

Herringbone Fern Stitch Earrings

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Materials:

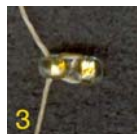
62 - 11° gold-lined crystal seed beads (Color A)
200 - 11° opalescent seed beads (Color B)
188 - 13° gold-plated Charlotte seed beads (Color C)
2 – 4mm gold-lined crystals
2 – gold-filled leverback earrings
Tan or gold Silamide,™ C-lon,™ or Nymo™
Size 12 needle

Notes:

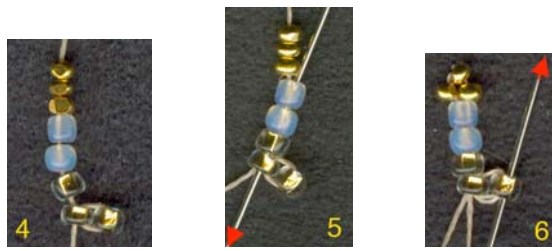
1. Keep your tension firm and consistent.
2. Make sure your picots are well-formed before going on the next step.
3. I prefer not to glue or tie knots, so I weave my tails in and out several times to secure them. If it makes you more comfortable to glue, tie knots, or do both, go ahead!

Instructions:

1. Thread needle with stretched and conditioned thread.
2. Pick up 2 - 11° gold-lined (A) seed beads and slide them down, leaving 8" of thread for a tail.
3. Run the needle through both beads again, then once more through the first bead strung. Nudge the beads so that the 2 beads sit side by side with the holes on top and bottom.



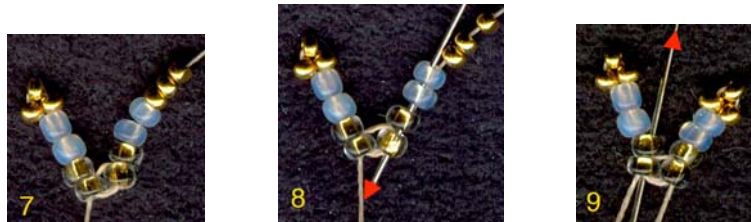
4. Pick up beads in this number and order: 1-A, 2-B, 3-C and slide them down to the foundation stack.



5. Skip the last 3 beads (C) strung, and run needle back down through the 2 (B) beads and the 2 (A) beads on the left side of the foundation stack. Nudge the 3 (C) beads into a picot if they don't form one on their own.

6. Run needle up through the right (A) bead on the foundation stack.

7. Pick up beads in this order: 1-A, 2-B, 3-C and slide them down to the foundation stack.



8. Skip the last 3 beads (C) strung, and run needle back down through the 2 (B) beads and the 2 (A) beads on the right side of the foundation stack.

9. Run the needle up through the 2 (A) beads on the left side of the foundation stack.

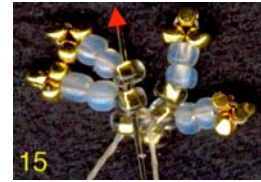
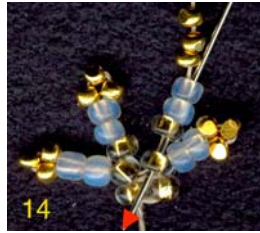
10. Pick up beads in this order: 1-A, 2-B, 3-C and slide them down to the foundation stack.



11. Skip the last 3 beads (C) strung, and run needle back down through the 2 (B) beads and the top 2 (A) beads on the left side of the foundation stack.

12. Run the needle up through the top (A) bead on the right side of foundation stack.

13. Pick up beads in this order: 1-A, 2-B, 3-C and slide them down to the foundation stack.



14. Skip the last 3 beads (C) strung, and run needle back down through the 2 (B) beads and the top 2 (A) beads on the right side of the foundation stack.

15. Run needle up through 2 top (A) beads on the left side of the foundation stack.

16. Repeat steps 10 through 15 once more. You should have 3 sets (right and left) of the bead sequence (1-A, 2-B, 3-C).

17. Continue using the following numbers and sequences:

3 sets of (1-A, 3-B, 3-C)

3 sets of (1-A, 4-B, 3-C)

2 sets of (1-A, 5-B, 3-C)

1 set of (1-A, 4-B, 3-C)

1 set of (1-A, 3-B, 3-C)

1 set of (1-A, 2-B, 3-C)

1 single leaf (1-A, 1-B, 3-C)

18. After you have completed your single leaf at the tip of the frond, weave your thread back and forth several times through the finished beadwork to secure it, then clip the thread close to the work.

19. Thread a needle onto the tail end.

20. Pick up a 4mm crystal, 4 (C), then run needle through the hole or loop in your earring finding.

21. Pick up 3 (C), and run your needle back down through the 4mm crystal and into the opposite side of the foundation stack that the tail is exiting.

22. Run the needle once more through the 7 (C) beads and back down into the foundation stack.

23. Pull your thread taut so that no thread is showing, then weave the tail into the finished frond back and forth to securely anchor the thread. Clip the thread close to the work.

24. Repeat all steps for the second earring.

Variations:

1. Instead of picot tips, try using a single contrasting bead.
2. Vary the number and sequence of leaves.
3. Try matte beads for a more casual look.
4. Attach several different length fronds together in one earring.
5. Use graduated colors from top to bottom of frond.
6. For a classic look, try color A=black, color B=white, color C=red
7. Be really ambitious and stitch a caterpillar bracelet or necklace.