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Tubular Chenille Stitch

By Jane Marie Griffin

Tubular Chenille stitch is a composite stitch that was developed some years ago by Belgian beader Geneviève Liebaert (aka Sereine). Composite stitches are made up of two or more thread paths to create a stitch pattern, whereas most traditional stitches are made up of a singular repeating thread path, such as Peyote and Brick stitch.

Chenille stitch combines Peyote and Herringbone thread paths to create a delicate pattern that resembles a four-petal flower. It can also resemble three-bead netting if your tension is loose, so it's important to keep a firm tension, otherwise you will have worked twice as hard just to produce a piece of work that looks like Netting. Although, because Chenille stitch is worked in two stages/stitches it does produce a firmer tube than Netting with less stretch, which may have its advantages for certain projects.

To get the full benefits of the Chenille stitch pattern it is best to use strong contrasts in colour or bead finishes. For the bangle we have used size 11 seed beads, but tubular Chenille stitch can be worked in a variety of different sizes and types of beads. Try two colours of size 8 seed beads, size 8 Demi Rounds and 3mm rounds/pearls or try changing the Peyote centre beads for drop beads.

Basic stitch instructions

The Herringbone petal beads are in colour A and the Peyote centre beads are in colour B.

Step 1. Foundation ring: pick up 6xA and thread through all of the beads again, plus one more, to make a circle of beads.

Step 2. Peyote foundation: *pick up 1xB and thread through two A beads in the foundation ring. Repeat from* twice more to complete the round and step up through the first B bead picked up. Tip: your work will probably look like a triangle at this stage, but don't worry, it will return to a circular shape.

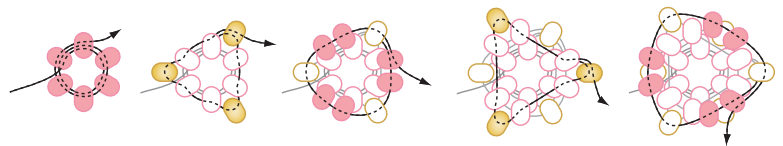
Step 3. Herringbone foundation: *pick up 2xA and thread through the next B bead in the previous round. Repeat from* twice more to complete the round and step up through the first bead picked up. Tip: keep the tension tight at this stage to encourage the beads to 'cup' up into a tubular shape.

Step 4. Peyote round: *pick up 1xB, thread through the second A bead of the pair in the previous round and through the first bead in the following pair of A beads. Repeat from* twice more to complete the round and step up through the first B bead picked up.

TIP: take care to thread through the correct round of A beads as it is quite easy to get confused in the initial stages of this stitch.

Step 5. Herringbone round: *pick up 2xA and thread through the next B bead in the previous round. Repeat from* twice more to complete the round and step up through the first bead picked up.

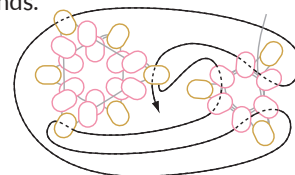
TIP: your work should resemble a tube at this point with the distinctive Chenille stitch pattern. If not, you need to adjust your tension so it is much firmer.



Step 6. Repeat Steps 4 & 5 until you have reached the required length.

Making a bangle

Repeat Steps 1 to 6 to work a length of Chenille stitch to the required length, finishing on a Peyote stitch round (Step 4). To make a continuous tube, bring both ends together, ensuring that the tube is not twisted and the working thread is exiting a B bead at the end of the tube. Thread through two A beads in the foundation ring, sitting either side of a B bead, and through the next B bead at the end of the tube. Continue threading back and forth between both ends until the join is complete. Secure and trim the thread ends.



Shopping List...

To make a bangle with an internal circumference of approx. 19.5cm
5.5g x size 11 seed beads in main colour (A)
2g x size 11 seed beads in contrast colour (B)
Size 10 beading needle
Beading thread of choice