

How to Make a Russian Leaf

By Jill Wiseman

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Supply List

- Size 11 seed beads – 1 gram
- Size 11 Delicas – 1 gram
- Fireline (6lb test)
- Size 12 needle

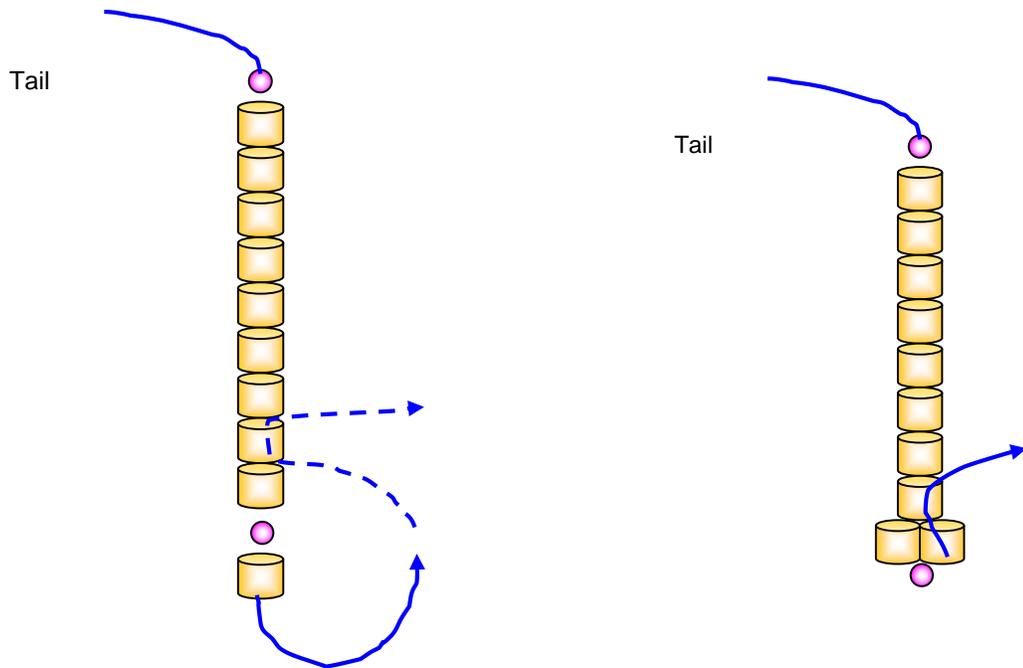


Making Russian Leaves

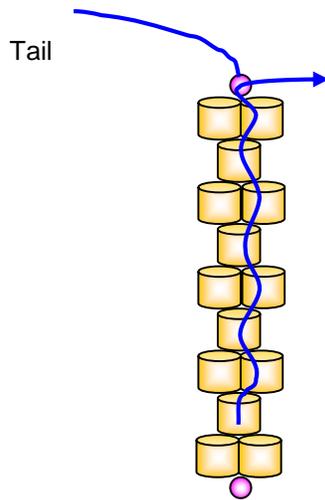
There are a number of ways to make Russian Leaves, and this is just one of them...so be sure and play with other variations you find in the bead world too!

We'll be making the leaves with your Delicas and size 11 seed beads, using a peyote stitch. They can be made with size 11 seed beads in place of your Delicas, but it's easiest to learn on Delicas, which is why I've called for them in this project.

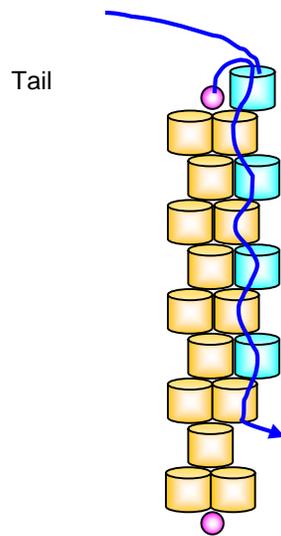
Start with about a yard of Fireline. String on a size 11, 9 Delicas, a size 11, and 1 more Delica. Skipping the last three beads you put on (a Delica, a size 11, and a Delica) pass back towards your tail through the next Delica. It will be the second Delica of the group of 9.



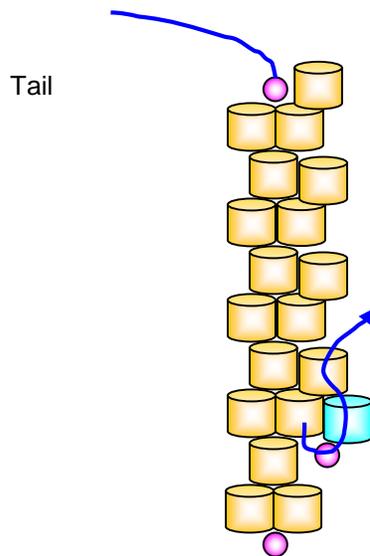
Now we're going to do normal peyote stitch across the rest of the Delicas (4 stitches) and end by going through the first size 11 you picked up for the last stitch.



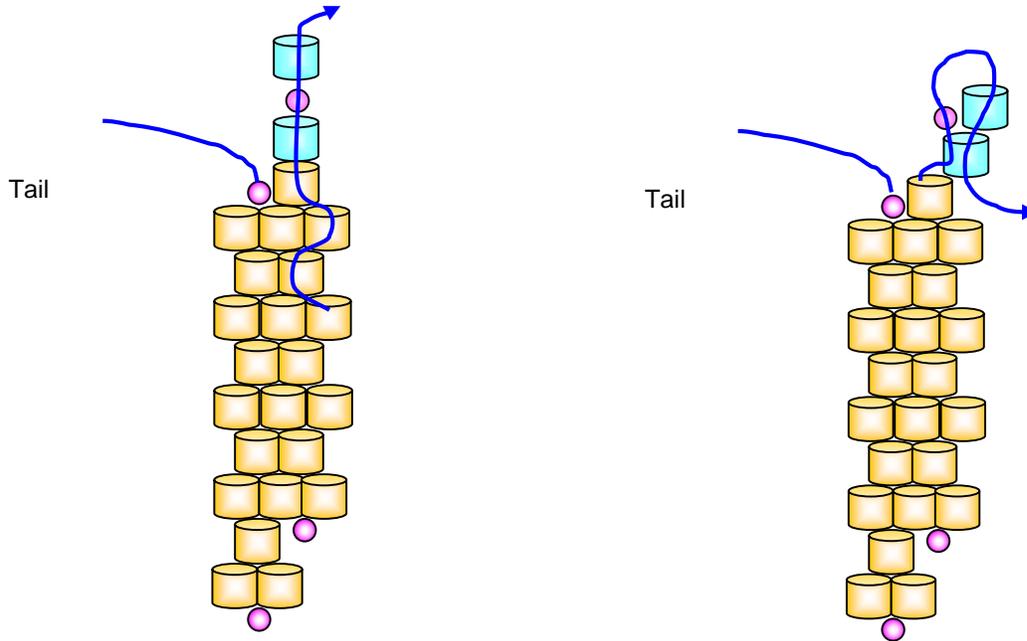
- ◆ Pick up a Delica, and start peyote stitching back down (away from the end with the tail)
Make a total of 4 peyote stitches, and then when you get to the space where you'd add the last Delica, we're going to do something different.



Pick up a size 11 and a Delica (shown in orange below), and then start working back up towards the tail end by passing through the last Delica you added in the previous row.



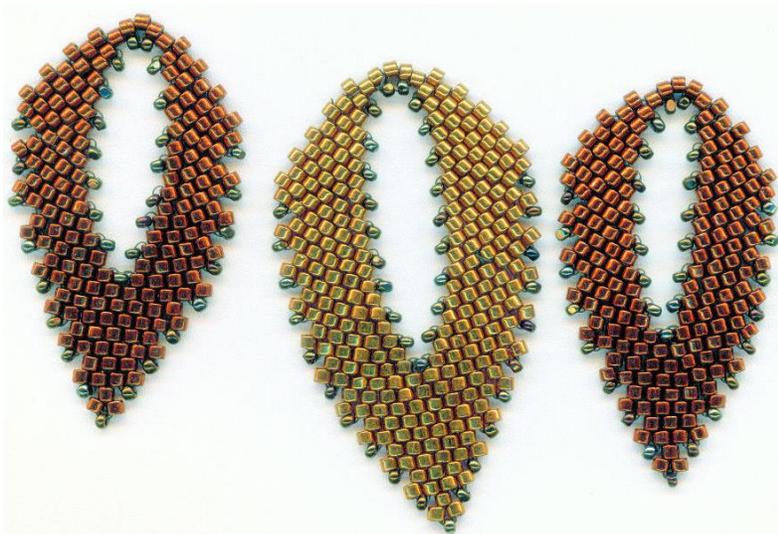
You'll make 3 peyote stitches now, back up towards the tail end, and then there's one more funky turn to do. Pick up a Delica, a size 11, and a Delica (in pink below), then pass back down the first Delica you just picked up.



Okay! We're on a roll now – just repeat the steps on page 3 until you have half a leaf with a total of 9 size 11s on each edge. **Finish off this side of the leaf by stitching down 4 regular peyote stitches – you can use your Delicas OR your size 11s.**

Weave your thread through the leaf until you have it coming out of the size 11 bead your tail is coming out of. Repeat the instructions from the  note on page 2 through the steps on page 4, until the second half of your leaf is finished also. The two sides should mirror each other.

Now we're going to connect the top edges, so weave your thread back up the leaf so it's coming out of the very top Delica on one side. Doesn't matter which side. Pick up a Delica, and then needle down through the very top Delica on the other half of your leaf. The new Delica you just added will create a little bridge connecting the two sides, and your leaf will bow slightly, which is the effect we're looking for.



Reinforce your thread path a few times and then end off your thread. Since this is peyote stitch, you can end your thread by just needling back and forth through your beadwork, switching directions at least twice, and then cutting off your thread.



If you have any questions while you're working, please feel free to email me at jill@jillwisemandesigns.com. And visit our website at www.jillwisemandesigns.com for kits and beading supplies, as well as a link to my YouTube channel.

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