew through the first bead to position the needle away from the tail (b-c). Now work in even-count circular peyote

for 13 rows (see "Basics"). You are working from the top of the head to the neck. Peyote two eye-color beads on row four (figure 2 and photo c). Remember the ring made in step 3 will be row 1 and 2 and peyote rows are counted on the diagonal, not horizontally.

The two eye beads can be added at any point on row four, but since this will be the front of the peyote tube don't add them next to the step up.

6) To close up the neck end of the peyote tube add a bead to each bead on the last row with square stitch (figure 2,a-c and photo d). Go back through the last bead added, reverse the direction of the needle, and sew through all the beads pulling them together into a fairly tight circle above the pony bead core (c-d and photo e). Reinforce the circle with two more thread passes.

7) Weave the needle through a few rows of the peyote tube and tie a half hitch knot (see "Basics" and photo f) between the beads. Make several half hitch knots between beads. Don't trim the thread, it will be used later to add the bear's nose.

8) Thread a needle on the 20 in. tail and repeat step 6 on the first row of the peyote tube at the top of the head. Secure the thread with a couple of half hitch knots between beads in the circle.

9) Position the needle so it exits the bead at point a in the circle (figure 3). String 2A, sew 8 beads around the back of the circle and exit on the other side of the circle at point b (figure 3, a-b). String 2A, sew through three or four beads in the circle, and

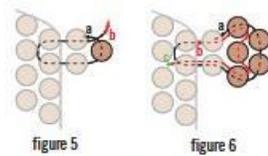


figure 5

figure 6

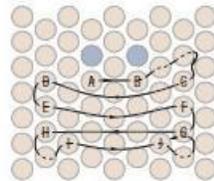


figure 7

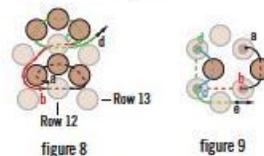


figure 8

figure 9



figure 10



g



h



i



j

back through the two beads strung (b-c). Sew through the first two beads added and back through the second set of two beads (c-d). Sew through the first set of two beads one more time (d-e). Weave the thread into the peyote tube and secure it with halfhitch

knots. Don't cut the thread. If your ring has a different number of beads than shown in the illustration, don't worry about following the exact thread path, just center the four beads in the ring above the eyes (photo g)

ears

1) Position the thread so it exits a bead on row 1 or 2 on the side of the head. String 2A and sew through the bead directly below the bead the thread exits on the peyote tube (figure 4, a-b). Sew through the top bead on the head and the first bead just added (b-c).

2) String 1A and sew through all four beads so the thread exits the same bead again

(figure 5, a-b). 3) String 4A and sew through the bottom bead and the two head beads (figure 6, a-b). Sew through the first two ear beads, the middle bead, the bottom two ear beads and the bottom head bead (b-c). Arrange the beads so the center bead pops behind the rest slightly, creating a curved ear. Pull the thread tight and reinforce the ear if needed.

4) Weave the thread into the peyote tube to secure it. If the thread is long enough weave it to the other side of the head and make the second ear. Or end the thread and start a new one to make the other ear.

nose

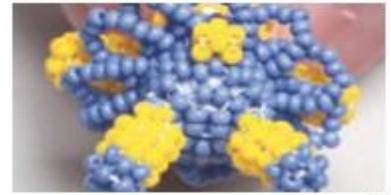
Rows of seed beads are added on top of the peyote tube to form the nose. Follow the thread path illustrated in figure 7. The thread only goes through the beads with a dotted line.

1) Use the thread added for the second ear or add a new thread. Position it to exit at bead a in figure 7. String 1A, two black beads, and 1A and sew through bead b.

2) Sew diagonally through two beads and through the bead below, bead c. String 4A and sew through the two black beads added in step 1. String 4A, sew through bead d, and the bead below it, bead e.

3) String 5A, one black bead, and 5A and sew through bead f. Sew through bead g and string 10A.

4) Sew through bead h, the bead below it, and bead i. String 5A, sew through bead j, the bead diagonally below, and exit at bead g. Sew through bead j and two of the 5 beads just strung.



k



l



m



n



o



p

5) Work back through all of the rows and secure them to each other with square stitch (photo h). Randomly stitch the rows together don't try to go through every bead. You want the rows to be connected and keep their shape, they don't need to be stiff.

6) End the thread and trim.

torso

1) Follow steps 1-9 for the head with the exceptions listed below.

- Use color B seed beads.
- Steps 6-9, the ring end of the torso is the top.

tail

1) Position the thread so it exits a bead on row 12 of the peyote tube, above the closed end.

2) String 3A and sew back through the bead on the peyote tube (figure 8, a-b). Sew through the bead directly above the one the thread exits (b-c).

3) String 3A and sew back through the same bead on the peyote tube (c-d and photo i).

4) Sew up through the end bead of the 3-bead set above where the thread exits (figure 9, point a). String 1A and sew down through the end bead of the 3-bead set directly below (a-b).

5) Sew up through the other end bead on the bottom row (b-c). String 1A and sew down through the end bead on the top row (c-d). Sew up through the end bead on the bottom row

and through the middle bead (d-e).

6) Sew through the other three middle beads and pull them together (figure 10 and photo j).

7) Reinforce the thread path of the top four beads, tie off the thread, and trim.

legs

The legs are started like the tail and then you work rows of peyote out from the top four beads instead of cinching them closed. Start the legs at the center ring of beads at the bottom of the torso and the last row of the peyote tube. The tail should be centered behind the legs (photo k).

1) Thread a needle with a 3-ft. (.9m) length of waxed thread and weave it through the peyote tube to secure it. Position the thread so it exits a side bead on the ring.

2) Follow steps 2-6 for the Tail, add one row of 3 beads to the bead the thread exits and one row to the bead under it on the last row of the torso.

3) Now work even-count circular peyote for five rows with color A beads.

4) Work three rows of peyote using color B beads.

5) Sew through the last row and pull the beads together (photo l). Secure the thread with a few half-hitch knots between the beads.

6) Weave the thread down the leg and through the torso, positioning the thread so it exits a bead on the ring at the bottom of the torso across from the first leg.

7) Make the second leg, follow steps 2-5. Secure the thread in the beadwork and trim.

8) Secure the thread in the beadwork and trim.

arms

Work the arms like the legs.

- 1) Thread a needle with a 3-ft. length of waxed thread and weave it through the peyote tube to secure it. Position the thread so it exits a bead on row 2 on the side of the torso directly above a leg.
- 2) Follow steps 2-6 for the Tail, add the second 3-bead row to the bead directly below on the torso.
- 3) Now work even-count circular peyote for six rows using color A beads.
- 4) Sew through the last row to close it.
- 5) Secure the thread, weave it through the beadwork and position it to exit a bead on the second row of the torso on the other side.
- 6) Make the second arm. Tie off the thread and trim.

tutu ruffle

If your peyote tube started with a ring of 22 beads, you will have eleven ruffles; for a 20-bead ring you will have ten ruffles.

- 1) Thread a needle with a 2-ft. (.6m) length of waxed thread. Secure the thread and position it so it exits the middle bead above the tail on the torso. This is row 8 on the peyote tube.
- 2) String 13B, skip a bead on the row, and sew through the next bead in the row (photo m). Continue around the torso adding loops of 13 beads
- 3) When you approach the first loop, bring the new loop over the first loop and sew through the bead on row 8 between the first and second loop (photo n). Bring the needle and thread through the first loop, string the beads for the next loop, and go over the top of the second loop before entering the next bead in the row. This second pass will add loops to the beads on row 8 that you skipped the first time around. For a torso with ten ruffles the fifth ruffle will end at the same bead on the peyote tube where the first ruffle started. Position the needle so it exits the next bead on the row and begin the second pass adding ruffles above the previous loop and ending it under the next loop.
- 4) End the thread and trim.

assembling

- 1) String the 4mm bead on the head pin. String the head bead on the head pin over the 4mm bead. The head pin exits the top of the head bead through the center of the four beads at the top (photo o).
- 2) (photo o). Make a loop (see "Basics") close to the head bead.
- 3) Thread a needle on the thread at the top of the torso. Align the head and torso beads and stitch them together with square stitch (photo p).
- 4) End the thread and trim

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