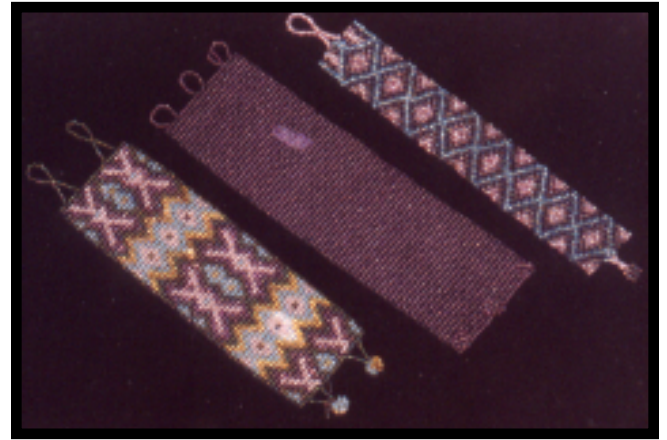


WOVEN WONDERS

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The masterful skill and fine artistry of the Guatemalan weavers is evident in these exquisite hand woven bracelets. The craftsmanship is superior tightly woven and made to last, the colors rich and vibrant. The beauty of the pieces is testament to the pride and joy these artisans take in their work. Such are the pleasures experienced through the magic of beadwork- each finished piece a unique treasure, a symbol of satisfaction and accomplishment. Indeed, any beader will attest to the therapeutic benefits of the art, it's practice serving to soothe mind, body and spirit.



The various techniques used by the weavers include loom weaving, peyote stitch and square stitch. A little time, patience and practice spent learning these skills will have you well on your way to creating your own tiny tapestries!

Loom weaving is a very old craft, traditionally Native American and is the quickest weaving method to use. Looms are made of metal or wood and vary widely in size. "Warp" threads are attached to the loom and run lengthwise through the beadwork; "Weft" threads are run across the width of the warp threads securing the beads in place. Loom weaving produces a flexible beaded fabric, the beads lining up with each other in rows. Shorter pieces, such as bracelets or longer projects like a woven belt can be worked in one piece on the loom.

The peyote stitch or "gourd" stitch is an off-loom or free hand weaving technique. It is ideal for beginner weavers as it is one of the simplest of these techniques. This versatile stitch makes flat or tubular pieces and is also used to weave objects, create purses and 3-dimensional beadwork.

Also known as "false loom weave" the square stitch is an alternative to loom-work the beads lining up in regular rows and columns. This is another off-loom technique, but square stitch produces a somewhat stiffer piece of work because of the amount of thread passing through the beads. It is mostly used for flat tapestry style pieces.

Need more inspiration? Check out our wide array of seed beads and start making your colour selections. Whichever method you choose to use, the results are bound to excite and delight! And remember, these bracelets make unique impressive gifts for any time of the year.



Let the addiction begin.....

JoAnn Penny
Beadworksjo