

How to Stitch Custom Clasps

**WITH
MELINDA
BARTA**

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BEADWORK

MAGAZINE

FOLLOW-ALONG ILLUSTRATIONS

How to Stitch Custom Clasps

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NOTE: Unless otherwise specified, use the bead size of your choice.

FEATURED DESIGNS

The following great examples of how to make creative closures for necklace and bracelet designs were featured in this DVD. If publication dates were known at the time of release they are included below.

Chain of Jewels by Cristie Prince, *Beadwork*, August/September 2011

Regina's Pearls by Cynthia Rutledge, *Beadwork*, August/September 2011

Double Helix Bracelet by Tamara Allison, *Super Beadwork*, August/September 2011

Arabic Motifs Cuff by Marcie Abney, *Super Beadwork*, August/September 2011

Elegant Choices by Carole Ohl, *Beadwork*, August/September 2011

Magdala Bracelet by Nancy Peterson, *Super Beadwork*, August/September 2011

All other featured designs are by Melinda Barta. Email mbarta@interweave.com for specific project inquiries.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

MELINDA BARTA is editor of *Beadwork* magazine, author of the best-selling books *Custom Cool Jewelry* and *Hip to Stitch*, and coauthor of *Mixed Metals* (Interweave, 2005–2009). See her Custom Cool department in each issue of *Beadwork* and other video workshops, including *Beadwork: Peyote Stitch—Basics and Beyond*, *Beadwork: Herringbone Stitch—Basics and Beyond*, and *How to Stitch Beaded Bezels*. Visit www.melindabarta.com.

CRIMPING

FIGURE 1: CRIMPING. Use beading wire to string 1 crimp tube, pass through a finding, and pass back through the tube, leaving a $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ " tail. Make sure the wires do not cross inside the tube. Pinch the tube into a U shape, using the back notch of the crimping pliers. Each wire should now be contained its own chamber. Turn the pinched tube 90° and use the front notch of the crimping pliers to fold it into a cylinder. Trim the excess wire.

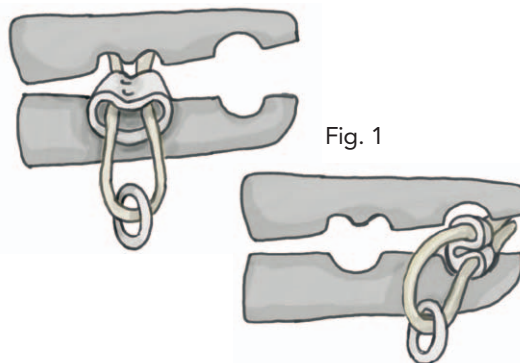


Fig. 1

FIGURE 2: CRIMP COVERS. Hold the cover in the front notch of the crimping pliers, position it over a crimped crimp tube, and gently squeeze the pliers to form the C-shaped finding into a round bead. For a perfectly round crimp cover, rotate the pliers around the cover just before you pinch the cover completely closed.

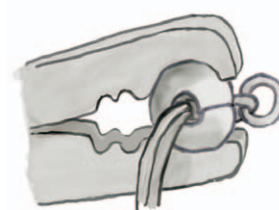


Fig. 2

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WIREWORK

FIGURE 3: SIMPLE LOOP. Use chain- or flat-nose pliers to form a 90° bend $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1" from the end of your wire. Imagine the size of the loop you would like to make, then place the nose of the round-nose pliers on the short wire at a distance from the bend that equals about half of the circumference of the loop you imagined. Roll the pliers toward the bend, then use your finger to wrap the short wire the rest of the way round the pliers, adjusting the pliers as needed, until the short wire crosses the bend at the base of the loop. While still holding the loop in the pliers, adjust the wire below the bend as needed to restore the 90° angle. Trim the wire next to the bend.

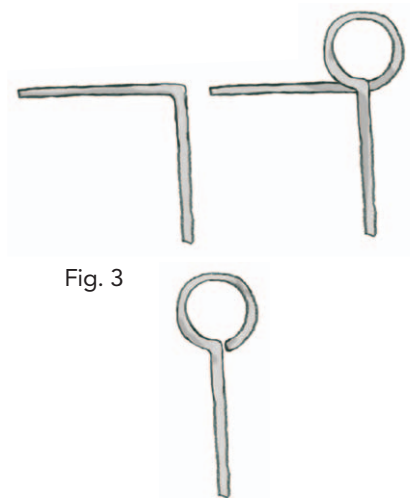


Fig. 3

FIGURE 4: WRAPPED LOOP. Use chain- or flat-nose pliers to form a 90° bend 1 to 2" from the end of your wire. Make a simple loop, but do not trim the tail. Grasp the loop with chain-nose pliers. Use your fingers or hold the end of the wire with chain- or flat-nose pliers to wrap the tail down the neck of the main wire at the base of the loop for about 2 or 3 wraps. Trim the wire at the end of the last wrap. For tight wraps, think of pulling the wire away from the loop as you wrap. Once you've trimmed the wire after making wraps, press the end down with either flat-nose pliers or the front notch of crimping pliers so the end doesn't stick out.

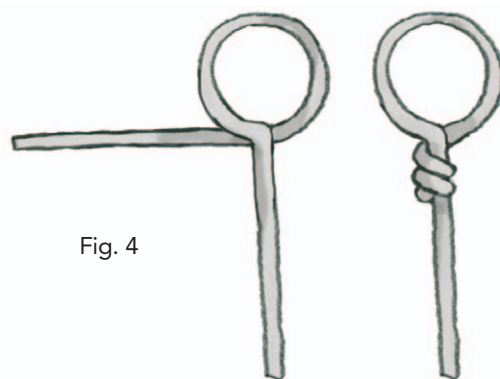


Fig. 4

FIGURE 5: WRAPPED-LOOP LINK. Form a wrapped loop at one end of the wire and string a bead. Snug the bead down to the first loop and grasp the wire just above the bead using the tip of your chain-nose pliers. Make a 90° bend and form a wrapped loop as before to complete the link.

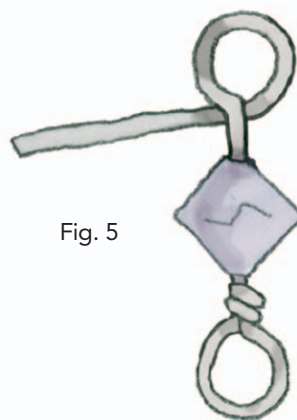


Fig. 5

FIGURE 6: USING CONES. Form a wrapped loop at one end of a 4" piece of gauged wire. Use crimps or knots to attach your strands to the wire loop. String 1 cone (wide end first) down over the strand connections and form a wrapped loop with the other end of the wire.



Fig. 6

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PEYOTE BUTTONS

MATERIALS & TOOLS

Size 15° seed beads
Size 11° seed beads
Nylon beading thread in color to match beads
Scissors
Size 12 beading needle

1) SIDE 1. Use circular peyote stitch to form the first half of the disc:

ROUND 1: Use 18" of thread to string 5 size 11° seed beads, leaving a 6" tail. Pass through the first 3 beads strung to form a circle (**Fig. 7—blue thread**).

ROUND 2: Work 1 size 11° in each stitch. Step up for the next round by passing through the first bead added in this round (**Fig. 7—red thread**).

ROUND 3: Work 2 size 11°s in each stitch. Step up through the first bead added in this round (**Fig. 8—blue thread**).

ROUND 4: Work 1 size 11° in each stitch, splitting the pairs of the previous round. Step up through the first bead added in this round (**Fig. 8—red thread**).

ROUND 5: Work 1 size 11° in each stitch. Step up through the first bead added in this round (**Fig. 9—green thread**).

ROUND 6: Work 2 size 11°s in each stitch. Step up through the first 2 beads added in this round (**Fig. 9—blue thread**).

ROUND 7: Work 1 size 11° in each stitch, treating the 2 beads added in each stitch in the previous round as 1 bead (**Fig. 9—red thread**). Secure the thread and trim; set aside.

2) SIDE 2. Form the second half of the disc:

DISC: Repeat Step 1, omitting Round 7; don't trim the thread.

ZIP: Zip Round 7 of Disc 1 to Round 6 of Disc 2 (**Fig. 10**). Repeat thread path. Secure the thread and trim.

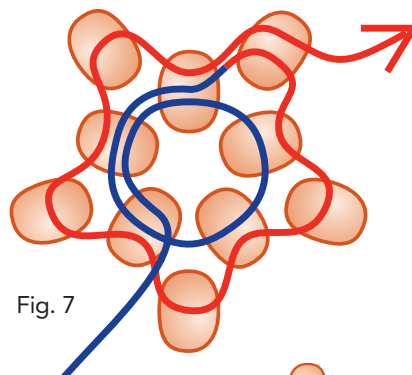


Fig. 7

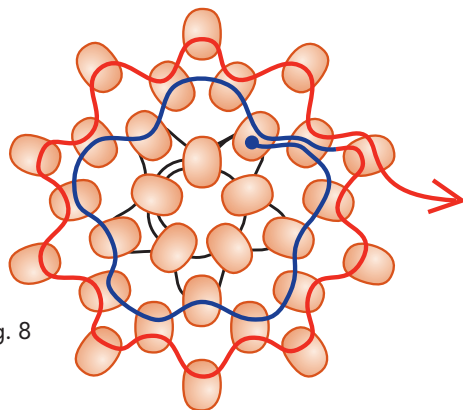


Fig. 8

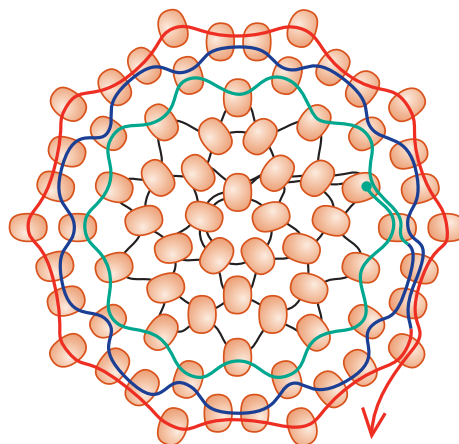


Fig. 9

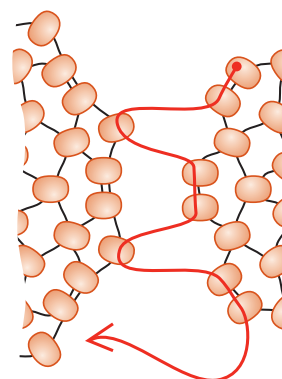


Fig. 10

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PEYOTE LOOP

FIGURE 11: LOOP ROUNDS 1–3. Start by stringing an odd number of beads at the end of your design. Pass through all of the beads again and exit the second bead of the loop. Work circular peyote stitch with 1 bead in each stitch (**green beads**).

FIGURE 12: LOOP ROUND 4. If desired, work another round with larger beads. Here triangle beads (**blue beads**) are added for extra decoration. After exiting the first bead added in the starting loop, weave the thread down into your necklace or bracelet to reinforce the connection and to center the 2 bottom beads of the loop at the end of your design.

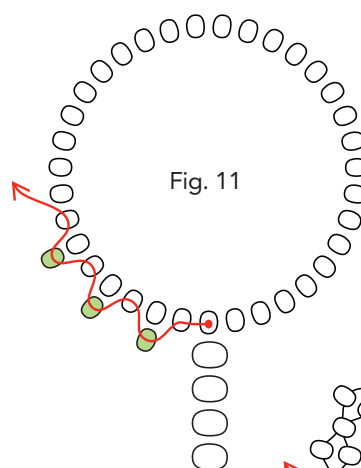


Fig. 11

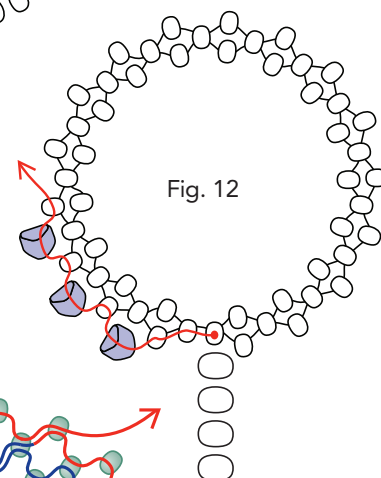


Fig. 12

PEYOTE RING

MATERIALS & TOOLS

24k gold-electroplated size 15° seed beads for decorative collars (A)
Size 15° seed beads for toggle ring (B)
Size 11° seed beads for toggle ring and bar (C)
Glass 3×4mm drops
Nylon or 4 lb braided beading thread in color to match beads
Scissors
Size 10 beading needle

1) TOGGLE RING (AND CLASP BAR). Use circular peyote stitch to form the toggle ring by stitching two sides off of a central ring and then zipping the sides together along the outside edge:

ROUNDS 1 AND 2: Use 3' of thread to string 44B. Tie a knot to form a circle. Pass through the first 2 beads strung (**Fig. 13—blue thread**).

ROUND 3: Work one round of circular peyote stitch with 1B in each stitch (**Fig. 13—red thread**). Note: Step up for each new round by passing through the first bead added in the current round.

ROUNDS 4–7: Work 1C in each stitch for 4 rounds (**Fig. 14**). Note: Work with tight thread tension in Rounds 6 and 7 so the beadwork cups. Weave through beads to exit Round 1.

ROUNDS 8–10: Work 1C in each stitch for 3 rounds.

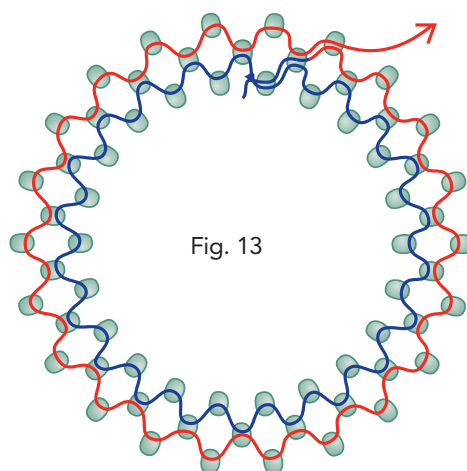


Fig. 13

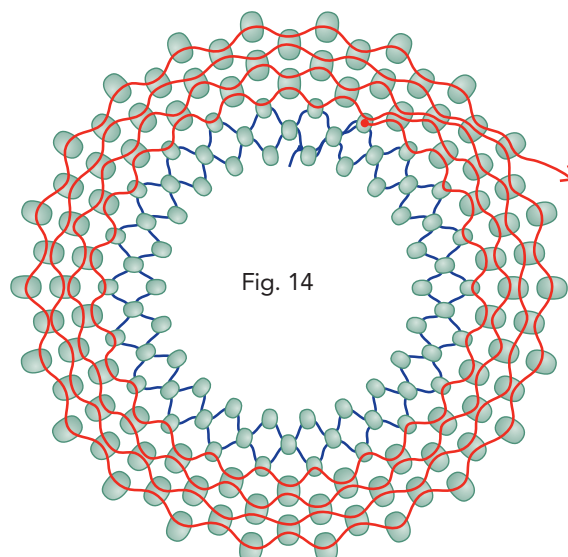


Fig. 14

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ZIPPING: Fold the sides up toward each other so that Round 7 meets Round 10. Zip the edges together (**Fig. 15**). Repeat the thread path to reinforce. Secure the thread and trim.

2) TOGGLE BAR. Use flat peyote stitch to work the bar half of the clasp:

BAR: Use 3' of thread to work a strip of flat peyote 16B wide and 12 rows long. Zip the edges together as before to form a tube.

ENDS: Weave through beads to exit from an end bead, away from the beadwork. String 1A, 1 drop, and 1A (**Fig. 16—blue thread**). Pass down through 1B at the opposite side of the opening in the tube. String 1A, pass through the drop, and string 1A. Pass down through 1B adjacent to the first one exited and pass up through the next (**Fig. 16—red thread**). String 1A, pass through the drop, string 1A, and pass down through the 1B on the opposite side of the opening in the tube. Repeat the thread paths to reinforce. Weave through beads to exit the other end of the tube and repeat embellishments.

3) GOLD COLLARS. Embellish the ring and bar as desired:

RING: Use 2' of thread and flat peyote stitch to work a strip 2A or 4A wide and long enough to wrap around the ring (about 26 rows). Be sure the strip contains an even number of rows. Pass one end of the strip through the ring and zip it closed (**Fig. 17**). Secure the thread and trim.

BAR: Use 2' of thread and flat peyote stitch to work a strip 2A wide and long enough to wrap around the bar (about 28 rows). Be sure the strip contains an even number of rows. Wrap the strip around the center of the bar and zip it closed. Weave in and out through some of the C of the bar and A of the collar to secure the collar. Secure the thread and trim.

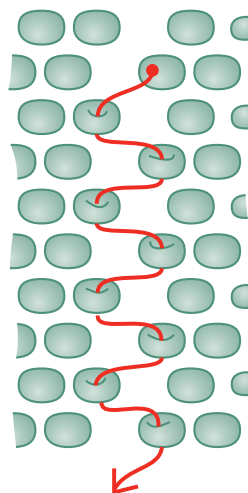


Fig. 15

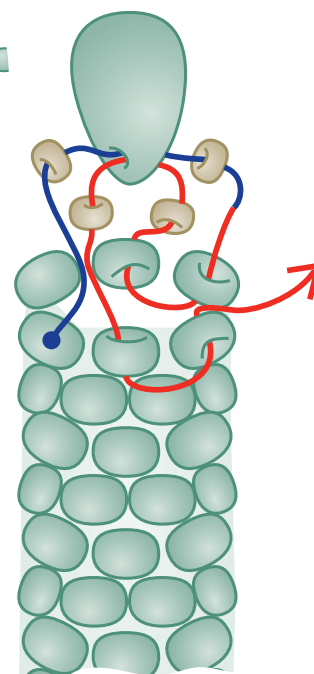


Fig. 16

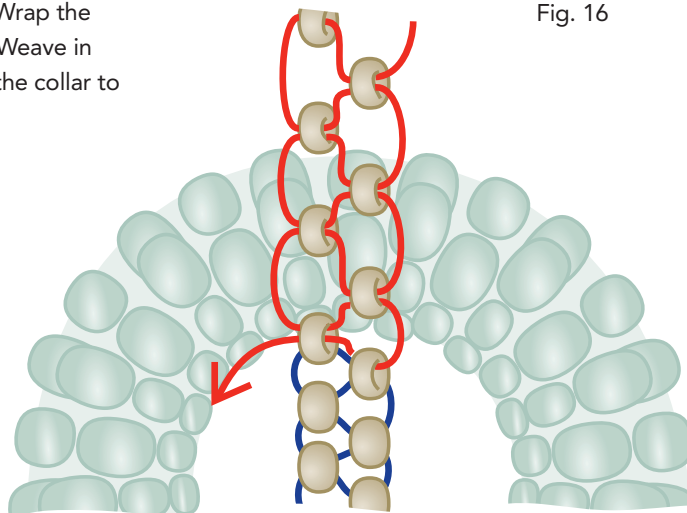


Fig. 17

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RIGHT-ANGLE-WEAVE CLASP COVER

MATERIALS & TOOLS

Size 11° Japanese seed beads (A)

Size 11° Japanese seed beads in contrasting colors (B)

2mm brass or crystal rounds or contrasting size 11° Japanese seed beads (C)

Heavy-duty 6×12mm magnetic barrel clasp with 2×2.4mm inner well and 1mm hole

1½" head pins (2 per clasp)

6 lb braided beading thread

Scissors

Size 12 beading needle

Wire cutters

Chain- or flat-nose pliers

Round-nose pliers

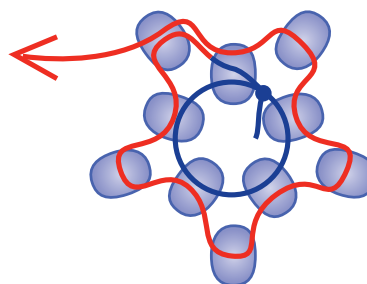


Fig. 18

1) CLASP COVER. Use circular peyote stitch and right-angle weave to create a cover for the clasp:

ROUND 1: Use 2' of thread to string 5B, leaving a 3" tail. Tie a knot to form a tight circle. Pass through the first B strung (**Fig. 18—blue thread**).

ROUND 2: String 1B and pass through the next B; repeat to peyote-stitch a total of 5B. Exit the first B added (**Fig. 18—red thread**).

ROUND 3, UNIT 1: String 4A; pass through the last B exited and the first A just strung to complete the first right-angle-weave unit (**Fig. 19—orange thread**).

ROUND 3, UNIT 2: String 3A; pass back through the next B of Round 1. Pass through the side A of the previous unit, the 3A just added, and the next B of Round 2 (**Fig. 19—purple thread**).

ROUND 3, UNIT 3: String 3A; pass through the side A of the previous unit, the last B exited, and the first A just added (**Fig. 19—green thread**).

ROUND 3, UNIT 4: Repeat Unit 2 (**Fig. 19—blue thread**).

ROUND 3, UNIT 5: Pass through the nearest side A of Unit 1. String 2A; pass through the side A of the previous unit, the last B exited, the nearest side A of Unit 1, and the top 2A of Unit 1 (**Fig. 19—red thread**).

ROUND 4, UNIT 1: String 5A; pass through the last 2A exited

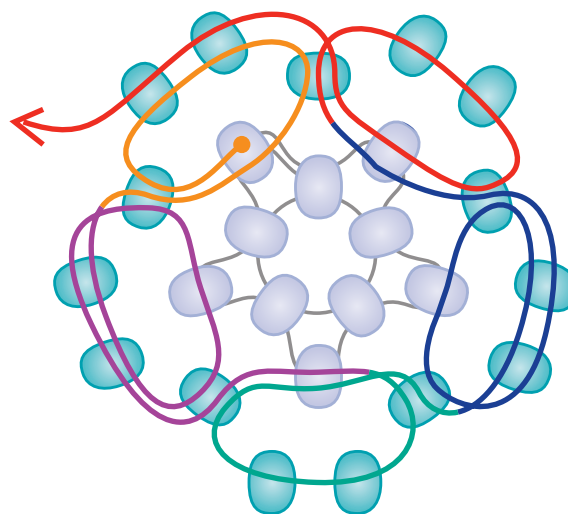


Fig. 19

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and the first A just strung to complete the first right-angle-weave unit of this round (Fig. 20—orange thread).

ROUND 4, UNIT 2: String 4A; pass back through the top 2A of the next unit in the previous round. Pass through the side A of the previous unit, the 4A just added, and the top 2A of the next unit in Round 3 (Fig. 20—purple thread).

ROUND 4, UNIT 3: String 4A; pass through the side A of the previous unit, the last 2A exited, and the first A just added (Fig. 20—green thread).

ROUND 4, UNIT 4: Repeat Round 4, Unit 2 (Fig. 20—blue thread).

ROUND 4, UNIT 5: Pass through the nearest side A of Round 4, Unit 1. String 3A; pass through the side A of the previous unit, the last 2A exited, the nearest side A of Round 4, Unit 1, and the 3A just added (Fig. 20—red thread).

ROUND 5: Repeat Round 4, Units 1–5.

2) EMBELLISHMENTS. Add contrasting beads along the bottom and sides of the cover:

BOTTOM: String 1C and pass through the top 3A of the next Round 5 unit; repeat four times to add a total of 5C (Fig. 21—green thread).

SIDES: Exit 1 side A of Round 5. String 1B; pass through the nearest side A of Round 4. String 1B; pass through the nearest side A of Round 3, the nearest B of Round 2, and the next side A of Round 3 (Fig. 21—blue thread). Continue adding B between each side A (Fig. 21—red thread).

3) ASSEMBLY. Use 1 head pin to string one half of the clasp and 1 cover, wide end first and passing through the opening in the center of Round 1; form a wrapped loop (Fig. 22).

4) Repeat Steps 1–3 using the other half of the clasp.

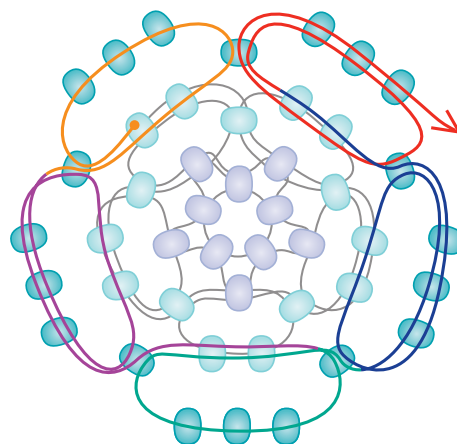


Fig. 20

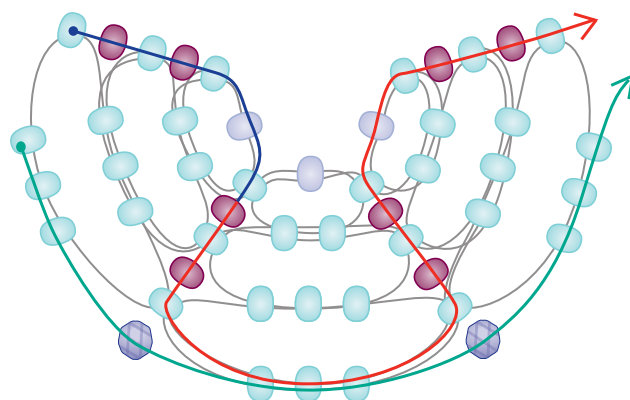


Fig. 21

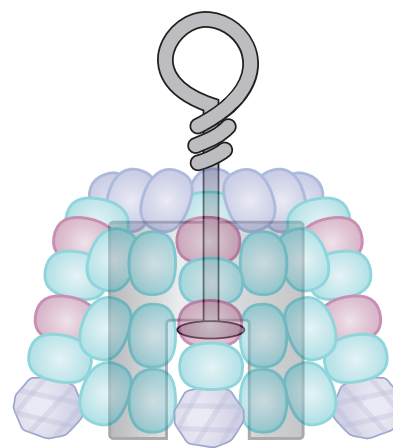


Fig. 22