

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

Gourd/Peyote Stitch:

To many this form of beadwork is considered complicated. I was about fourteen years old when I was first introduced to this technique. Did I get it right the first time; NO. I actually invented a new form of the technique, so I thought, until I did further research. I learned this technique like all of these discussed through trial and error, error being my best teacher. I didn't grandmothers, aunties, or my mom to teach me the techniques. This technique is mainly used to bead a round object by means of weaving the beads onto the object.

Materials

Beading Needles (depending on bead size, adjust needle size)

Beeswax

Beading Thread

Beads ("seed" size 12-24)

Graf Paper (specifically for Gourd Stitch)

Scissors

Leather, Canvas, or Moleskin

Research

Again, can't be over emphasized!

Technique

To start you will need to cover the object to be beaded with the leather or other material. Then you'll need to push the threaded needle through the material at the top or bottom of the object. String beads onto the thread and wind the beads completely around the object. Count these beads, either adding or subtracting beads so the total is divisible by 6. You then will actually divide the total number of beads by 3 and take that number of beads off. Wind the remaining beads around the object and put the needle through the first bead. String on 1 bead, skip the 2nd bead and bring the needle through the 3rd bead, and continue this process until you have gone completely around the object. To complete this row you must go through 2 beads to complete the row. Always remember to pull the thread tight and follow your design pattern.