An apple a day

by Diane Hertzler
Being married to a schoolteacher, I have had many opportunities to give a beaded apple as a gift! This apple comes together with netting used to cover the apple and peyote stitch used to weave the stem and leaf.

**stepbystep**

**Prepare the apple**

Prepainted wooden apples are available, but if you prefer to paint your own, they are also available unfinished.

1. Paint a wooden apple with one coat of primer or gesso. Let it dry and lightly sand it if needed.
2. Follow with two coats of acrylic paint, allowing time to dry between coats, and finish with a coat of varnish.
3. Drill a 3/4-in. (3.5mm) hole through the center of the apple. Cut a drinking straw in half, and slit it lengthwise. Slide the apple onto the straw.

**Beaded end rings**

1. On a comfortable length of thread, pick up 10 color A 11° seed beads, leaving a 6-in. (15cm) tail. Sew through the beads again (figure 1) to form a ring. Tie the working thread and tail with a square knot (Basics). Sew through several beads, and trim. Thread a needle on the tail, sew through several beads, and trim.
2. Slide the ring of beads over the straw to rest against the bottom end of the apple.
3. Repeat step 1 to make another ring, but do not trim the working thread. Instead, sew through the next bead in the ring. Slide the ring over the straw to rest against the top of the apple.

**Netting**

1. Bead the net over the apple as follows:
   - **Row 1:** Pick up six As and one color B 11° seed bead. Pick up a repeating pattern of five As and one B five times. Pick up two As. Sew through one A in the bottom ring (figure 2, a-b).
   - **Row 2:** Sew back through the last two As and one B just picked up (b-c). Pick up five As, one B, and five As. Skip the next 11 beads in the previous row, and sew through the next B (c-d). Repeat (d-e).
   - **Row 3:** Sew back through the last six As and one B just added (f-g). Pick up five As, one B, and five As, skip 11 beads in the previous row, and sew through the next B (g-h). Repeat (h-i). Pick up five As, one B, and two As, and sew through the next A in the bottom ring (i-j).
   - **Rows 4–19:** Repeat rows 2 and 3 eight times (j-k).
   - **Row 20:** To work row 20, which connects row 19 to row 1, sew back through the two As and one B just added (k-l). Pick up five As and sew through the next B in row 1 (l-m). Pick up five As and sew through the next B in row 19 (m-n). Repeat (n-o). Pick up five As, and sew through the top B and six As in row 1 (o-p).
2. Sew through three beads in the top ring (p-q). Sew into the netted beadwork, and end the thread and tail (Basics).

**materials**

- wooden apple, 1 1/4 x 1 3/8 in. (3.2 x 4.1cm)
- 7g size 11° seed beads, color A, red
- 1g size 11° seed beads, color B, gold
- 1g size 11° seed beads, color C, green
- 1/3g size 11° cylinder beads, green
- 8 in. (20cm) 20-gauge craft wire
- nylon beading thread, size B, in gold, red, and green
- beading needles, #10
- acrylic paint (optional)
- artist’s acrylic paintbrush, approximate size 4 (optional)
- drinking straw
- primer or gesso (optional)
- small piece of fine-grain sandpaper (optional)
- water-based, high-gloss varnish (optional)
- drill
- needlenose pliers
- roundnose pliers
- wire cutters

**FIGURE 1**

**FIGURE 2**
Leaf

[1] On a comfortable length of thread, pick up 23 color C cylinder beads (figure 3, a–b), leaving a 6-in. (15 cm) tail. These beads make up rows 1 and 2.

[2] Work peyote stitch (Basics) as follows:

Row 3: Pick up one cylinder, skip the last cylinder picked up in the previous step, and sew through the next (b–c). Continue in peyote stitch across the row (c–d). To turn, pick up two cylinders and sew through the first cylinder picked up in step 1 (d–e).

Row 4: Row 4 will be sewn to row 2 rather than row 3: Work one stitch with a cylinder, nine stitches with C 11º seed beads, and one stitch with a cylinder (e–f). To turn, sew through the end bead in row 3 (f–g).

Row 5: Row 5 will be sewn to row 3. Work one stitch with a cylinder, nine stitches with C 11ºs, and one stitch with a cylinder (g–h). Sew under the thread between the bead just exited and the bead that sits diagonally above it. Sew back through the bead just exited and the last bead strung (h–i).

Row 6: Work one stitch with a cylinder, eight stitches with C 11ºs, and one stitch with a cylinder (i–j). Sew under the thread bridge between the bead just exited and the bead that sits diagonally above it. Sew back through the bead just exited and the last bead strung (j–k).

Rows 7–10: Work as in rows 5 and 6, decreasing as shown. In row 10, use only cylinders (k–l).

Row 11: Work five stitches with cylinders (l–m). Sew through the edge beads to exit the other side of the leaf (m–n).

Row 12: Work across the row as shown (n–o). Sew under the thread bridge between the bead just exited and the bead that sits diagonally below it. Sew back through the bead just exited and the last bead added (o–p).

Row 13: Work across the row as shown (p–q). Sew under the thread bridge between the bead just exited and the bead that sits diagonally below it. Sew back through the bead just exited and the last bead added (q–r).

Rows 14–16: Work as in rows 12 and 13, using cylinders only in row 16 (r–s).

Row 17: Work across the row with cylinders (s–t).


Assembly


[2] Sew through two beads on the top ring of the apple (figure 7, a–b). Sew through two beads at the bottom of the stem (b–c).

[3] Retrace the thread path to reinforce the connection (c–d).


[5] Attach the leaf the same way you attached the stem (e–f). Retrace the thread path (f–g), and end the thread.

Hanging loop

[1] Cut an 8-in. (20 cm) piece of wire. Make a wrapped loop (Basics) at one end.

[2] String the unfinished end of the wire through the top of the apple. With roundnose pliers, coil the end of the wire until it fits snugly against the bottom of the apple.

[3] Thread a ribbon or wire hanger through the wrapped loop to hang the apple.