



Some Enchanted Earrings

A Stick Lizard Designs Original Design
By Laura Zeiner



What You Will Need:

Two 4mm or 6mm round or faceted round beads

Seed beads (Size 6° through 15° Czech or Japanese, Delicas, cuts, cubes, triangles, etc.)

4mm Rounds, Bicones, or Rondelles (optional)

Beading Thread

Two Ear Wires

Beading Needle

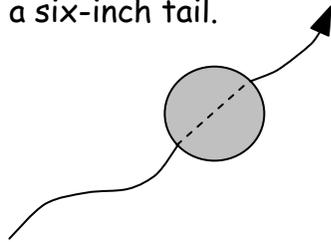
1" - 3" of Chain (optional)

Sharp Scissors

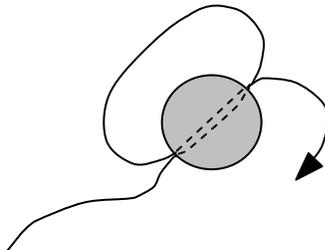
Step 1

Building the Circles

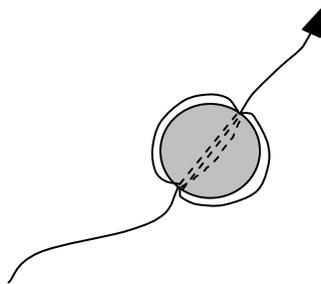
Cut and condition six feet (two yards) of beading thread. Thread your needle and string on one 4mm or 6mm round bead, leaving a six-inch tail.



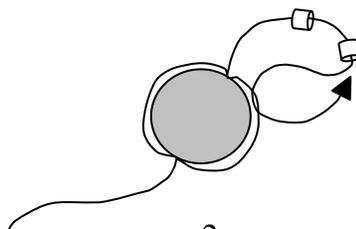
Now go through the bead again. This should leave a loop of thread on one side of the bead. Go through the bead a third time, leaving a second loop.



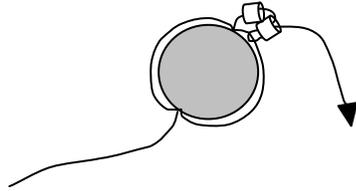
If it is not already there, move the second loop around so there is a loop of thread on each side of the bead.



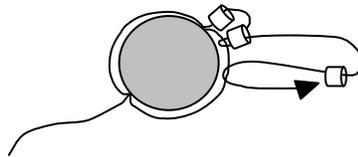
String on two seed beads. Catch the thread on one of the loops and come back up through the second seed bead.



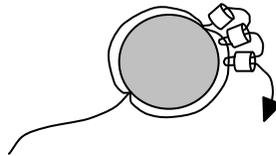
When you pull the thread, the two beads will lay down next to the 4mm or 6mm round bead. Do not be concerned if the second seed bead (it will look like the first one) does not lie flat; that will be resolved later.



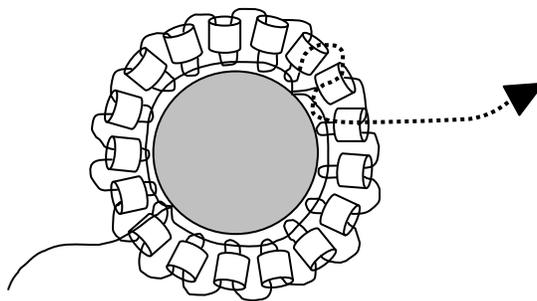
Now string on another seed bead. Catch the thread next to the seed bead you just came out of and go back up through this new seed bead, as shown below.



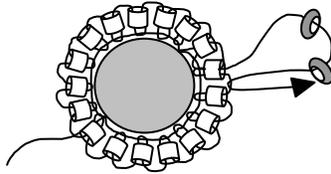
When you pull the thread, the new seed bead should snug up against your 4mm or 6mm round, next to the previous seed bead.



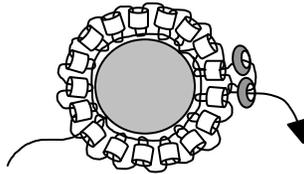
Keep beading around the 4mm or 6mm round bead, adding one seed bead, looping under the thread, and coming up through the new seed bead. Eventually, you will reach the original seed beads. Instead of adding a new seed bead, bring your needle down through the adjacent seed bead, and then back up through the next seed bead as shown below. This should make that first tilt-y seed bead straighten up and sit flat against the 4mm or 6mm round bead.



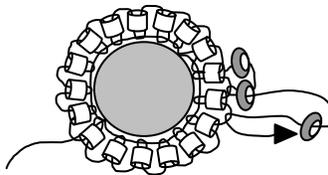
Okay, that was the first row! Not too hard, right? Now we go to the next row. You should already be coming out of one of the seed beads. String on two seed beads. These will be a new type of seed bead. Instead of catching a continuous loop of thread the way you did in the first row, you will now be catching the thread that sits on top of the previous row. Go back through the second new seed bead.



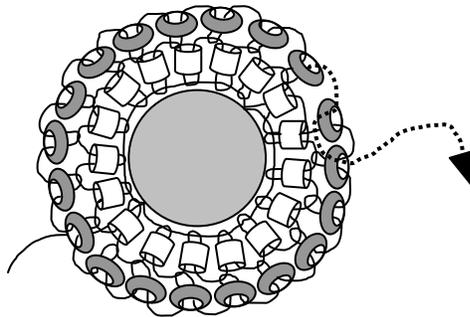
Pull the thread to snug the two new seed beads up to the previous row.



String on another seed bead. Catch the thread and come up through the new seed bead as shown.



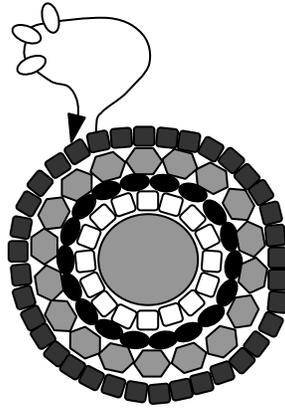
As with the first row, continue beading until you get back to the first bead in this row. Coming from the last bead you put on, go down through the adjacent bead, and come up through the next. Pull to snug the beads. This will prepare you for the third row.



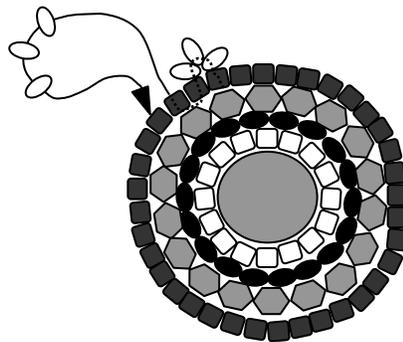
Keep adding rows until you reach your desired size. I usually do five or six rows. Experiment here with types and colors of seed beads. Cubes, triangles, Delicas, and cuts are all wonderful additions and alternatives to traditional seed beads. 3mm and 4mm round, faceted, and bicone beads add delightful texture. Small pearls add a luster that you can't always achieve with glass. One important consideration is hole size. Because the thread has to go through multiple times, small-holed beads can fill up quickly. Make sure your beads can take multiple passes with your thread.

Finishing with a Picot Edge

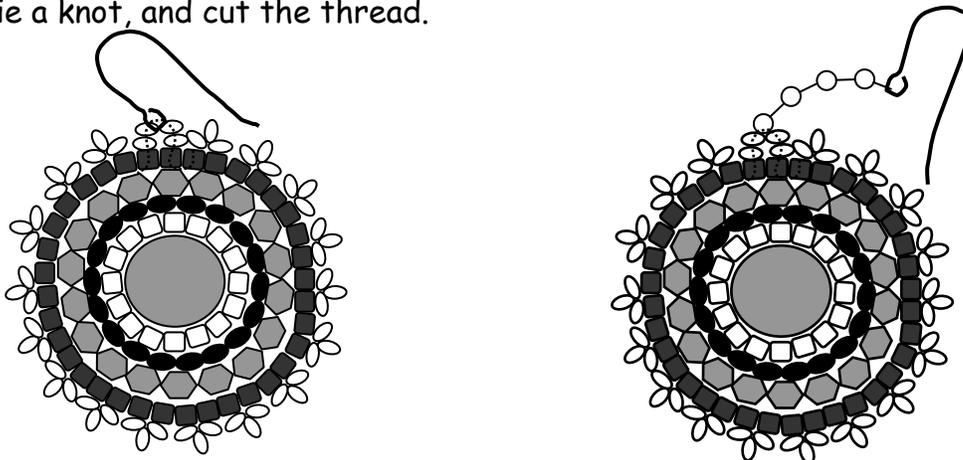
Adding a simple picot edge around the medallion really makes it sing opera. To do this, come out of one of the outside seed beads with about three feet of thread. String on three new seed beads. You can use any type of seed bead you like. I prefer 15°s because they give the bracelet a very delicate and lacy look. Weave into the adjacent seed bead in the circle.



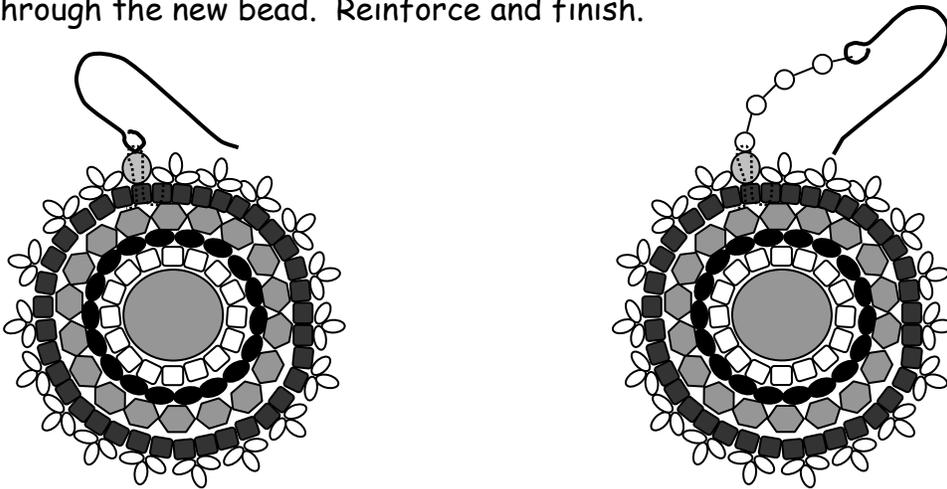
Weave back up through the back of the next seed bead in the circle. When you pull the thread, it should make the three picot beads cluster together in a very attractive way. Add three more picot beads, weave down into the next seed bead and weave up through the next.



Weave around making picot edges until you get to two beads from the beginning. If you end up with two beads left over, add two beads, the ear wire or chain, and two more beads. Weave through the medallion, and reinforce the beads with the ear wire or chain. Weave down toward the center, tie a knot, and cut the thread.

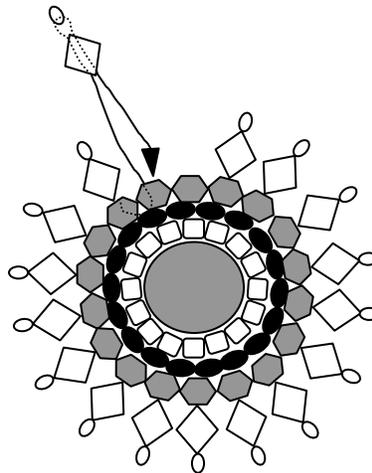


If you end up with two beads left over, add one seed bead or decorative bead, the ear wire, and go back through the new bead. Reinforce and finish.



Do this one more time, taking care that the bead count is the same to make two earrings.

One wonderful option would be to add 4mm rounds or bicones to the outsides instead of the picot edge. You might consider decreasing the number of rows. Either do one turnaround bead on the top of each 4mm round or bicone, or do the picot.



Experiment! Wear those beautiful earrings!

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