

Rainbow Tube Tassel

by Karen Gibson-Brown

Shopping list...

1g cylinder beads in 12 rainbow colours: Red / light pink / dark pink / purple / dark blue / light blue / turquoise / dark green / light green / yellow / light orange & dark orange

2g white cylinder beads

5g Size 15 seed beads - Crystal AB

1g Size 11 seed beads – Silver **A**

1g Size 11 seed beads – White **B**

12x 3mm Chinese Rondelles - white

Tassel – tassel head approx. 2cm (1.75") high x approx. 4cm(1.5") circumference – fringing approx. 9cm (3.5") long

Size 10 or 12 needle

KO thread or thread of choice

1x small elastic band - optional

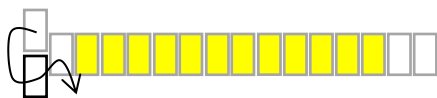


Making the long tubes

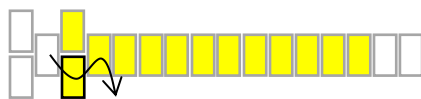
Using the following instructions, make 12 long tubes = 16 beads wide x 12 rows long (6 beads each side of the Peyote strip)

Step 1. Pick up 2x white, 12x yellow & 2x white cylinder beads = 16 beads.

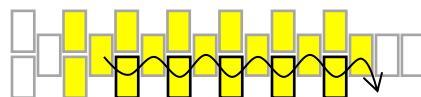
Step 2. Pick up 1x white, miss the last white cylinder from Step 1 and thread through the second to last white cylinder from the previous step.



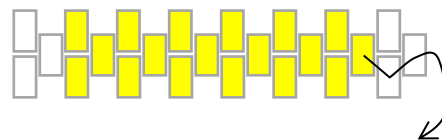
Step 3. Pick up 1x yellow cylinder, miss one and thread through the next one.



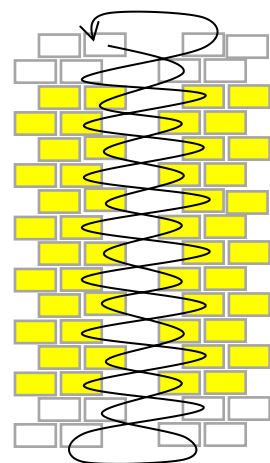
Step 4. Repeat Step 3, five times.



Step 5. Pick up 1x white cylinder, miss the next one, then thread through the end cylinder. This completes the first three rows.



Step 6. Continue to work in sequence until you have six beads on each flat edge = 12 rows, then bring the ends together ready to zip-stitch into a tube.



Step 7. To zip-stitch the ends together, thread back and forth through the high beads on each end and pull up tight to close the seam. Thread back through the seam again to close any gaps, then weave in, secure, and trim all threads.

Step 8. Repeat Steps 1 to 7 to create eleven more tubes.

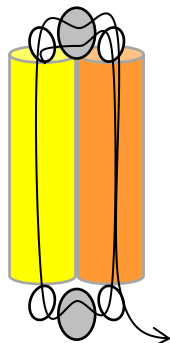
Joining the long tubes

You will now use Ladder stitch to join the tubes to form a ring that will cover the tassel top.

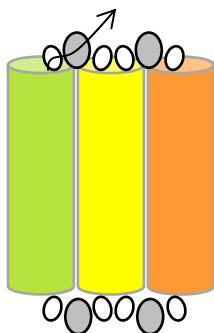
Step 9. Using an arm's span of thread (approx. 1.5mtr (59") and leaving a long tail of approx. 50cm (19.5"), pick up 21x15's and a yellow tube, then slide the tube over the 15's so that they nestle inside.

N.B. It is much easier to slide the tube over the 15's whilst the beads are still on the needle, as they will need a little encouragement to slide inside.

Step 10. Pick up 1x15, 1x 11A, 1x15, 21x15's and the light orange tube. Slide the tube over the 15's as in the previous step, then pick up 1x15, 1x11A & 1x15 and thread back through the 15's inside the yellow tube, through the three beads on the top and back through the 15's inside the orange tube.

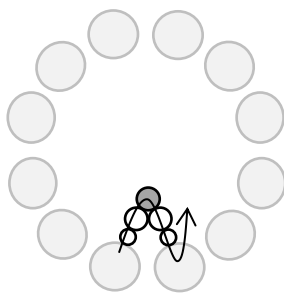


Step 11. Repeat Step 10 to Ladder stitch the tubes together in the following order: Dark orange, red, dark pink, light pink, purple, dark blue, light blue, turquoise, dark green, light green.



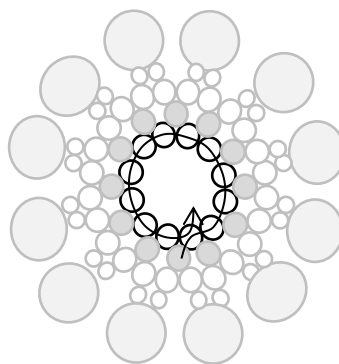
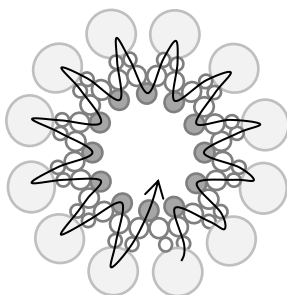
Step 13. Join the last two tubes together (light green & yellow) in the same way to form a ring, then step up through 1x15 & 1x 11A.

Rainbow ring (tassel head top)



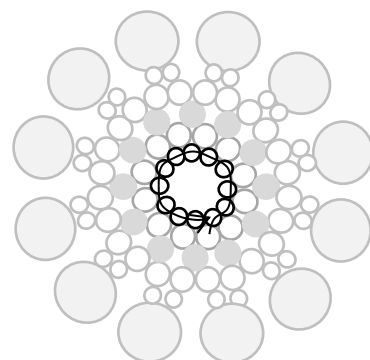
Round 1. Pick up 1x15, 1x 11B, 1x11A, 1x11B & 1x15, then thread through the 11A of the next tube to form a picot.

Repeat eleven more times, then step up through the first three beads of this round to exit an 11A.



Round 2. Pick up 1x11B and thread through the central 11A bead of the previous round. Repeat eleven more times, then pull the thread in gently and step up through the first 11B in this round.

Round 3. Pick up 1x15 and thread through the next 11B. Repeat eleven times, then gently increasing the tension on the thread, pass through all the 15's and 11's again to tighten the ring. Weave in, secure, and trim the thread.



Rainbow ring (tassel head bottom)

Using the tail thread, repeat Rounds 1 & 2, but before tightening the ring slide the tassel head up inside the rainbow ring and thread the tassel loop through the ring of beads at the top.

Gently pull the beads in around the base of the tassel head, then thread through all 11A and 11B beads again to draw in and tighten the last round.

Weave in the working thread away from the last round, secure and trim the thread.

N.B. Avoid blocking the last round of bead holes with knots, as you will be attaching the fringes to these beads.

Beaded fringing

Short tubes

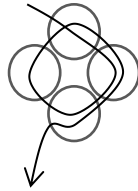
Using the same Peyote format that you used for the long tubes, create 12x short tubes = 8 beads wide x 12 rows long, using the following bead sequence: 2x white cylinder beads, 6x colour & 2x white cylinder.

Weave in, secure and trim all threads, then leave to one side.

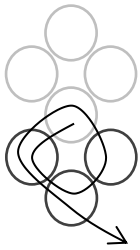
Right Angle Weave (RAW) fringing x 12

N.B. For the following steps you will need to use approx 89cms (35"), leaving a tail thread of approx 25.5cms (10") long.

Step A. Pick up 4x15's, then thread through the first three beads again = unit 1.



Tip: Be sure to cull any beads that show any resistance on the first pass, as you will need to make multiple passes through all the beads - especially the first and last units of each fringe.



Step B. Pick up 3x15's, thread through the opposite side of the bead your working thread is exiting and the next two beads = unit 2.

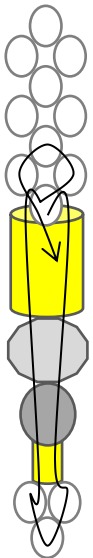
Step C. Repeat Step B, until you have twenty-seven units in total, then follow Steps A, B & C again to create eleven more fringes.

N.B. Do not finish off any threads. The threads will be used for assembling and attaching the fringes to the tassel head.

Assembling a fringe

Tip: Wrap an elastic band around the fringing of the main tassel, to prevent it from getting in the way whilst attaching the beaded fringing.

Step D. Pick up 12x15's and the yellow tube and slide the tube over the 15's, then pick up 1x rondelle, 1x11A, 1x yellow cylinder bead & 3x15's.



Step E. Thread back through the cylinder bead, 11A, rondelle, the 15's inside the tube and through the central bead of the last RAW unit, in the opposite side to where the working thread is exiting.

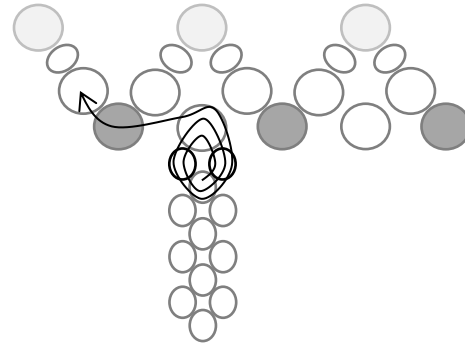
Step F. Thread through all four beads of the RAW unit and back through the inner 15's and the rondelle. Make a couple of hitch knots, thread through the 11 and cylinder bead and trim your thread.

Step G. Follow the same process to assemble the remaining eleven fringes.

Attaching a fringe

The fringes are attached individually to the last row of 11B beads at the base of the tassel head, using RAW.

Step H. Starting with the fringe that has the yellow tube and your tail thread exiting the right-hand side of the fringe, pick up 1x15 and thread through the right-hand side of the 11B, then pick up 1x15 and thread through the opposite side of the of the fringe.



Step I. Repeat the thread path once more, then weave up into the beads at the base of the tassel, secure and trim the thread.

N.B. Avoid blocking any beads with knots that will be required to attach the remaining fringes.

Step J. Repeat Steps H & I to attach the remaining eleven fringes, taking care to attach them in colour order. Remove the elastic bands from your tassel and shake it out ready for use.



Thank you for choosing to make my design.

Happy IBW week!

Karen x