
6 Free Earring Patterns

to Learn How to Make Earrings:
Designs and Instructions for
Handmade Earrings



Beading Daily

TODAY'S HOW-TO FOR HANDMADE JEWELRY

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Designs and Instructions for Handmade Earrings
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6 Free Earring Patterns to Learn How to Make Earrings: Designs and Instructions for Handmade Earrings

Beaded earrings don't have to match a bracelet or a necklace. In fact, when I wear earrings I prefer them to be statements all by themselves. Beaded earrings are like little miniature works of beadwoven art. And once you get started, they really are addicting – make one pair and you won't be able to stop!

Looking at all the gorgeous earring designs available in the *Beading Daily* Shop and on *Beading Daily* made me think about some of the reasons I love beaded earrings:

1. Beaded earrings are (usually) easier to wear than a large statement necklace or bracelet. Most of the time, if an earring is done right, you won't even know that it's there.
2. Beaded earrings are great projects for beginners because they don't have to take a lot of materials or time. You can make a gorgeous pair of beaded earrings using just a few special beads in just a couple of hours.
3. Learning a new technique can sometimes be easier if you try it by making a pair of beaded earrings.

Fringe earrings are fun and fast, as you can see in Pat Wexelblat's Twigs and Branches. Make up several pairs in your favorite colors or experiment with different shapes of leaf beads for fun results. Move on to Teri Wlachin's easy Desert Skies earrings, made with basic branched fringe and a spectacular color combination reminiscent of the American Southwest. Bead artist Leslie Rogalski shows us that it really *is* hip to be square with the cool cube beads she uses in her Figure 8 earrings. Feathers are another hot trend, showing up everywhere from runway models to *American Idol*, and you can get your own feathery fix with Melody MacDuffee's Umber Pheasant Feather Earrings.

Beaded earrings make a great weekend beading project, and they're great for informal beading get-togethers. Why not grab a few of your friends and pass the ear wires? Have fun making your own beautiful beaded earrings!



Jennifer VanBenschoten, *Beading Daily* editor



6 FREE EARRING PATTERNS *to Learn How to Make Earrings:*
Designs and Instructions for Handmade Earrings

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project

desert skies earrings

TERRI WLASCHIN



The cool blue beads paired with the warm, deep browns bring this inspiration to life.

TERRI WLASCHIN lives in Rockville, Maryland and sells her jewelry primarily through home-based shows and craft shows. Her work has been featured several times in *Creative Jewelry*. Terri can be reached via e-mail at starseedjewelry@aol.com. See more of her work on Etsy at starseedjewelry.etsy.com.

MATERIALS

2 jump rings
2 earring wires
93 size 11° seed beads
18 size 6° seed beads
2 faceted 7x5mm barrel beads
FireLine

TOOLS

Beading needle
Wire cutters
Jewelry glue

TECHNIQUES

Right angle weave
Fringe

STEP 1: Cut 16" inches of FireLine and tie one end to a jump ring, using a surgeon's knot. Dab jewelry glue on the knot. Thread the needle on the other end of the FireLine.

STEP 2: Pick up 8 size 11° seed beads, 1 size 6° seed bead, 1 barrel bead, and 1 size 11° seed bead. Skipping the last size 11° stitched, bring the thread back through the barrel bead, 1 size 6° seed bead, and 1 size 11 seed bead. This is the core of your fringe.

STEP 3: Pick up 5 size 11°s, 1 size 6°, and 1 size 11°. Skipping the last bead strung, come back through the size 6°, 5 size 11°s, and the next size 11° of the core. Repeat until you have 7 rows. Exit the last size 11° of the core.

STEP 4: Sew back through the jump ring, 1 seed bead, and tie a half-hitch knot. Stitch down through 2 more size 11°s and tie another half-hitch knot. Stitch down and exit through a size 6° bead. Snip off excess FireLine. Attach the jump ring to the ear wire.

STEP 5: Repeat Steps 1–4 for to make the matching earring.

RESOURCES

Check your local bead shop.

project

crystal corona earrings

PILAR BURG



Jim Lawson

These crystal sunbursts can be made in any color combo you choose. Just mix your favorite color of bicones with contrasting or matching seed beads. This easy, but beautiful design begs to be repeated again and again!

MATERIALS

40 bicone 4mm crystals
.5 g size 15° Japanese seed beads
FireLine 6lb test
1 pair French ear wires

TOOLS

Scissors
Round-nose pliers
Size 12 thin beading needle

TECHNIQUES

Netting

FINISHED SIZE: 1"
(NOT INCLUDING EAR WIRE)

Make the medallion

STEP 1: String a needle onto a 1 yard length of Fireline, leaving an 8" tail. String the inside of the medallion as follows for a total of 12 beads: 1 size 11° seed, 1 crystal, 1 seed, 1 crystal, 1 seed, 1 crystal, 1 seed, 1 crystal, 1 seed, 1 crystal, 1 seed, 1 crystal (Figure 1).

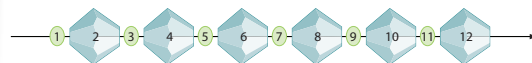


Figure 1

STEP 2: Tie the beads into a circle using a surgeon's knot. Pass through the circle to exit bead 3 (Figure 2).

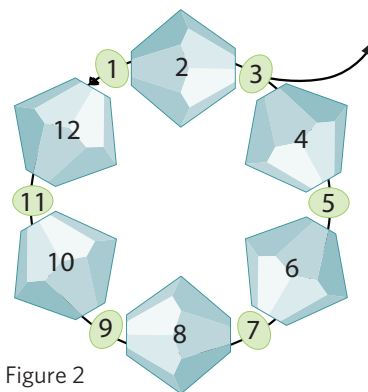


Figure 2

STEP 3: String 3 seeds, 1 crystal, 3 seeds, skip the next crystal in the circle and pass through the seed bead 5 (Figure 3).

STEP 4: Continue around the circle, repeating the bead pattern in Step 3, passing through the seed beads 7, 9, 11, 1 and exiting bead 3 (Figure 4).

STEP 5: Pass through the next 3 seeds and crystal, beads 13-16. String 1 seed, 1 crystal, 1 seed and pass through the next crystal, bead 23 (Figure 5).

STEP 6: Continue around the circle, repeating the bead pattern in Step 5, passing through beads 30, 37, 44, 51, and exiting bead (crystal) 16 (Figure 6).

STEP 7: Pass back through outer circle of beads created in Steps 5 and 6 to tighten the circle, exiting crystal bead 51. Do not pull too snug or the shape will cup. Knot the working thread to existing thread between beads in several half hitches, but do not cut the thread.

Make the bail

STEP 8: String 1 seed, 1 crystal, 1 seed, 1 crystal, 1 seed and pass back through bead 51 (Figure 7). Reinforce, passing pass back through the beads just added, beads 52-56, and continue through beads 52, 53 and 54.

STEP 9: String 6 seeds and pass back through bead 54. Repeat through the loop of beads again including bead 54 to reinforce (Figure 8).

STEP 10: For added security, pass through beads added in step 8 (Figure 7).

STEP 11: Weave thread into beads and tie off using half-hitch knots. Trim. Thread a needle on the tail and weave that into the beads; trim.

STEP 12: Using round-nose pliers, open the loop on an ear wire. Slip the loop of the ear wire through the loop of seeds at the top of the medallion. Close the loop of the ear wire. Repeat Steps 1-12 to make a second earring.

PILAR BURG is an active member of the Iowa Bead Society and lives in Iowa, where she works as a computer programmer. She can be reached at pilar.burg@q.com

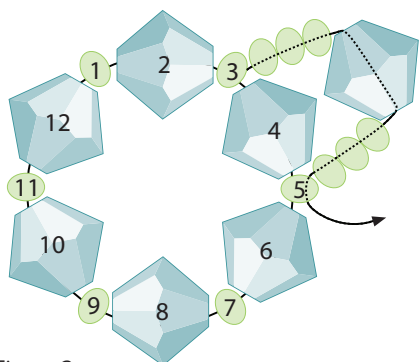


Figure 3

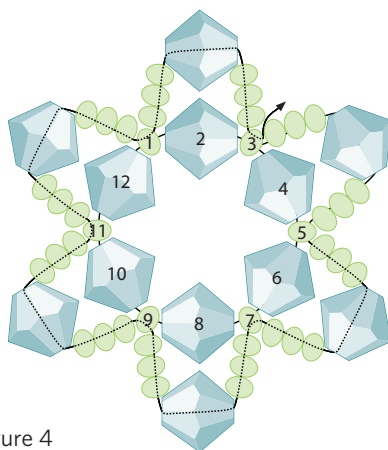


Figure 4

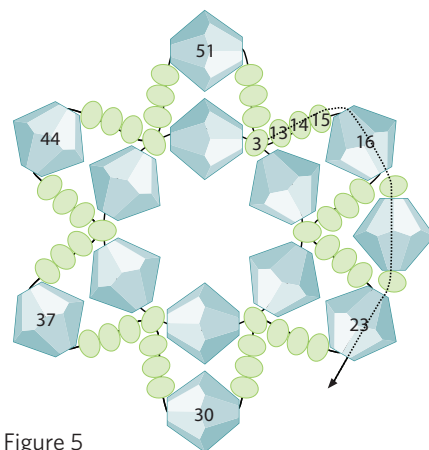


Figure 5

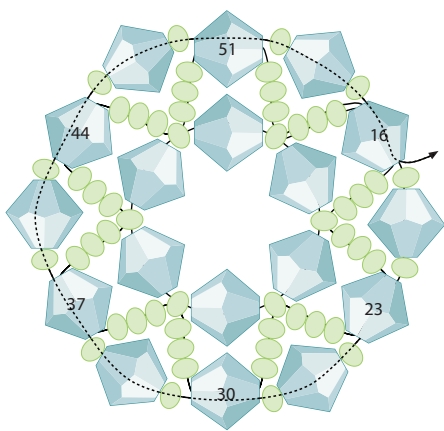


Figure 6

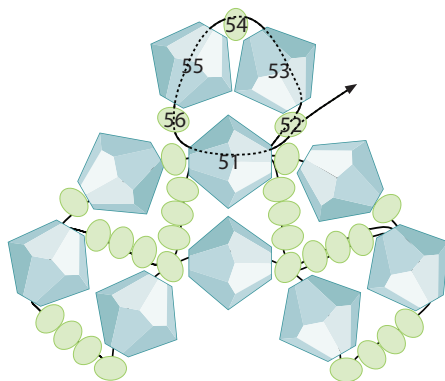


Figure 7

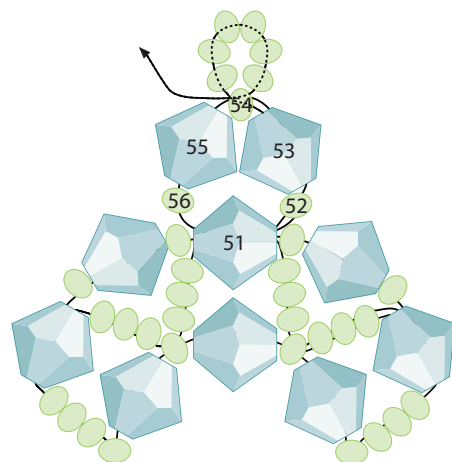


Figure 8



Figure 3

STEP 4: Weave the working thread and tail back into the beads to the middle cube and trim. You will need to rethread the tail on a new needle (Figure 4).



Figure 4

STEP 5: Pass one head pin carefully through one of the tip size 11° beads, a size 8° and the cube. Use your fingers to turn the tip size 11° bead so the pin can pass straight through it into the other beads. As the head pin emerges from the cube into the space between the sides of the shape, string 5 size 11° beads. Pass through the “waist” cube. String 5 more size 11°s. Pass through the top cube, size 8°, and tip size 11° bead (Figure 5).



Figure 5

STEP 6: Use your fingers to push the beads towards the head of the pin, to squash the figure 8 into a rounder shape. Holding the beads in place, use your round nose pliers to make a small wrapped loop above the size 11° to secure the beads in that squashed shape.

STEP 7: Attach your ear wire to the wrapped loop. That’s it! (Make a second earring, naturally.) Try varying other beads in lieu of the cubes.



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project



Frank DeSantis

twigs & branches

PAT WEXELBLAT

These earrings are fun to make and can be a wonderful seasonal addition to your wardrobe. The basic branch design shown is a great technique for adding fringe to your work.

STEP 1: Cut 5' of thread. I recommend Little Fiskars® scissors for cutting Fireline® because of their unique ability to cut this product cleanly. Thread your needle to the center of the thread to work with a doubled thread. If using Nymo®, run the thread twice over the beeswax. Pass the needle through a jump ring and tie a square knot, leaving a 6" thread tail.

STEP 2: Making the main stem.

Pick up 1 size 8 bead, 1 leaf, 1 size 8, 14 size 11s, 1 leaf, and 3 size 11s. Slide all the beads up against the knot at the jump ring. Skip the last 3 beads (the 3 nearest to the needle) and "sew back through" the leaf and 2 size 11s just above the leaf. Note: "Sew back through" means to pass the needle and thread again through the indicated beads, in the opposite direction to the first pass. Exit between bead 13 and bead 12. Tighten up the work. The main key to success with making branches lies in keeping a firm, even tension (Figure 1).

STEP 3: Making a simple branch:

Pick up 7 size 11s. Skip the last 3 beads then sew back through the next 2. Pick up 5 size 11s. Skip the last 3 size 11s, sew back through the next 2, then through the first 2 of the branch. Sew back up through the next 2 of the main stem, toward the jump ring.

STEP 4: Exit between bead 11 and bead 10. Tighten up the work.

Repeat Step 3 three more times, each time ending by passing up through the next 2 beads on the main stem. Tighten the work each time and finally exit between beads 5 and 4 (Figure 2).

STEP 5: Making a leaf branch:

Pick up 4 size 11s, 1 leaf, and 3 size 11s. Skip the last 3 size 11s then sew back through the leaf and 2 size 11s. Pick up 5 size 11s. Skip the last 3 size 11s, sew back through the next 2, then the first 2 of this branch, and finally up through the next 2 on the main stem.

MATERIALS

8 leaf-shaped beads, drilled lengthwise
 4 size 8 seed beads
 Size 11 seed beads, about a teaspoonful
 FireLine®/4lb, or Nymo® D thread
 2 soldered round jump rings, 4.5mm, or 2 small oval jump rings
 1 pair of ear wires
 G-S Hypo Cement

TOOLS

Little Fiskars® scissors (for Fireline®)
 Beading needle, size 10

TECHNIQUES

Fringe
 Stringing

STEP 6: Exit between bead 3 and bead 2. Tighten the work. Repeat

Step 5 but pass through only 1 bead on the main stem, exiting between bead 2 and bead 1 (Figure 3).

STEP 7: Pick up 5 size 11s. Skip the last 3, sew back through the next 2 on this branch, then up into the

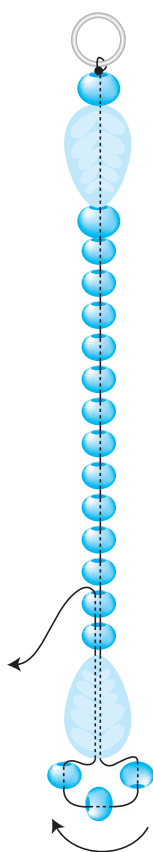


Figure 1

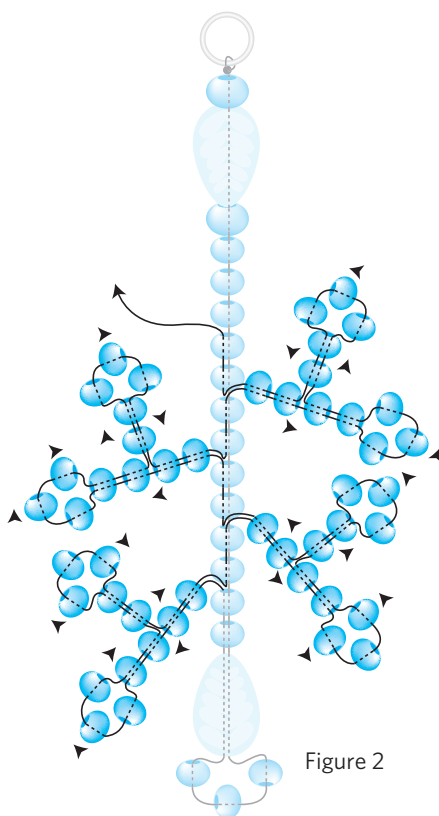


Figure 2

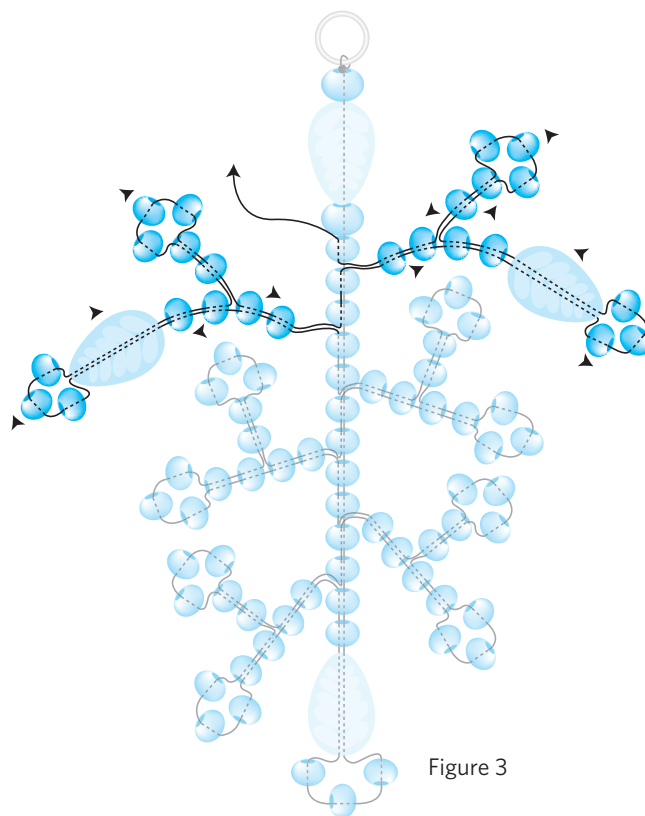


Figure 3

main stem through the last 11, the size 8, the leaf, and the top size 8. Pass through the jump ring and tie a square knot with the thread tail. Cut the threads even, leaving 6" tails (Figure 4).

STEP 8: Thread the needle with both tails. Sew down through the top size 8 and the leaf. Make a half-hitch knot around the threads between the leaf and the second size 8, then continue down through the size 8 and several of the main stem beads to hide the thread ends. Put a tiny dot of glue on the knots and allow to dry. Trim thread close to beads, being careful not to cut into your work (Figure 5).

STEP 9: Before attaching the ear wires, flip one of the earrings over from left to right, so that it becomes a mirror image of the other one.

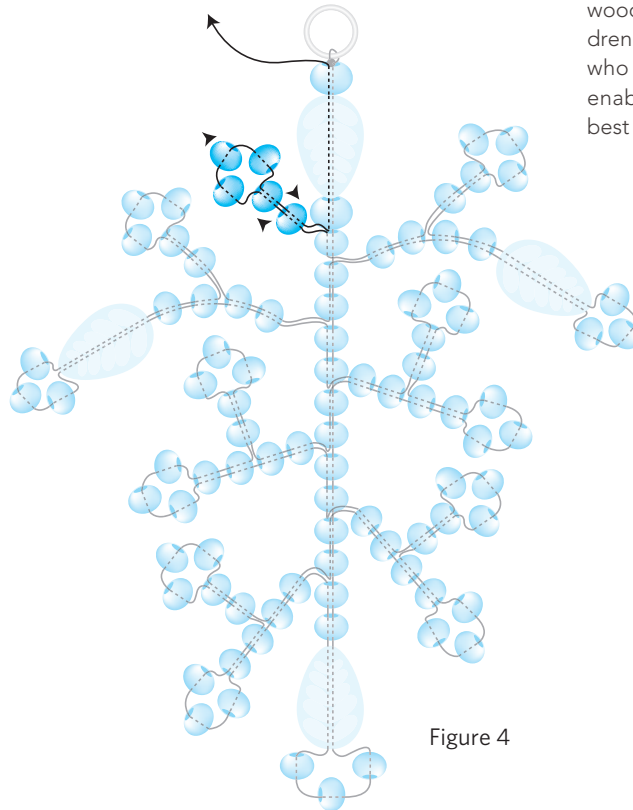


Figure 4

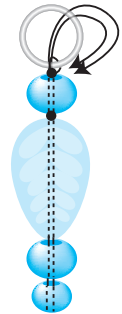


Figure 5



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project

hydrangea earrings

KELLI BURNS

Kelli wanted to use marguerites for a simple project she could teach her clients. The sparkle of the flower-shaped crystals and transparent seed beads make these a pair of earrings you'll want in every color.



ARTIST'S TIP

Do not pull your thread too hard; the marguerites may fray or even cut the thread.

STEP 1: Leafy vine. Use 6' of thread to string 6 green seed beads; pass through them again to form a circle.

Large leaves. String 12 green; pass back through the fourth and fifth beads to form a loop. String 8 green and pass back through the second and first beads to form a loop (Figure 1).

Small leaves. String 10 green; pass back through the fifth and sixth beads. String 6 green; pass back through the second and first beads to form a loop (Figure 2).

Repeat to make a second set of large and small leaves (or for the desired length). End the vine with a set of large leaves, then string 4 green and pass back through the first 3 beads to form a fringe, exiting between the last set of leaves (Figure 3).

STEP 2: Flowers. String 1 crystal and 1 rose seed bead; pull snug and pass back through the crystal. Repeat three times to form a cluster of four flowers. Pass through the first crystal and seed bead again to tighten the cluster. Pass back through the next 4 green to exit between the next set of leaves (Figure 4). Repeat four times for a total of five flower clusters. Use the pliers to twist the ear-wire loop open and attach it to the seed bead loop at the start of the vine. Repeat all steps for a second earring.

KELLI BURNS owns and teaches at The Hole Bead Shoppe in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Reach her at www.theholebeadshop.com or the holebeadshop@aol.com. She is a frequent contributor to *Beadwork*.

MATERIALS

1 g rose size 15° Japanese seed beads
4 g transparent green size 11° Czech seed beads
40 rose 6mm marguerite crystals
2 sterling silver French ear wires
6 lb braided beading thread

TOOLS

Size 12 beading needle
Chain-nose pliers
Scissors

TECHNIQUES

Leaf fringe

FINISHED SIZE: 2"

RESOURCES

Check your local bead shop or contact: Swarovski marguerite crystals, seed beads, ear wires, and thread: The Hole Bead Shoppe, (918) 338-2444, www.theholebeadshop.com.

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

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page 10

project

umber pheasant feather earrings

MELODY MACDUFFEE



It is always a good thing to incorporate gifts of nature into artwork—you gain a sense of connectedness to the world around you. A farmer's gift of feathers gathered from his free-range chickens' coop inspired a run of ideas for this designer, who incorporated pheasant quills into these earrings.

STEP 1: Sort the feathers into two sets of seven feathers. The center feather of each set should be the longest, and the three feathers on each side of it should symmetrically decrease in size.

STEP 2: Cut 1" of 26-gauge wire. Make a modified head pin by using the flat-nose pliers to bend one end of the wire into a U-shape just wide enough to hold a 4mm bead (the heads of traditional head pins will bend the shafts of the feathers and they won't hang straight). String 1 topaz. Dab glue on the shaft of a short feather and pass into the bead at the end of the head pin (Figure 1). Repeat for three more pins and set aside to dry. You may want to test the strength of the glue bond by tugging gently on the feather.



Figure 1

STEP 3: Make another modified head pin using 1¼" wire. String 1 topaz, 1 spacer, and 1 brown, and attach a feather slightly larger than the one used in Step 2. Repeat for three more pins and set aside to dry.

STEP 4: Make another 1¼" modified head pin. String 1 topaz, 1 spacer, 1 brown, 1 spacer, and 1 topaz, and attach a feather slightly larger than the one used in Step 3. Repeat for three more pins and set aside to dry.

STEP 5: Using a 1½" modified head pin, string 1 topaz, 1 spacer, 1 brown, 1 spacer, 1 topaz, 1 spacer, and 1 topaz. Repeat once and glue the largest feathers into the beads.

STEP 6: Use round-nose pliers to form wrapped loops at the top of each of the 14 beaded feather head pins.

STEP 7: Cut the piece of 22-gauge wire in half. Use round-nose pliers to curl one end of each piece up to form a simple loop. String the head pins on the crossbar with 3mm

smoke beads between them so that the feathers form a V. Form a loop at the other end of the wire, trimming off any unnecessary length (Figure 2).

STEP 8: Cut 2" of 26-gauge wire and wire-wrap a loop at one end. String 1 brown, 1 spacer, 1 topaz, 1 spacer, and 1 smoke. Attach to a jump ring with another wire-wrapped loop. Repeat once using the same jump ring. Attach each end to the wire loops of the feathered crossbar, using pliers if necessary to close the loops.

STEP 9: Use a 1¼" piece of 26-gauge wire to make another modified head pin. String 1 smoke, 1 spacer, 1 brown, 1 spacer, and 1 topaz. Form a wrapped loop to attach the head pin to the jump ring between the two pins already there. Attach the

jump ring to the soldered ring on an earring post. Repeat to finish the other earring.



Figure 2

Jewelry artist **MELODY MACDUFFEE** loves finding ways to use nontraditional, not-so-common materials in her pieces. She works part-time in a state-of-the-art bead store in Mobile, Alabama, where she organizes and teaches classes on a variety of beading techniques. She is widely published in both bead and crochet publications.

MATERIALS

- 14 pheasant or other feathers measuring 1" to 1¼" in slightly graduated lengths
- 18 smoke 3mm round fire-polished beads
- 28 topaz round 4mm round fire-polished beads
- 16 metallic brown 4mm button-shaped fire-polished beads
- 30 copper 4mm daisy spacers
- 3½" of 22-gauge sterling silver wire
- 2' of 26-gauge sterling silver wire
- 2 sterling silver 4-6mm soldered jump rings
- 1 pair of sterling silver ear posts
- G-S Hypo Tube Cement

TOOLS

- Round-nose pliers
- Flat-nose pliers
- Wire cutters

TECHNIQUES

- Wire loops
- Stringing

FINISHED SIZE: 2½"



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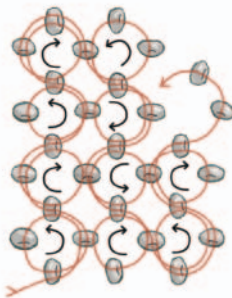
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Right-Angle Weave (single needle)

String 4 beads and pass through them again to form the first unit. For the rest of the row, string 3 beads, pass through the last bead passed through in the previous unit, and the first two just strung; the thread path will resemble a figure-eight, alternating directions with each unit. To begin the next row, pass through the last 3 beads strung to exit the side of the last unit. String 3 beads, pass through the last bead passed through, and the first bead just strung. *String 2 beads, pass through the next edge bead of the previous row, the last bead passed through in the previous unit, and the last 2 beads just strung. Pass through the next edge bead of the previous row, string 2 beads, pass through the last bead of the previous unit, the edge bead just passed through, and the first bead just strung. Repeat from * to complete the row then begin a new row as before.



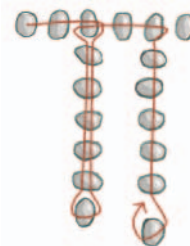
Stringing

Stringing is a technique in which you use beading wire, needle and thread, or other material to gather beads into a strand.



Fringe

Exit from your foundation row of beads or fabric. String a length of beads plus 1 bead. Skipping the last bead, pass back through all the beads just strung to create a fringe leg. Pass back into the foundation row or fabric.



Wireworking

To make a simple loop, grasp one end of the wire with round-nose pliers. Holding on to the wire with one hand, gently turn the pliers until the wire end and wire body touch. Create a 90° reverse bend where they meet.

For a wire-wrapped loop, cut the desired length of wire and make a 90° bend 2" from one end. Use round-nose pliers to hold the wire near the angle and bend the short end up and around the pliers until it meets itself. Wrap the wire tightly down the neck of the wire to create a couple of coils. Trim the excess to finish.



Netting (single thread)

Begin by stringing a base row of 13 beads. String 5 beads and go back through the fifth bead from the end of the base row. String another 5 beads, skip 3 beads of the base row, and go back through the next; repeat to the end of the row. To turn, pass back through the last 3 beads (one leg of the last net). String 5 beads, pass back through the center bead of the next net and continue.



Surgeon's Knot

The surgeon's knot is very secure and therefore good for finishing off most stringing materials. Tie an overhand knot, right over left, but instead of one twist over the left cord, make at least two. Tie another overhand knot, left over right, and pull tight.

