

# Reading A Peyote Graph


## For The Beginner


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*To a beginner, reading even a simple peyote graph can be confusing and very frustrating. This step-by-step tutorial will help you learn how to read peyote graphs.*


[NOTE: These instructions were written for a right-handed person. If you are left-handed, reverse the directions]

### Materials:

 Delica® beads in the colors and amounts listed for each graph. Seed beads may be substituted. Japanese seed beads, usually purchased in vials, are recommended, as they are more uniform and will result in a neater-looking finished piece. If Czech seed beads, usually purchased by the hank, are used, try to choose beads that are close in size and shape.

 Thread to match the background color of each graph. There are many kinds of thread, and all have pros and cons. I prefer Silamide® or C-Lon®, but Nymo® may also be used. When there is a question of what color to use, light gray is the least conspicuous. It blends well with most colors and will not show when the piece is complete.

 Beeswax or Thread Heaven®

 Stop Bead – Extra seed or Delica bead to act as a stopper to keep beads on thread

### Tools:

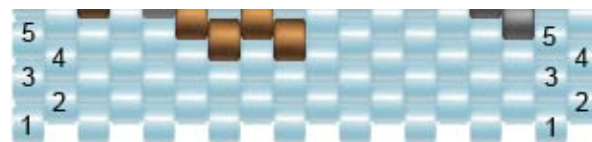
 Bead Needle – Size 12

 Scissors

### Even-Count Peyote – Robin Graph

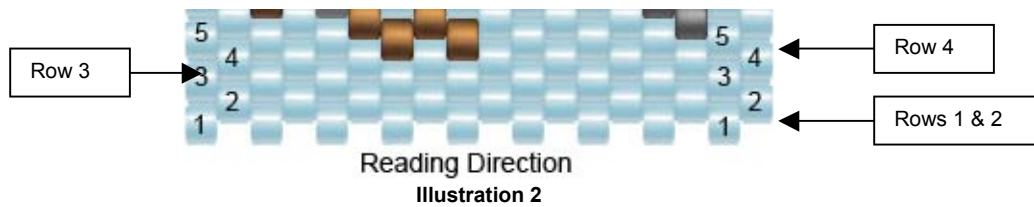
Even count flat peyote has an even number of beads in each row, and when finished, is a flat piece.

Rows are counted by each offset bead level. The Robin graph has 26 rows. **Illustration 1.**



Counting Rows  
Illustration 1

Although there is no right or wrong way, peyote graphs are usually read from bottom to top, starting at the bottom right corner. When you become more familiar with reading graphs, you may find it easier to read them differently. **Illustration 2.**



The first 2 rows are always strung together, starting with the first bead from the right in the second row, then the first bead from the right in the first row, then the second bead from the right in the second row, second bead from the right in the first row, etc. until you have strung the last bead on the left in the first row. Don't worry if this sounds confusing now. We will take it step by step when we begin.

## Let's Begin!

Cut and wax approximately 1 yard of thread, then thread needle.

**[HINT: Some beadworkers like to stretch their thread while running it through the wax. Pre-stretching the thread will prevent the thread from stretching after the piece is finished, causing the thread to show between the beads. This is especially important for large or heavy beadwork, or beads that will be hanging, such as fringe.]**

**Stopper Bead:** Pick up stopper bead and slide it to the end of thread, leaving a 4-inch tail. We will be working this tail back into the beadwork when we are finished, so leave enough. Run the needle the same direction back through the bead to keep it from sliding off the end.

**Rows 1 & 2:** Pick up beads 1-18 in order, and slide them to the stopper bead. The first two rows of peyote are picked up all at once. You should now have 18 blue beads plus the stopper bead on your thread, with bead #1 next to the stopper bead. **Illustration 3.**



**Row 3:** We only have one strand of beads, but we are going to imagine that we are now flipping our work over horizontally (left to right). We will start to go back the other direction on the graph.

**[NOTE: This is perhaps the point where many beginning beaders get lost. Many experienced beaders use tricks or tools to keep their place on the graph, and to remember which direction they are going. I like to make an extra copy of the graph, then poke a tiny hole in the bead after I have finished placing it, then one along side the row I have just completed. Other methods include using a see-through or magnetic place-holder such as is used for cross-stitch, or using a pen with disappearing ink. Remember to mark your place with pencil, pinhole, or some other method if you used disappearing ink and are putting your beadwork down for the day.]**

This will be starting row 3, so we will be reading our chart from the left to the right even though we will be holding our beadwork so that we are placing our beads right to left. Don't let the following diagrams trick you out. Remember to follow the numbers on the graph.

Pick up the first blue bead in row 3. This is the first bead on the left in the 3<sup>rd</sup> row, or bead #19 on the chart. While holding the first 18 beads snug up against the stopper bead with one hand, pass the needle through bead #17, which is the second bead from the end of the first beads strung. Your needle should be going in the direction towards the stopper bead. Bead #19 will lay on top of bead #18, pushing it down half the height of the bead. Your beads should be snug and neat. If you lost the tension in your thread, snug it up now, and keep the beads neatly aligned.

**Illustration 4.**

**[NOTE: If your beadwork starts to curl, your tension is too tight, if it sags limply with excess thread showing, you may need to snug it up tighter. You want a piece that is firm, but not stiff or limp.]**



Beginning Row 3

Illustration 4

Pick up another blue bead #20, skip bead #16, and run your needle through bead #15, again going in the direction of the stopper bead. **Illustration 5.**



Continuing Row 3

Illustration 5

Continue picking up a blue bead, and running the needle through every other bead. The last bead your needle goes through will be the 1<sup>st</sup> bead strung. Leave the stopper bead in place for now, but do not pass the needle through it. **Illustration 6.**



Finishing Row 3

Illustration 6

Row 4: Once again, flip the beadwork horizontally. **Illustration 7.**



Row 4 will be read from right to left. Pick up blue bead #28, then pass the needle through bead #27. You will find it easier to bead now that every other bead is raised. These raised beads will be the ones that you will pass your needle through from now on. **Illustration 8**



Pick up bead #29 and pass the needle through the next raised bead #26. **Illustration 9.**



Continue picking up beads and passing the needle through the next raised bead until you pass your needle through bead #19 at the end of the row. **Illustration 10.**



Row 5: Flip the beadwork horizontally to begin row 5. Read row 5 of the graph from left to right. Pick up bead #37 and pass the needle through raised bead #36. Pick up bead #38 and pass the needle through bead #35. Pick up bead #39 and pass the needle through bead #34. Up to this point, you have only used blue beads. The next bead you pick up will be brown bead #40. Pass the needle through bead #33. **Illustration 11.**



Row 5  
Illustration 11

Continue reading row 5 on the graph from left to right, picking up the correct corresponding color. Your thread should exit row 5 from bead #28 on the graph.

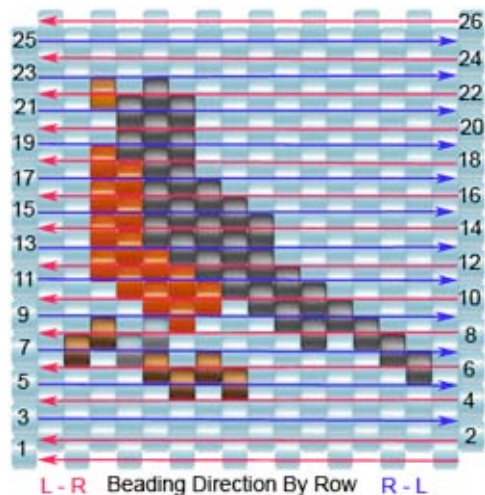
Row 6: Flip your beadwork horizontally once again and read the graph from right to left. **Illustration 12.**



Row 6  
Illustration 12

Row 7-26: After completing each row, flip your beadwork, and alternate reading the graph from left to right, then right to left. Use the following graph to help with row direction. **Illustration 13.**

[HINT: Make a small mark alongside each finished row so you can remember which direction to go]

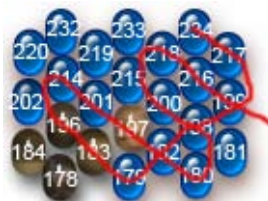


**Illustration 13**

### Finishing:

After you have completed all rows, your thread should be exiting bead #217 on row 25. Now you will work a portion of the remainder of the thread back into the piece so that it is locked into place. This is preferable to knotting or gluing the thread.

Flip your beadwork once more so that the thread is exiting from the right side of your piece. Pass the needle through bead #199, the bead right below the bead (#217) that you've just exited. Use the illustration below as is, or weave your tail into your piece in a similar manner, ensuring that you have crossed your thread a couple of times. This will lock your thread in place. Exit any side bead, and clip the thread close to your work. **Illustration 14.**

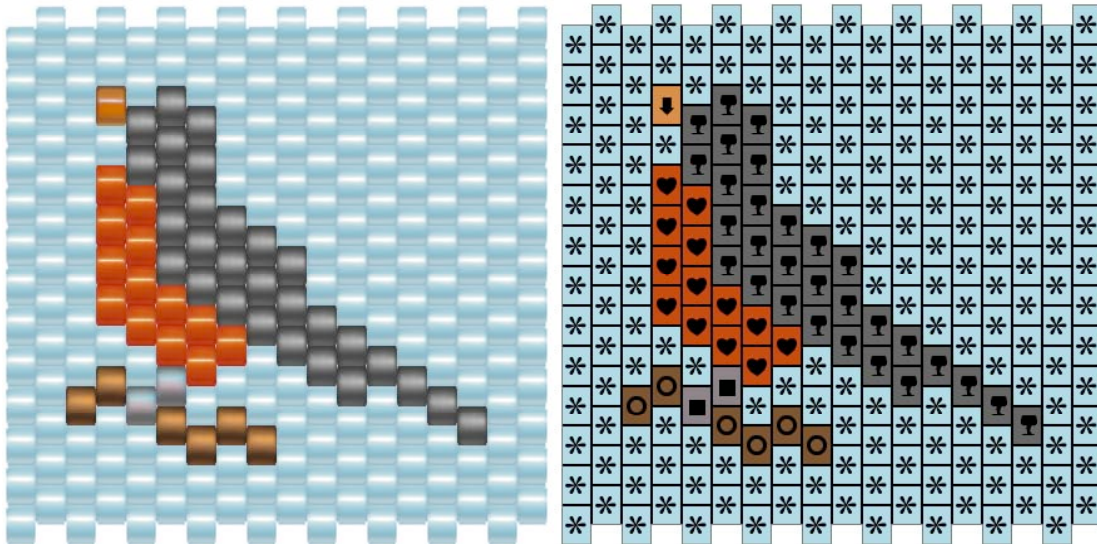


Weaving In Thread Tail  
**Illustration 14**



















Remove the stopper bead from the bottom of your work, and weave the tail into the piece. Your beadwork is now complete. You can sew or glue a pin back onto the beadwork for use as a pin.

# The Graphs

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Project name : Robin  
 Panel width, height : 1.00 , 1.00  
 Weave : Peyote  
 Total colors : 6  
 Total beads : 234

	Quan	Name
  	13	653
  	183	239
  	6	322
  	1	272
  	2	882
  	29	307

