

Surrounding a cabochon within a clutch of beads

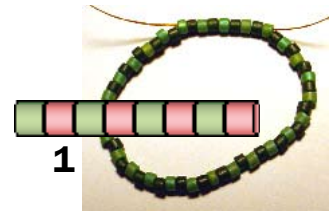
If you're a beginner, it's a good idea to work with a medium-sized oval or round cabochon, and to start your initial ring with Delicas.

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.

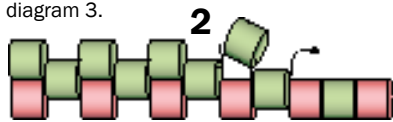
WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

An oval or round cabochon
Small amounts of Delicas/Treasures (sometimes called size 11 cylinder beads), Japanese 15° seed beads, Czech 14° or 15° (these are smaller than Japanese 15°)
NOTE: You'll need two colors of Delicas 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 color of the back of the cabochon)
Nymo size B or D in a neutral or coordinating color
Size 10 and 12 beading needles; scissors; thread conditioner if you like to use it

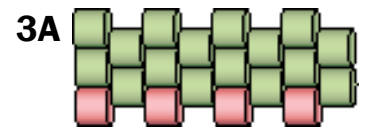
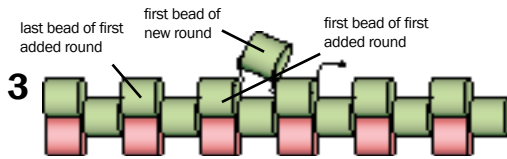
STEP 1 CREATE THE FOUNDATION RING (diagram and photo 1). Cut a one-yard or longer length of thread. Use Delicas/Treasures; alternate the two foundation ring colors until there are just enough beads to surround the cabochon. This MUST be an even number of beads. Adjust the fit of the ring in favor of 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.



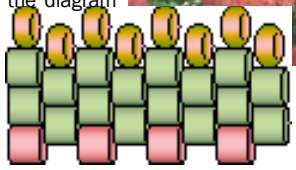
STEP 2 ADD THE FIRST NON-RING ROUND of beads, working in the color of round 2. The technique is essentially tubular peyote stitch, with some adaptations. "Step up" at the end of this and all subsequent rounds in preparation for the next round as shown in diagram 3.



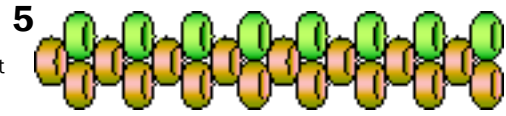
STEP 3 COMPLETE THE INITIAL BAND Add rounds of Delicas (3A) until the band fits well against the outside edge of the cabochon. NOTE: The number of rounds of Delicas will change depending on the size and shape of the cabochon. The larger the cab, the higher its "dome", the more rounds of Delicas you will use. For stones with angular edges such as Rivolis, use fewer rounds of Delicas, often as few as three (see 3B).



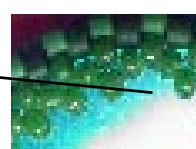
STEP 4 ADD ROUNDS OF 15°s. The ring will begin to cup slightly after the first round of 15°s, but the cupping will be quite pronounced after the second round, as shown in photo 4. The cupping is not shown in the diagram for sake of clarity.



STEP 5 Add rounds of Czech 14° or 15° seed beads as needed to secure the cab. If the Japanese 15°s have created enough cupping, the addition of Czech beads may not be necessary. You can use different colors for each row if you like. These tiny beads can be used simply for decoration.



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. In the case of an oval cabochon, it may be necessary to decrease the number of beads in the last round(s) to create a good fit. 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

ADDING A SELF-BAIL

Determine the bail's positioning. Bring a thread up from one of the Delica rounds and build out beads in peyote stitch as shown in diagram 8; turn as shown in 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. NOTE: the bail described below is worked in even-count peyote stitch; odd numbers tend to make more design sense. If you want an odd-count bail, you may either work in odd-count peyote stitch, or add one row of brick stitch along the flat edge of the bail.

