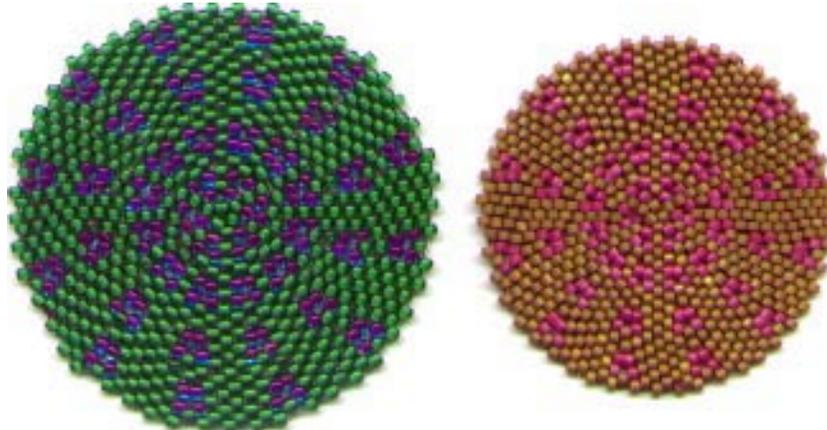


REALLY, REALLY ROUND FLAT PEYOTE STITCH HINTS AND QUESTIONS

I'd like to answer some questions I have received about Really, Really Round Peyote Stitch.

Can size 11° seed beads be used instead of Delicas?

Yes, they can. Your piece will be approximately 119% larger than the same piece made with Delicas. Due to the fact that the beads are thicker it will weight more. The examples below are shown in their actual size. If you laugh at the colors I used I'll come and bite your nose! I decided to do the experiment late one night and these were the only seed beads I had to use. I'm considering entering both of these pieces in the World's Ugliest Color Combination contest!



Why do you suggest I use Silamide instead of Nymo?

I find that Nymo stretches way too much. I know some people who stretch their Nymo before using it but that's too much trouble for me. Nymo is made with strands running lengthwise in the thread much like dental floss. Silamide is made with the strands wound around within the thread. Because you need to pierce the thread inside the beads to add rigidity to some pieces you will find that Silamide works best for this. Nymo can often be ruined by piercing it.

Isn't Nymo a specialty thread made for beading?

No. To my knowledge there isn't a thread made just for beading. Nymo is actually a thread made for the shoe manufacturing industry. Silamide is made for the upholstery industry. You can also use regular sewing thread for beading.

How to I keep Silamide from coming unwound as I bead?

If you are right handed thread your needle with the thread end that is showing. If you are left handed cut the length of thread you will need and thread the needle with the end that you just cut. Because we are always rotating our needle as we bead if you thread with the wrong end you will be unwinding the twisted strands.

Is there an easy way to thread the needle with Silamide?

I put some lip balm on my lips and press the end of the thread between my lips. It sounds goofy but it works! Do not get the end of your Silamide wet or it will frazzle out like a bad hair day.

Why do you specify 3-M brand tape?

Because Frieda Bates told me to!!! In addition to being a fantastic beader Frieda is also trained as an auto body repair person. She says that 3-M brand tape is the only one to use for painting or beading because it doesn't leave adhesive residue on anything.

A few basic hints:

At a certain point on the instructions I tell you to use a couple of layers of 3-M packing tape on the back of your piece. You can tape sooner if you need to. I tape a lot while making the mandalas. I can get rather clumsy with my thumb and poke the center of the piece with it so I tape often. If I am working a really large mandala I sometimes tape on the bottom and top both.

If you are using the Future Floor Finish to add rigidity to you piece be very careful with it. Pour out a small amount in a container and use a brush or Q-Tip to apply it to the piece. I was in a hurry one day and through I could just squirt a few drop on the piece right out of the container. Oh boy, was I wrong. Disaster! A whole bunch squirted out and saturated the piece. I now have something that could be used for a hockey puck.

And how could I have not thought to use Krylon to add rigidity? Silly me, it works beautifully! As with any spray please be careful to have adequate ventilation or take the piece outside. One can get high when using spray!

I have a self-imposed rule about spraying my Delicas. I am not allowed to use a single one until they have been sprayed with Krylon Crystal Clear Acrylic Spray. I know there are some colors that will not fade or rub off but I never know for sure which ones so I spray all of them. I put them in a zip top plastic bag and close the bag all but a couple of inches. I give the beads about 4 short whooshes of the spray and close the bag quickly. It takes maybe 10 minutes to dry. I massage the beads to break apart the few that might stick together.

I am learning more all the time about making Really, Really Round Flat Peyote pieces. I will replace this item with news one as I learn more. If you have learned some tricks please send me an e-mail. My address is suzcoop@suzannecooper.com

Till we visit again keep those beads going round and round!

Suzanne