



Perfume Bottles



Material (for one bottle)

Cylindrical glass, plastic or wooden bottle (1pc)

Matubo 10/0 in at least two colors (total amount depends on size of the bottle, approx. 5-30 grams)

15/0 Czech or Japanese seed beads (approx. 1 gram)

Optional: Jewelry glue, embellishment – cabochons, tassels, bigger beads, bigger two-hole beads

Beading needle and thread (Nymo, Fireline...)

Difficulty: For beginners

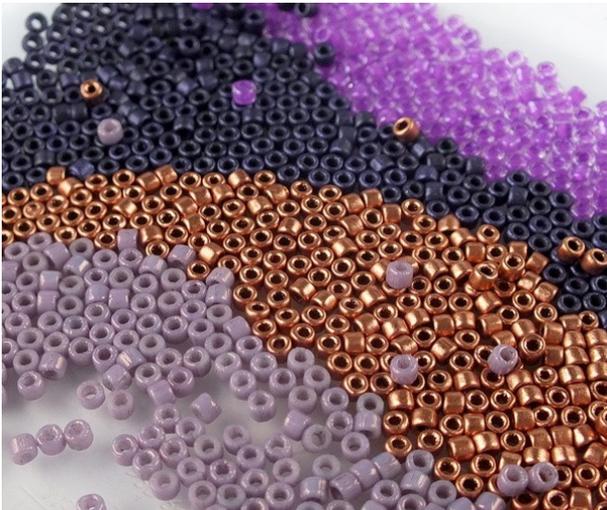
Bottles



You can use an actual bottle of your favorite perfume, empty containers from your cosmetics or skincare products, bottles bought at craft stores, wooden needle cases or objects like pens or lighters.

It's best to use bottles that are cylindrical or prismatic in shape (you can see examples of suitable bottles in the picture above).

Avoid bottles that are tapered, spherical, pear-shaped or curved in any way – of course, experienced beaders can work with these too, but it would most likely require using several sizes of beads and possibly also making increases and decreases in peyote stitch and adjusting the pattern accordingly. For an experienced beader this should not be a major problem. If you consider yourself to be more of a beginner, I definitely recommend starting with a simpler shape.



Tip: If you intend to use the finished bottle for storing perfumes, oils or other cosmetics, keep in mind that some chemicals commonly found in such products might cause discoloration in some beads. To be safe, stick with solid color beads (without any kind of coating or lining) or test your beads for colorfastness before you start working.

Tubular peyote stitch



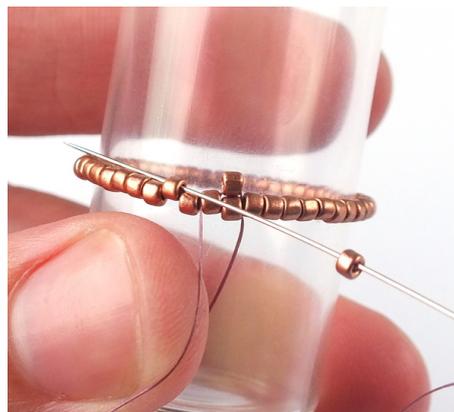
1) Choose one color of 10/0s to start with. (Don't worry about the pattern yet – just use the color that is going to be prevalent in your pattern, or one that you want to be in the background of your pattern. We'll get back to the pattern itself a little bit later.)

String enough 10/0 beads to fit around the widest part of the bottle comfortably. The total number of beads should always be even. If you end up with an odd count, it's always best to add one bead than to remove one – if the bead covering is a little bit loose, it will still fit the bottle. If it is too small, the bottle just won't fit in.

Then slide all the beads to the end of the thread (leave a tail that is approx. 1ft/30cm long) and tie a square knot to form a circle. Then put the circle of beads onto your bottle.



2) Add one new 10/0. Skip the next 10/0 in the row and pass through the second next 10/0 in the row.



3) Repeat step 2 ...



4) ... until you reach the end of the row.

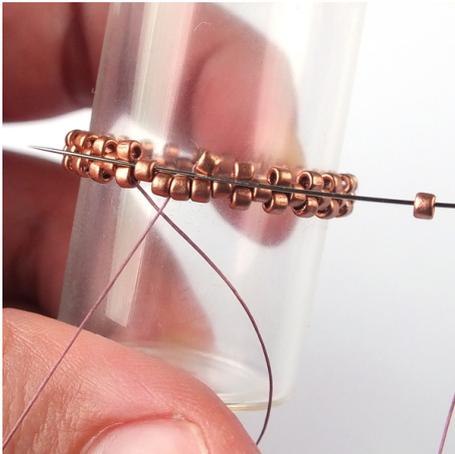


8) Let's add another row. Add one 10/0. Skip the next (lower) 10/0 and pass through the second next (upper) 10/0 in the row.

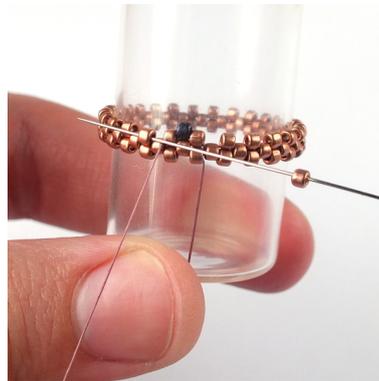


5) Keep your tension as tight as possible. This is how your first row should look. If the new beads are just sitting next to the ones you skipped, your tension is not tight enough.

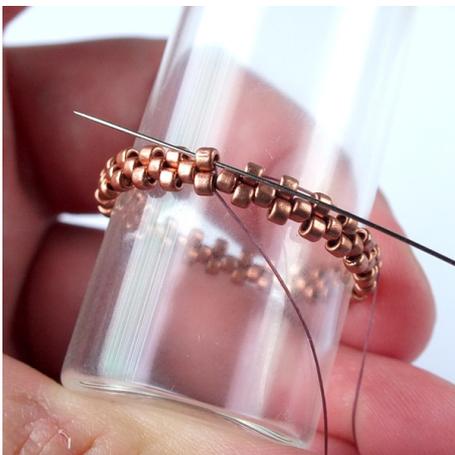
Tip: Notice that I started this row with a bead of a different color - this is the row where I usually start my pattern - see pages 5 and 6 for more information about patterns.



6) Keep beading until you reach the end of the row. At the end of the row add one last bead, just like in steps 2 -4 ...



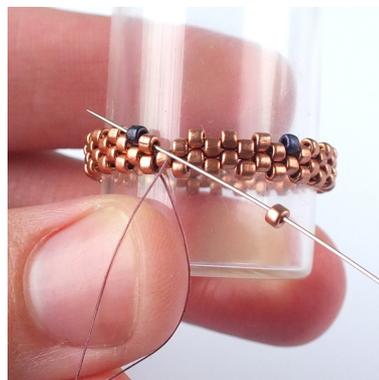
9) Repeat step 8 ...



7) ... and then pass through the first bead you added in this row (no new beads added in this step). This is called "the step-up" and we have to do this at the end of every row.



10) ... until you reach ...



11) ... the end of the row. Don't forget about the step-up: add the last bead in the row, skip the next (lower) one, pass through the second next (upper) one and then pass through the first bead you added in this row (the uppermost one).

12) Keep adding new rows, until you reach the desired length. Don't forget about the step-up at the end of each row!



13) And this is our (almost) finished result. The beaded "tube" should be approximately 1-2 rows of beads longer than the straight part of the bottle.



14) On the top side of the bottle add 1-2 more rows of peyote stitch using smaller seed beads (like Japanese 15/0s). This will make the covering a little narrower on top and it will fit the bottle snugly. Then you can tie a few half-hitch knots and cut off the working end of the thread.



15) Now do the same on the other end of the covering, using the 30cm/1ft tail from the beginning.



Tips:

Is the covering a little too big for your bottle? You can fix this by adding a layer (or two) of transparent self-adhesive tape or foil (or other suitable material) to your bottle.

Do you want to make sure your covering stays on your bottle without moving? Before you close the bottom part of the bottle (step 15), take the covering off, apply a very thin layer of jewelry glue onto the bottle, put the covering back on, then close the bottom and then let the glue set according to manufacturer's instructions.

16) Decorate the bottle cap in a similar way (optional).

Sometimes you can even incorporate the bottle cap into your design. If your cap has a suitable shape, you can cover it with beads just like you did with the bottle itself.

The bottle I used had this plain white cap. First I took a cabochon that is slightly smaller than the diameter of the cap and I glued it on top of the cap.

You don't have to use a cabochon, but it is an interesting design element and it will make covering the top part of the cap easier:



Then you can start beading around the cap, just as you did with the bottle. On top, add a few rows of 15/0, until you reach the edge of the cabochon (if the original cap is still visible between the beads and the cabochon, you can add more embellishment to cover these gaps – see the picture below). Then glue the cover to the cap and close the bottom side by adding one row of 15/0s.

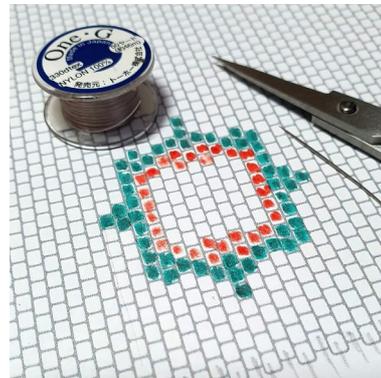


If beading around the cap is not an option, you can always repaint the cap to a more suitable color or glue some decorative elements onto the cap (cabochons, rhinestones), if you're using a cork, you can make a hole in it, put a headpin through and attach beads or tassels to it (like I did with the blue/bronze bottle on the front page) – the options are limitless, you can let your creativity run wild.

17) Your bottle is finished.



Patterns



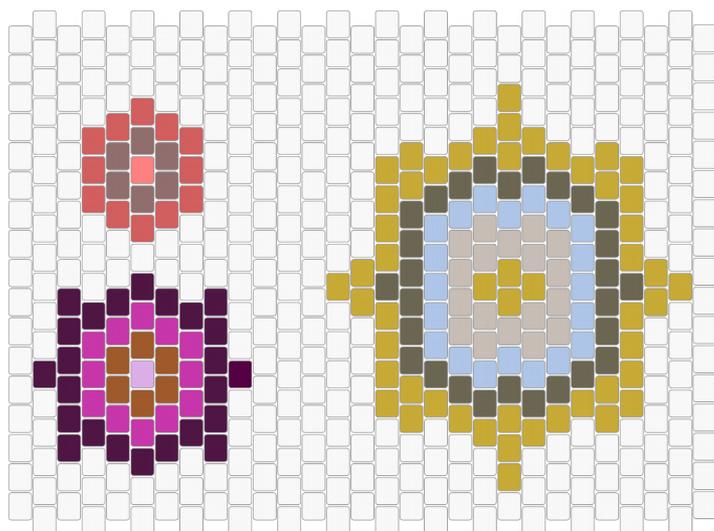
Since every bottle is different in size and shape, it is not possible to provide a universal pattern that would fit every bottle.

If this is your first time working with peyote stitch, I recommend going with a very simple pattern, like horizontal or vertical stripes, random mix of beads or color gradient

If you're feeling more adventurous, you can try making more complex patterns.

You can create one as you are working (this is what I usually do), you can draw one using empty peyote stitch graph paper (available online) or software like BeadTool.

For my bottles I created a pattern loosely inspired by Persian carpets. Feel free to use it as it is or adjust it to fit your bottle.



I want to use the pattern above or create a similar one. How do I figure out how many times I can repeat the pattern around and how do I space it out evenly?

First we need to calculate the number of beads in one row of peyote stitch. Which is half of the number of beads in the first row.

I'll be using my purple/copper bottle as an example.

- When making my purple/copper bottle, I started with **50 beads**, which gives us **25 beads** in one row of peyote stitch.
- Now we have to divide this number into equal parts. **$25 = 5 \times 5$** , so it can be divided into **five groups of five beads**.
- So we can divide the bottle into five sections and our **pattern will be repeated five times around**.

Number 25 only has one non-trivial divisor – number 5 – therefore we only have one option on how to space out our pattern (five groups of five).

If you end up with a number which has more than one non-trivial divisors, you can choose from several options how to divide beads into groups and space out your pattern – for example number 24 can be divided into 2×12 , 3×8 or 6×4 (and vice versa) and you can pick the one that fits your intended design the best.

If you end up with a prime number (a number that can only be divided by itself or by number one), it won't be possible to divide beads into several equal groups and space out your pattern evenly. You can still do patterns though – you'll just have to use a pattern that does not require repetition (or that does not require even spacing), a pattern that is (at least slightly) asymmetrical or one of the simple patterns, like horizontal or vertical stripes, color gradients or random mixes.

Enough with the math, let's get back to beading!

Let's get back to our example. I started with 50 beads in one color (let's call it color A) and then I added one more row of peyote stitch in the same color – just like in steps 1–7.

Then I added another row of peyote stitch, but this time I was using two colors of beads (A and B) and the numbers I calculated before.

This row is going to be divided into five sections, each section containing five beads. And of this five beads, the first one will be of color B and the next four beads will be of color A. Repeat this five times over and our row is finished (steps 8–11).

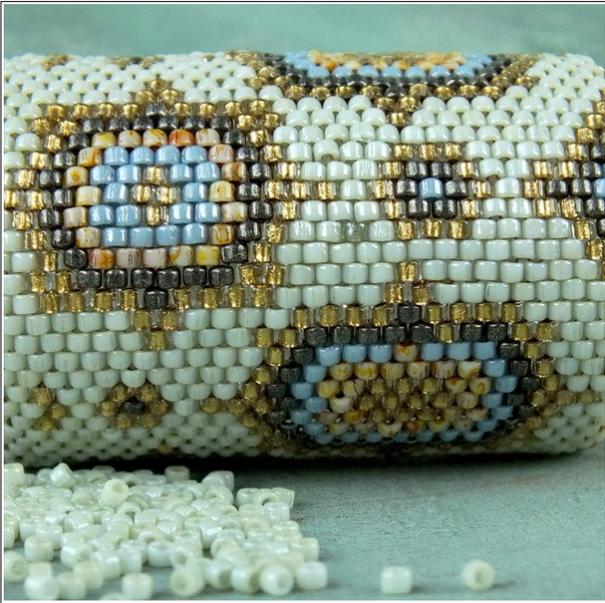
After finishing this row I ended up with five beads of color B, evenly placed around the bottle. These five beads will act as "guide points" for my pattern.

Once you have your "guide points" in place, you can start creating your pattern (steps 12–13) – you can come up with your pattern as you bead or you can take a piece of empty graph paper and draw it out beforehand.

Colorways:

Note: The 15/0s won't be listed here, as there will only be a very small amount of them and only on the top and on the bottom of your bottle.

Feel free to use any color matching your overall color palette.



Matubo 10/0

03000/14457, 23980/81002, 03000/86805,
03000/14464, 000030/68106



Matubo 10/0

00030/01710, 00030/28101, 00030/38163



Matubo 10/0

03000/86805, 23980/90215, 00030/38163



Matubo 10/0:

23980/79021, 00030/38126,
00030/01770, 03000/15726