

Contemporary Geometric Beadwork



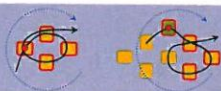
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Volume I

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Basics: MRAW Bellybands



RAW (Right Angle Weave) Bellyband

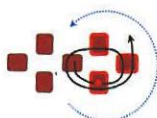
To fully appreciate our nifty MRAW Bellyband, you need to make a regular RAW band first, changing directions with each unit added, and then go back into it to add a first peyote round. It makes us tired just thinking about it. You can make this band flat (for a strap bracelet, for example) or join it into a circle (for a bangle).

RAW uses 4-bead units. The first one is added in a group of four, the rest in groups of three. To join the band into a circle, you will use two beads. We used cylinder beads for our examples, but you can combine beads in these bands with great effect.

Step 1: Pick up four beads, join them into a circle, and pass back through the first two added to secure the thread and prepare for the next add.



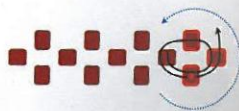
Step 2: Pick up three beads, and pass down through the bead that you came down through to begin the unit. Pass through the bottom bead and the right hand bead to complete the unit and prepare for the next add.



Step 3: Pick up three beads, and pass up through the bead that you came up through to begin the unit. See how you are changing directions with each unit added?



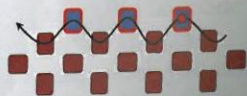
Step 4: Repeat Step 2 and Step 3 to continue the band to the desired length.



Step 5: Join the band into a circle (optional). To do this, pick up one bead, pass through the first bead of the first unit, pick up another bead, and then pass through the last bead of the last unit. Reinforce the join by passing through more beads.



Step 6: Add one bead into each space in one of the two Tooththrows of RAW to add a first peyote row or round.



MRAW (Modified Right Angle Weave) Bellyband

Our elegant MRAW Bellyband is a quicker path to the goal, with no change of direction. In one pass of beadwork, you get a full RAW band and a spacer row, which ends up to be your first round of peyote.

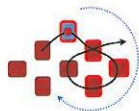
We strongly recommend using a different colour for your spacers, so that you can see the structure. Pay attention to the thread path; it matters! You should only pass through the spacer beads once, when you pick them up with your needle. To complete the unit, bypass the spacer bead and pass directly through the top bead of the unit. (See Step 2, below.)

Bypass the spacer bead in the same way each time for a smooth band. We like to pass in front of the spacer bead, rather than behind it.

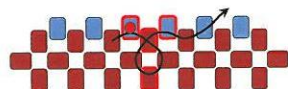
Step 1: Pick up four beads, join them into a circle, and pass back through the first bead.



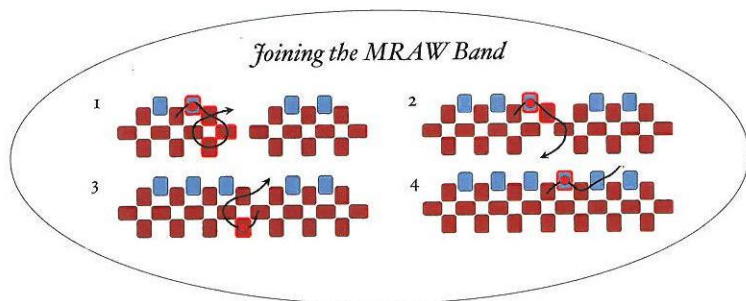
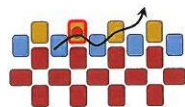
Step 2: Pick up a spacer bead and three RAW beads, and, *bypassing the spacer bead*, pass through the top RAW bead. You are in position for the next add. Repeat until your Band is the desired length. Each stitch will be the same.



Step 3: Join the Band into a circle (optional). Be sure to go through enough beads after closure to neatly secure the join (see detail below). You are now at the same point as you were at the RAW band after two rounds. Whee!



Step 4: Step up and continue your piece as desired.



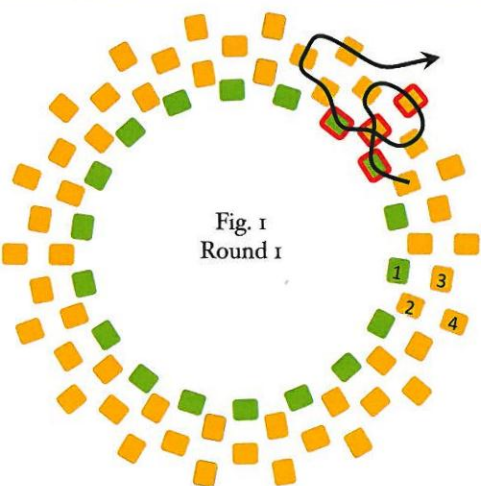
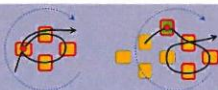
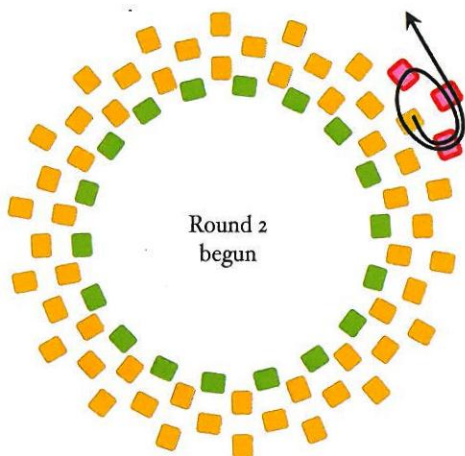


Fig. 1
Round 1



Round 2
begun



Round 2,
continued, first
spacer added.
And we're off!

Double MRAW Bands

Sometimes a design will call for more architecture, or more layers, and you will want to make a double or triple MRAW Bellyband for a base or central element.

Even a single MRAW Band offers many options. In Fig. 1 (left) we numbered four potential rounds of beadwork to build on, two of which (the edges, 1 and 4) are Toothrounds. A double Band (Fig. 2, opposite page, top) will give you seven rounds.

Please note that these numbers, 1-4, or 1-7, don't relate to the construction of the Band, which is (fabulously) only one round of beadwork. We numbered them only to show you where your options and I-Beams are. As rounds can be built on both sides, even a single Bellyband gives you a sturdy base for eight potential layers of work.

Christina Vandervlist's *Triple Crown Rick-Rack* (opposite page, bottom) was built on a double MRAW Zigged Band (see next pages). She used three of the potential seven base rounds to make it.

The *Helix Bangle* (pgs. 196-209) uses a double Band to hold its six rounds of Points. Build your Bands strong and tight, and join them securely!

Remember, the band isn't really flat. We just drew it that way to show it better. It's a ring, and the added layers grow out to the sides or the top of it. In the Triple Crown Rick-Rack at right, the band is sitting contentedly at the bottom of the piece.