Peyote Stitch in the Round

This versatile stitch is often used in creating bezels for cabochons and stones; the seamless ring that results is strong and can be shaped by varying the size of the beads used.

Peyote stitch in the round is a bead weaving technique that starts with a base ring and is built to the desired size on that ring. Your specific directions will tell you how many beads should be threaded. After picking up the required number of beads (ALWAYS an even number), create the ring by running the thread back through several beads. Take the slack out of the ring. This ring will later become the first TWO rounds of stitching.

To add the next (THIRD) round, pick up one bead, skip one bead on the initial ring, then run the thread through the next bead on the ring. As you tighten the thread you’ll notice that the beads shift their positions and form a “zipper tooth” pattern.

At the end of each round, prior to starting the new round, you must “step up”. When you have three beads left on the initial ring and your thread emerges from the first of those beads, you’re ready to step up. After picking up the bead to be added, go through TWO beads on the upward diagonal. These beads are shown here dotted in orchid. When you tighten the thread, your three-round ring will have no visible start or end.

In subsequent rounds, you’ll recognize the step up by the distinctive V-shaped gap at the end of the round. Again, you’ll pick up your bead and go through TWO beads on the upward diagonal (shown in orchid).

Continue in this manner, adding rounds as your directions specify, stepping up in preparation for each new round.