

Bead Pattern Central Beading Tutorial

Surrounding a cabochon with a clutch of beads

If you're a beginner, it's a good idea to start with a medium-sized cabochon in an oval or round shape. You'll learn the skills needed to progress on to a cab that is odd-shaped or has corners. The cab used in this tutorial is a 30mm x 40mm oval with a flat back. The beads are Delicas and Japanese 15o's.

RECOMMENDED GENERAL SUPPLIES:

An oval or round cabochon

Small amounts of seed beads in graduated sizes. From larger to smaller, we recommend:

Japanese 11°

Czech 11°

Delicas/Treasures

12° three-cuts

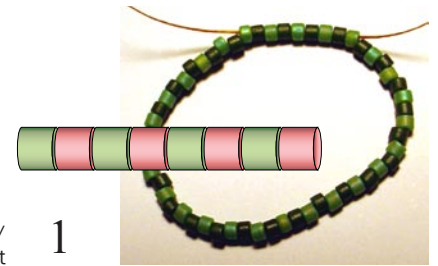
Japanese 15°

(You'll need two colors of the size used in your foundation ring; one should roughly approximate the color of the back of the cabochon. You'll also need two or more colors of 15's, one or more that will show on the front and one that should approximate the back of the cabochon)

Nymo size B in a coordinating color

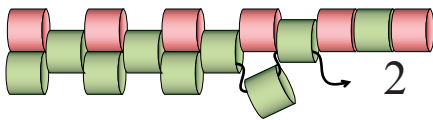
Size 10 and 12 beading needles; scissors; thread conditioner if you like to use it

You can start with a size 10 needle, then switch to the smaller size 12 needle for use with the smaller beads. When there is about 4" of thread left on your needle, end that thread by burying it within the weave until it is secure. Clip off excess. To add a thread, secure it within the weave of the beadwork and bring it out in position to continue uninterrupted in pattern.

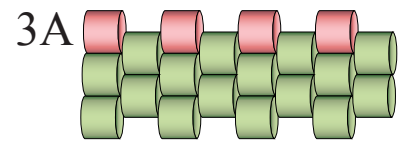
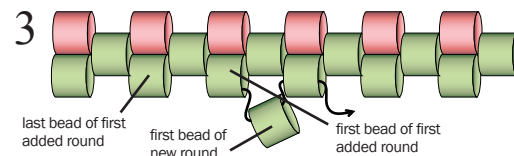


STEP 1 CREATE THE FOUNDATION RING (diagram and photo 1). Cut a one-yard length of thread. Use Delicas/Treasures or 11° seed beads for the foundation ring. Alternate the two foundation ring colors until there are just enough beads to surround the cabochon. This MUST be an even number of beads. Adjust the fit of the ring in favor of snugness, not looseness. This ring represents rows 1 and 2; the colors are alternated so you can easily differentiate row 1 from row 2. The row 2 color is the one that will be visible on the front of the cab; the row one color will be situated on the back. Run the thread through a few of the first beads added to form a ring; bring the thread out of a bead from row 2.

STEP 2 ADD THE THIRD ROW of beads, working in the beads of row 2. The technique is essentially tubular peyote stitch, with some adaptations.



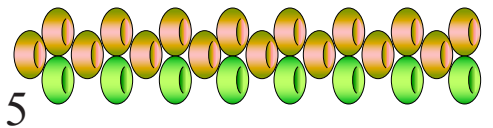
STEP 3 "STEP UP" as shown in diagram 3. Add two more rows of beads so you have five rows in total in the ring (diagram 3A). NOTE: If the cabochon has a shallow dome, fewer rows of Delicas will be needed.



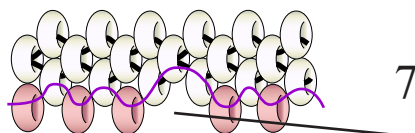
STEP 4 ADD ROUNDS OF 15°s. Bury the starting tail thread within the weave of the ring; weave it into the beads of the ring so no thread shows on the ring surface, then clip it close. Step up as shown in diagram 3, but in this round use 15°s. Add two rounds of 15°s; the ring will begin to cup slightly after the first round of 15°s, but the cupping will be quite pronounced after the second round, as shown in this photo of another design. The cupping is not shown in the diagram for sake of clarity.



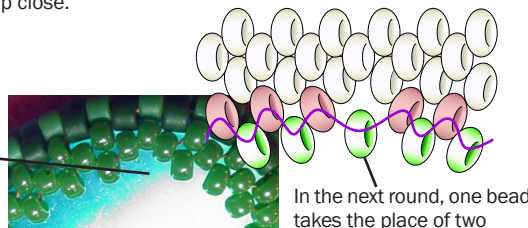
STEP 5 Add more rounds of 15o seed beads as needed to achieve the desired effect on the front of the cab. You can use different colors for each row if you like.



STEP 6 The cabochon should fit neatly within the cup of beads as shown in photo 6. Add several rounds of 15°s on the back until the cabochon is secure within the beadwork. The first and perhaps second round of 15°s can be worked without the cabochon in place. After two or three rounds, you should place the cab in the clutch, then work the remaining rounds so the cabochon is secured. If necessary, decrease by one bead at a time as shown in photo and diagrams 7 to create a tighter fit. When the cabochon is secure, work the thread through the weave until it is secure, then clip close.



Decrease if needed up to four times each round, spacing the reductions as evenly as possible. Skip one bead in the round as shown in photo 6; in the next round, place one bead in the decrease, where there would have otherwise been two. If your stitch tension is tight, decreases may not be necessary.



In the next round, one bead takes the place of two

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ADDING A SELF-BAIL

Determine the bail's positioning. Bring a thread up from the weave and add beads as shown in diagram 8. When you're happy with the width, turn as shown in diagram 9, then add the second row. Diagram 10 shows the third row. Continue in this manner until the bail is the desired length, then join in pattern on the back.

