

*Overview of First Nations' Beading Techniques:
Lane/Lazy, Loom, Overlay, and Gourd*

Materials Needed

Beading Needles (very small eye)	Beading Thread (recommend "A") or Sinew
Beeswax	Beads ("seed" size 10 to 13)
Canvas, other heavy material, or leather	Scissors
Glue (craft, wood, or crazy)	Ruler
Pencil	

Research

The purpose of research is so that you stay within tribal and traditional patterns and colors. Research also helps you to understand the people you are patterning your beadwork after. Here are some tools of research; the people themselves, Library, Internet, Powwows, Museums, Magazines, and Pictures. One final word concerning your research; never stop discovering the people you are patterning your regalia after, and never copy a design exactly. Also while doing your research pay close attention to the colors used by the tribe.

Technique

As for thread, sinew would be preferred "thread" depending on how exact you want to get. If exactness is not your worry, Crazy Crow, Wandering Bull, and other Trading Post can supply "beading thread." Bee's wax is a must, the wax actually helps preserve the thread, and thus your beadwork will last longer. Your material, if not leather should be a heavy material such as canvas, the purpose is so that you can get a good 'arc' appearance. Since I've mentioned the 'arc', one of the main characteristics of good Lane/Lazy Stitch is an 'arc' or 'hump'. The easiest way to obtain this 'arc' is for example, say you using 10 beads on the lanes, when sewing the beads down you want to come back to about 9 1/2 beads, and sew it down. Make sure that you pull the thread tight; the tightness of your project is a factor in obtaining the 'arc' as well.

Once you have gathered your materials you will need to lay your pattern out on a flat surface. (Once you get the hang of the lanes, you won't need to go through this process.) With your material on a flat surface you need to draw your lanes out. If you have chosen leather, I suggest that you draw your lanes on the side you are not going to bead.

Drawing your lanes on the opposite side will alleviate any worries about pencil markings being seen. You will need to draw these lanes with firm pressure. If you are using canvas or similar material you will need to draw your lanes on the side that you are going to be beading. **Your lanes should be about 7/16 or 1/2 in. wide, this measure can vary depending on the type of project, and the number of beads used.**

Once you have your lanes drawn out your next step is to draw out your pattern, again once you get the hang of this style, drawing the pattern out won't be necessary. Your final stage of the project is actual beading. Make sure you always pull your thread tight each time. Don't be in too big of a rush to not go back and correct a lane if you make a mistake.