

beadwork master class

Tips for Building Bead Structures

Maggie Meister



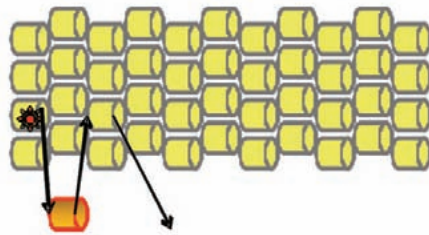
There are times when all you need is the base row of a particular stitch to begin the piece. For example, the base row for right-angle weave becomes a

beginning for the change to peyote stitch, or the “up” beads in a piece of peyote become the starting point for right-angle weave. It is possible to build off of a flat piece of peyote by exiting out of a bead on the piece, picking up a bead, and bringing your needle into the next bead on the flat piece. Continue doing this and you can “build up” with peyote or switch to right-angle weave.

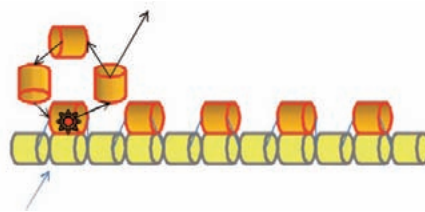
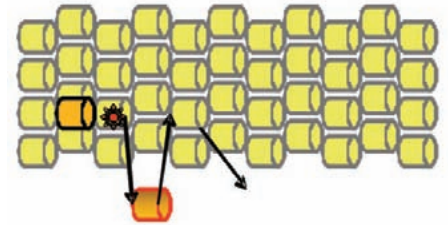
These examples are just a beginning in learning how to combine stitches. Always look at the edge or base of your piece; then think about where you are at a certain point in your design and what stitch will work best to help you build the structure you envision. ♦

Maggie Meister lived in Naples, Italy, for five years, and her experiences there are her sources of inspiration. She returns twice a year with groups for Beadventure Workshop Get-A-Ways (www.beadventures.com) and continues to develop and execute designs inspired by history and archaeology. Visit her website, www.mmmbeads.com.

Here are some great tips on building bead structures from our October/November 2008 *Beadwork* Master Class artist, Maggie Meister. Whether you're inspired by antiquity or want to capture the spirit of modern architecture, Maggie's discoveries in form offer a foundation for realizing your vision. As she says in her article, “Combining stitches to make components gives you the freedom to build.”—*Editor*

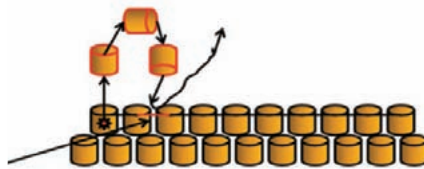


Flat peyote base, setting up for building with either peyote or right-angle-weave stitch.

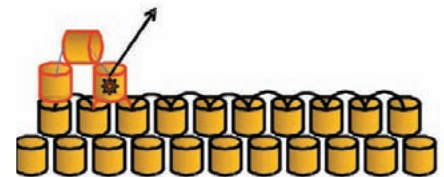


Side view of peyote base, building with right-angle weave. You can switch to both stitches from brick stitch just by building a three-bead picot off of your raw edge.

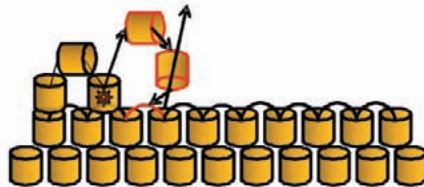
Example of how to switch from a brick-stitch edge to peyote or right-angle weave:



Pick up three beads, bring your needle underneath the connecting thread (shown in red).



Bring your needle up and through the bead as shown.



Now string only two beads, pass under connecting thread (red), and back up through the bead as shown.



The beads with the red stars become your “up” beads for peyote or the beads to begin right-angle weave.



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