



Component Based Designs

Original design by Laura McCabe, ©2017

Designed exclusively for the Beadworkers Guild National Beading Week 2017

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Sometimes the simplest of components make up the most spectacular of designs. Woven beadwork is at every level about repetition of design. Often a fairly basic element repeated over and over can result in the most effective jewelry designs.

Here I have taken a basic circular component created using right angle weave and peyote stitch and applied it to a couple different jewelry projects. Instructions for making the earrings are included below. The pendant is provided as an inspiration piece to encourage you to take the basic element and design your own component based jewelry

I have tried to keep with easy-to-source or easily-substituted materials to make the project accessible to all. Happy Beading!!



Supply List (for earrings)

Materials:

- 11° Japanese cylinder beads
 - color A, 1 gram
 - color B, 1 gram
 - color C, 1 gram
- 11° round Japanese seed beads, 1 gram
- 15° round Japanese seed beads, 1 gram
- 15° Czech charlottes, 1 gram
- 6mm round beads (Swarovski pearls, pave beads, gemstone beads, etc.), 2 beads
- 21mm Swarovski drops (article 6532 or any other pendant drop beads), 2 drops
- French hook ear wires, 1 pair

Notions:

- beading thread (6lb Fireline recommended)
- size 12 and size 13 beading needles

Tools:

- microcrystalline wax
- scissors

Building the Circle Components

1. Begin by single threading 4 feet of fireline onto a size 13 beading needle. Wax well. Thread up sixteen **cylinder A** and pass through the first two beads a second time, creating a circle. If you prefer, you can tie a knot. Leave approximately 6 inches of tail thread. **(figure 1)**.

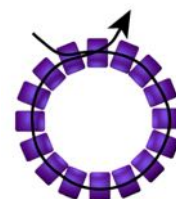


figure 1

2. Thread up one **cylinder B**, one **15° round**, and one **cylinder B**. Pass through the cylinder bead you were coming out of in the initial circle and the bead after that, completing one right angle stitch. **(figure 2)**



figure 2

3. Thread up one **cylinder B**, one **15° round** and go down through the cylinder bead from the previous stitch. Pass through the cylinder bead you were coming out of at the end of step 2 and then through the cylinder bead after that. Continue stitching right angle weave in this manner, adding two beads with every stitch. **(figure 3)**

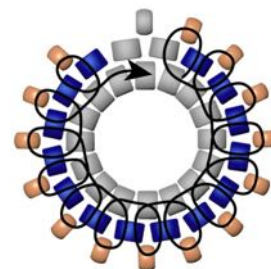


figure 3

4. When you reach the final bead in the initial circle, coming out of that bead, pass up through the cylinder bead from the first stitch, add one **15° round**, and go down through the cylinder bead from the previous stitch and through two cylinder beads in the initial ring of beads. You have now completed the final right-angle stitch in the circle. Double check to make sure there are sixteen 15°s along the outer edge of the structure. **(figure 4)**

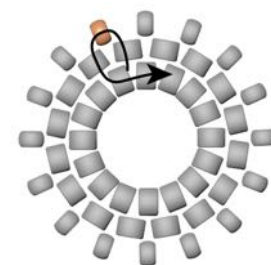


figure 4

5. In right angle weave fashion you are now going to stitch a second layer of cylinder bead B atop the ones added in steps 2 through 4, but utilizing the 15°s along the outer edge for each stitch rather than adding new 15°s.

Coming out of the cylinder bead in the initial circle, thread up one **cylinder B**, go through the 15°, add one more **cylinder B** and go through two cylinder beads in the initial circle. **(figure 5)**

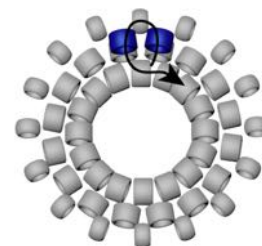


figure 5

6. Continue stitching in this manner, however for the next 14 stitches, you will only be adding one **cylinder B** and then passing through the 15° and cylinder bead already in place from the previous stitch. **(figure 6)**

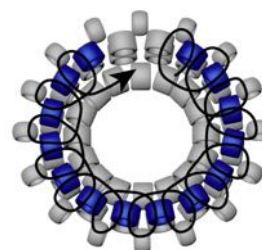


figure 6

7. For the last stitch in this round there will be NO bead added in the stitch. At the end of the round, step up as shown in **figure 7**, so you are coming out of the 15°s along the outer edge of the structure.

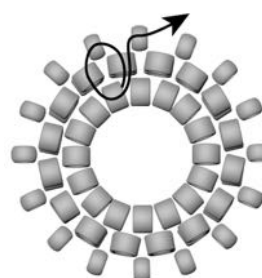


figure 7

8. Add one **cylinder C** between every 15° along the outside edge of the ring. At the end of the round, weave through the beads so you are coming out of one of cylinder As in the initial circle of beads. **(figure 8)**

9. String up a **6mm bead** (pave bead, Swarovski pearl, gemstone bead, etc . . .) and pass through the bead directly opposite from the bead you are emerging from. Pass back through the 6mm bead and back into the original cylinder bead you were emerging from at the start of this step. **(figure 9)**

10. Pass up through the next "spoke bead" (cylinder bead added when you did the right angle weave) and add three **15° Czech charlottes**. Pass back down through the next spoke bead (toward the 6mm bead) to create a picot. **(figure 10)**

11. Do this a total of seven more times to complete the embellishment round. **(figure 11)**

Weave off the tail thread but leave the working thread attached as you will need it later when assembling your design.

Once you have completed one component, repeat steps 1 though 11 as many times as necessary to build the design you are creating. For the earrings shown here you will need two of these components. For the pendant shown here you will need four of these components.



figure 8

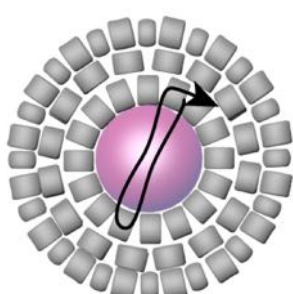


figure 9

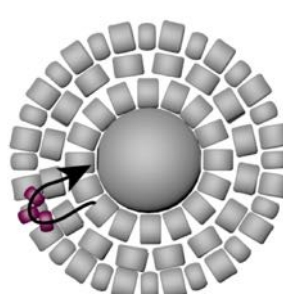


figure 10

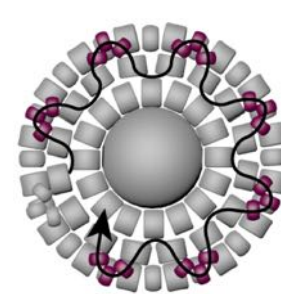


figure 11



Creating Earrings

Once you have built two components you are ready to make a pair of earrings.

Using the thread still attached to your component, weave through the beads so it is emerging from one of the cylinders along the outside edge of the structure.

String up three **15° Czech charlottes**, an **ear wire** and three more **15° Czech charlottes**. Pass through the next cylinder along the outside edge of the component.

Then peyote stitch (one at a time) seven **11° round beads**.

Now string up three **15° Czech charlottes**, the **21mm Swarovski drop** (or suitable substitute drop) and three more **15° Czech charlottes** before going through the next cylinder bead in the circle structure.

Then peyote stitch (one at a time) seven **11° round beads**. Weave off the thread, half hitching once or twice before cutting. **(figure 12)**

Repeat the steps above to create a second earring.

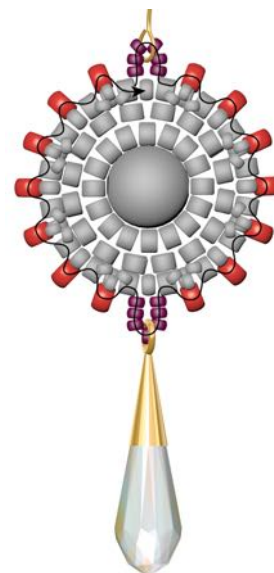


figure 12

Bead Creative . . . Develop Your Own Component Based Design

Working with this basic design component you can create all sorts of different jewelry designs. Link the elements together using shared 11°s along the outside edge of the element to create a pendant, a necklace or a bracelet. Have a look at the photo here to see how I took the basic elements and linked them to form a pendant suspended from a herringbone necklace.



These component-based design patterns are intended as a gift from the artist to her fellow bead people. Share the pattern and enjoy the project, but please, in keeping with the original intent, do not teach, sell or otherwise use this pattern for financial gain. Few things in life are free – as for the things that are – let's keep them that way.