

# "15 Daggers" Earrings

*designed by Karen Long*

Tubular Herringbone stitch is a wonderfully supple stitch to use for bracelets and earrings. These playful earrings use two different sizes of seed beads to create a circular shape. The addition of the mini-daggers along the outside edge makes them more interesting - 15 daggers per earring!

**Difficulty level:** *Advanced Beginner*

Knowing Tubular Herringbone stitch is a plus!

It's important to keep good tension in this piece, so it's suggested you have some experience weaving with a needle and thread.

**Note!** I like to use Fireline in my projects, but I have students who prefer to use Nymo or One-G beading thread. Use whatever thread you like, but be sure to keep an even tension, or you'll lose the circular shape of the earring. Also, if using thread, be sure to stretch before beginning.



## Materials List

Color choices for the beads and mini-daggers will determine how casual or dressy the earrings are. Colors for the beads used in the tutorial are shown below. See the [Gallery](#) for other suggestions.

- 11/0 Seed Beads - form the "inner circle" (A) Matte Yellow Green
- 8/0 Seed Beads - form the "outer circle" (B) Opaque Turquoise Luster
- 30 ~ Mini-daggers (C) Matte Metallic Flax
- Pair of ear wires or posts
- 2 ~ Wire Guards to match ear wires
- 6# Fireline
- Size 10 or 12 beading needle

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## Construction...

There are two sides to the Herringbone tube. Each side has one 11/0 (A) and one 8/0 (B) seed bead.

The 11/0 beads are referred to as the “inner circle”, and the 8/0 beads as the “outer circle”. On each row, a mini-dagger (C) is added to the thread as the “outer circle” beads are connected. The “inner circle” will always be the step up.

The instructions refer to the beads by the letters A, B, C, so it is recommended that you lay out the beads on your mat in that order. The C beads are the Mini-daggers, and you need 15 per earring. I suggest that you only put 15 on your mat... when you’ve used all of them; you are ready to join (Step #9). ☺

## Let’s get started...



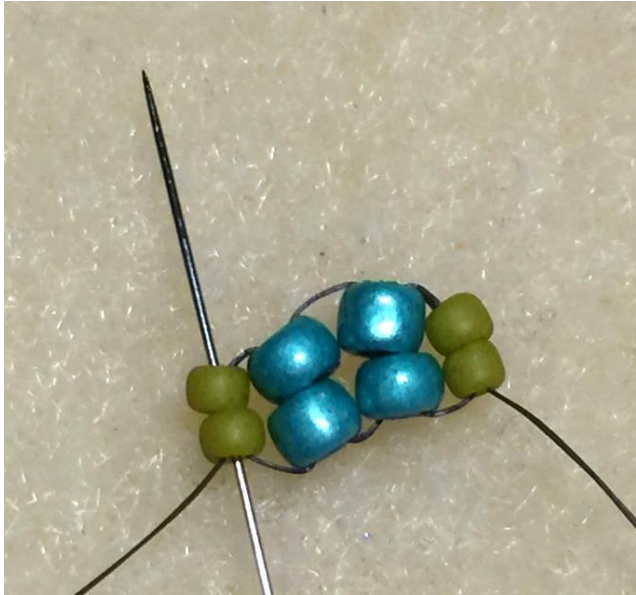
### Step #1:

Cut 4 feet of Fireline and thread your needle.

Begin the Tubular Herringbone by making a ladder 2 beads high and 4 beads long.

Follow the directions below if you’ve never done ladder stitch:

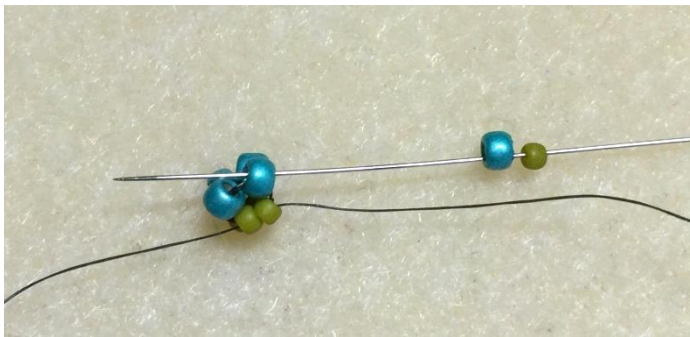
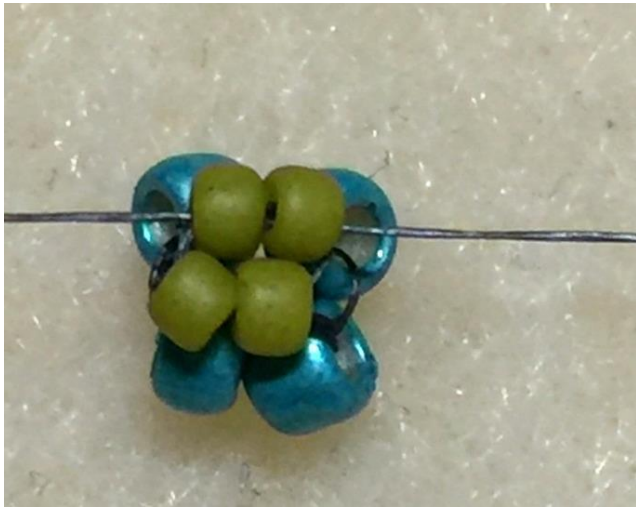
- String 2A and 2B, leaving a 5” tail - enough to tie off and weave into your work (I find it’s helpful to hold onto the tail until I’ve worked about 4 rows)
- Pass your needle back up through the 2A, and down through 2B
- Pick up 2B, and pass your needle back down through the prior 2B, and up through the last 2B
- Pick up 2A, and pass your needle back up through the last 2B, and down through the 2A you just added
- Your piece should look like the photo



## Step #2:

Join the A beads to form a tube:

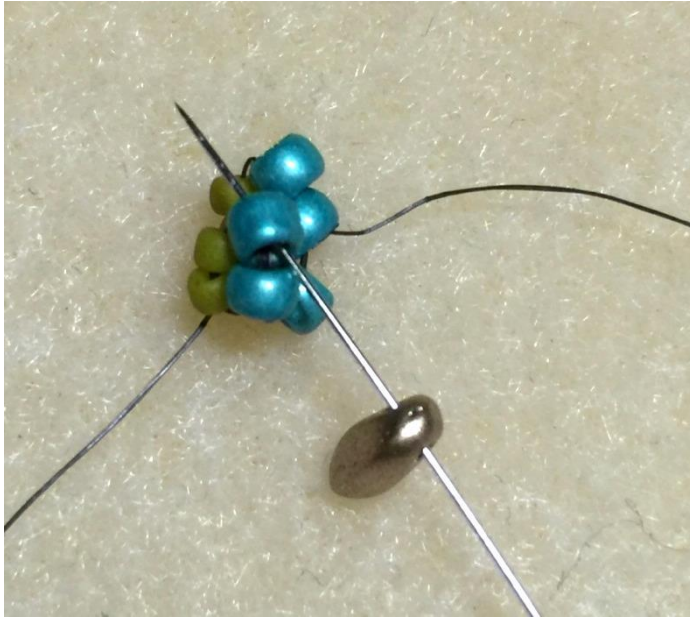
- Without adding any beads, take your needle up through the first 2A ladder (positioning your B beads behind the A beads makes it easier to work)
- Bring the needle down through the last 2A ladder to join both ends of the tube
- To get your working thread into the proper position, go back up through the first 2A beads again
- Your working thread will be exiting in the opposite direction of the tail thread (see second photo)



## Step #3:

- Pick up 1A, 1B, and go down through the top B on the stack - only through ONE bead (see photo)
- This will position matching beads on top of each other - A on A, B on B





#### Step #4:

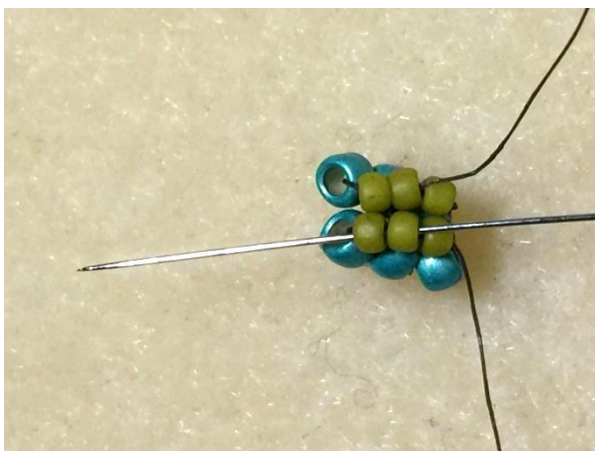
- Pick up 1C (mini-dagger), and take the needle up through the B bead that is directly beside the bead from which the working thread is exiting
- This will put the thread in the proper position to add the other beads to finish off the row

**Note!** The mini-dagger sits **outside** the beads NOT between them, keep a good tension when moving to the last column, so the B beads sit closely together.



#### Step #5:

- Pick up 1B, 1A and go down through the top A on the stack - only through ONE bead (see photo)
- Again, you will have A on A, B on B



#### Step #6:

“Step up” is always done on the inner circle of 11/0 (A) seed beads:

- Go up through 2A beads as shown in the picture.

Before beginning the next row, give your thread a good pull to snug up the dagger!



### Step #7:

Repeat **Steps #3 - #6** until you have 15 daggers on the piece. You will begin to see a curve after adding just a few rows.

#### **Note!**

- Maintain a tight tension to keep the daggers from being “wobbly”
- If the tail thread is in your way, you can tie it off and weave it in once you have enough rows to hold onto



### Step #8:

You are now ready to form a circle by joining both sets of beads.

If you haven't tied off the tail thread, do so now.

Do a final count of beads:

- 15 daggers
- Inner Circle - 17A (both sides)
- Outer Circle - 17B (both sides)



Photo 1



Photo 2



## Step #9:

### Joining the circles - Side 1:

- Without adding any beads, take your needle down through the top 2A opposite to where the thread is exiting (Photo 1)
- Pull the thread through, but you don't pull it tight yet
- Take the needle up through the top 2B beside the 2A you just passed through (Photo 2)
- Continue through the 2B on the opposite side - BE SURE you are working on the same side of the piece (Photo 3)
- Pull firmly

Photo 3



### Join the other side:

- Go through the dagger to get to the "back side" of the piece
- Weave your thread so you can join the Inner Circle first (A beads) then the Outer Circle, following the steps above
- The photo in Step #10 shows where your thread should be exiting

Photo 1



Photo 2



## Step #10:

After joining both the front and back, you will have a circle and your thread should be exiting as shown Photo 1.

Now, add **one side** of the connector for the ear wire:

- String 3A, 1B, 1A
- Pass through both sides of the wire guard, making sure that the thread lays in the groove
- If you want, you can slip the ear wire onto the wire guard now, OR you can add it later
- Pick up 1A, then pass the needle through the 1B
- Pick up 3A, skip one bead at the top of the outer circle and go into 1B (Photo 2)

**Note!** Please do NOT reinforce now. You will reinforce this **after** adding the accents in the next steps.



Photo 1



Photo 2



## Step #11:

The accent beads will stabilize the daggers and hide the hole while providing an opportunity to add additional color to the earring.

If you want to select another color for the accent, please do. The steps below use A beads.

Adding beads to **both** sides of the piece as you go around (Photo 1):

- Pick up 1A, go through the dagger to the other side
- Pick up 1A, go down through the first B

REPEAT the **above 2 steps** until you are back to the top of the piece. (Photo 2 shows a side view of the accent beads.)

**Note!** Keep a good tension as you add beads, this will also stabilize the daggers.

Check your work - you should have 15 accent beads on each side.

Go on to the next step to add the other connector and reinforce...



Photo 1



Photo 2



## Step #12:

Add the other side of the connector to the ear wire:

- Your thread will be exiting as shown in Photo 1
- Pick up 3A
- Pass the needle through 1B, 1A, wire guard, 1A, 1B
- Pick up 3A
- Pass down through 1B at the top of the outer circle (Photo 2)

To reinforce:

- Follow the thread path around through the daggers to the other side and reinforce the connector
- I like to have double thread in both sides of beads, so I usually pass through an additional time
- If your circles of beads seem loose, you can go through all the 11/0 seed beads in the “inner circle” to tighten
- Tie off and weave thread in

**Note!** As you reinforce, be sure that your thread is in the groove of the wire guard. And, if you are working with the ear wire attached, you must be careful to pass the thread through it too.

***Congratulations!!  
You finished one earring!***

Repeat Steps #1 - #12 to make the other earring.

See [Gallery](#) for additional color choices.

# Gallery

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Because manufacturers' and distributors' numbers vary for seed beads, there are no numbers assigned, only color suggestions. Also, I'd like to direct you to the Student Gallery on my website for some additional options: <https://karenlongdesigns.com/student-gallery/15-daggers-student/>

***Be Creative and Have Fun!!!***



## Blue Suede

- 11/0 Seed Beads (A) Matte Yellow Green
- 8/0 Seed Beads (B) Matte Navy
- 30 ~ Mini-daggers (C) Blue Suede



## Orange Delight

- 11/0 Seed Beads (A) Galvanized Orange
- 8/0 Seed Beads (B) Green Luster
- 30 ~ Mini-daggers (C) Flax



## Mixed Metals

- 11/0 Seed Beads (A) Silver
- 8/0 Seed Beads (B) Gold
- 30 ~ Mini-daggers (C) Silver
- 11/0 Seed Beads for Accent (D) Bronze/Gold Metallic

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