New Method of Making a Beaded Box Hem

Try this method as an alternative to the technique taught in my book Little Bead Boxes. It is especially nice for boxes with very small openings.

Begin your hem when you have FOUR ROWS remaining to complete the side - this is two rows earlier than usual. For example, if your finished side will have 40 rows, stop after completing row 36 to begin the hem. Notice that you will begin with an "up" bead at the corners.

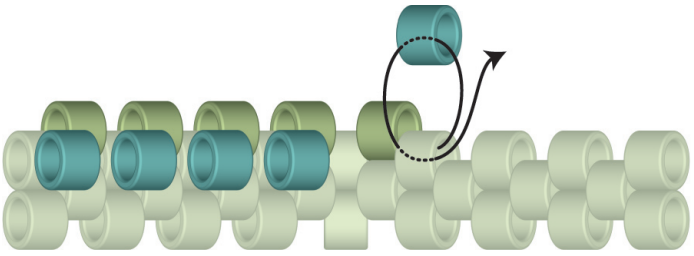


FIGURE 1

You will now establish a hem row AND bead the next side row at the same time:

With your needle exiting a side bead from the last row that you beaded, pick up a hem bead. Sew through the same side bead in the same direction as before (see figure 1). Pull the thread tight, making sure that the new bead sits on the inside of the box. Otherwise it will flip up and pretend to belong to the subsequent row.

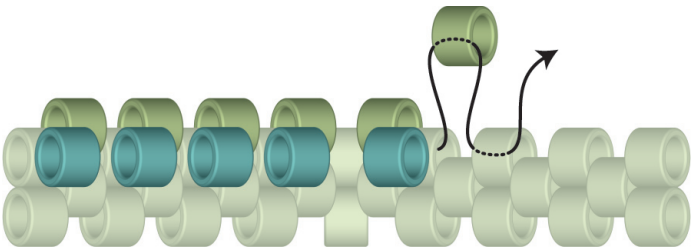


FIGURE 2

Working in pattern, pick up a side bead for the next row (this would be row 37 from the example) and sew through the next side bead (see figure 2). Pick up the next hem bead and once again sew through the side bead in the same direction as before.

Continue this pattern of alternating between hem bead and side bead around the edge of the box. As with the old hem, do not add hem beads to the corners of the box. simply add a side bead and move to the next space.

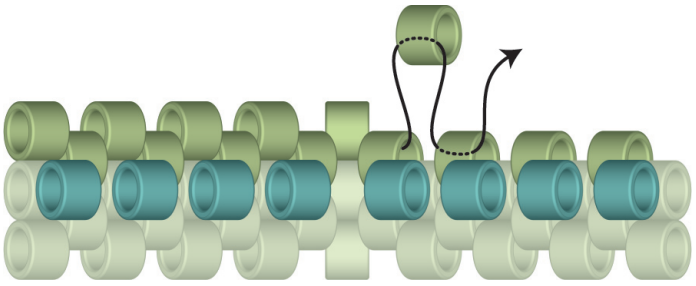
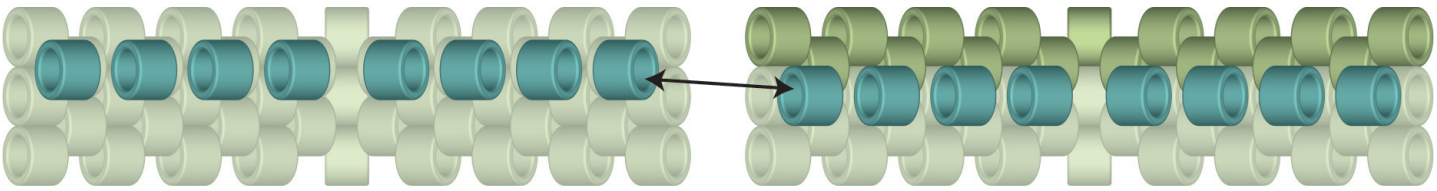


FIGURE 3

Once the hem row / side row are complete, step up and bead the next side row to lock in the hem beads (see figure 3). Your box is now nearly identical to that of an old-hem box with the first hem row completed (see the comparison below). Although the new hem sits 1/2 row lower than the old hem, as you work the rest of the hem it will naturally pull upward.

Old Hem

New Hem



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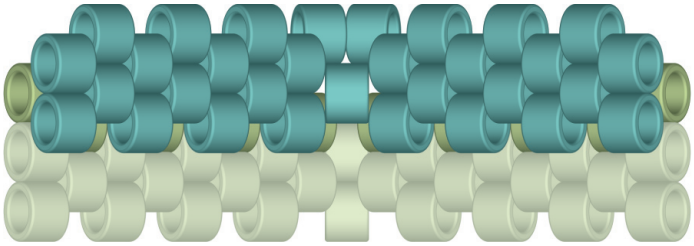

FIGURE 4

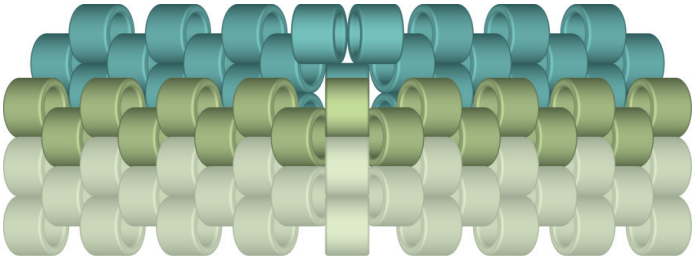

FIGURE 5

With two side rows remaining, step back down to the nearest hem-row bead and complete the remaining three hem rows as usual (see figures 4 and 5).

Once the hem is complete, step back to the nearest side bead and complete the final two rows in pattern (see figure 6). Zip the hem and the sides together as usual.

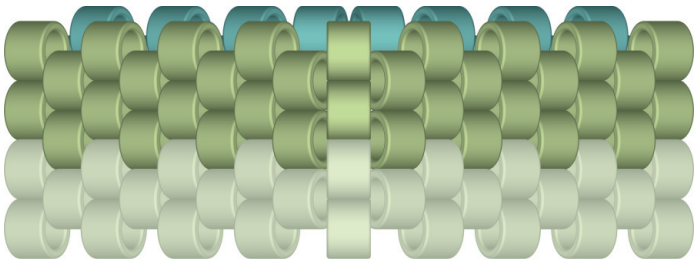

FIGURE 6

Using this Method to Build an Inner Wall

This method may also be used to begin an inner wall to the underside of a flat lid.
When your lid reaches the point where it fits precisely through the opening of the box (this varies by tension and box shape but for me it's usually about 4 rows before the final row) begin alternately adding inner wall beads and lid beads. Remember that the corners should be worked in pattern (see figure 7). When the inner wall is established, bead the next lid row to lock in the inner wall beads and then step back to complete the inner wall (see figure 8). Once the inner wall is complete, step back to finish the flat lid.

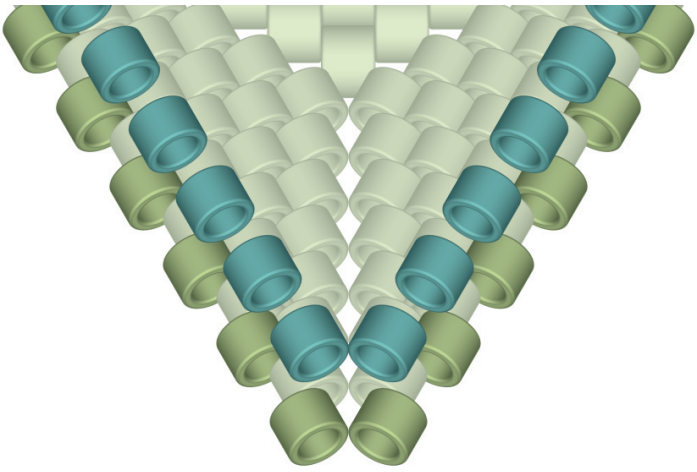

FIGURE 7

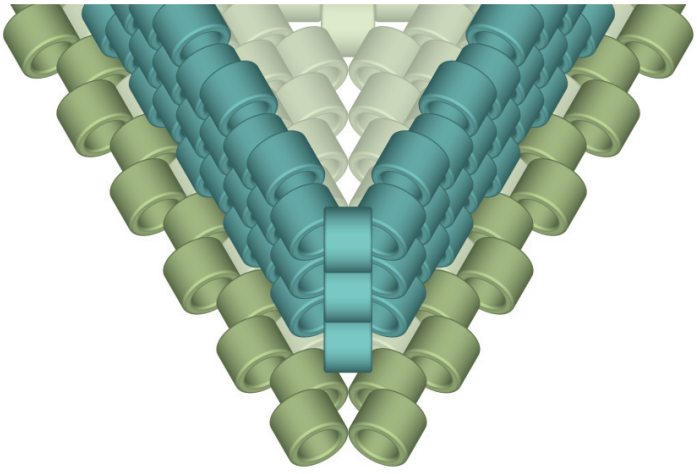

FIGURE 8

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