

Pinwheel Floret Earrings



*Design by Nancy Jenner
for International Beading Week 2022*

Pinwheel Floret Earrings

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Beads: Size 11 Delicas in three colors

Thread: 6# Fireline (preferred) or thread of your choice

Colors used in step-by-step photos:

A = DB 733 Opaque Lime Green

B = DB 726 Opaque Cobalt Blue

C = DB 723 Opaque Red

Note: I suggest beading Rows 1-8 flat, and then snugging up to form the inverted cup shape after Row 8 is complete.

Note: See page 4 for step-by-step photos

Rows 1 & 2: With 4 feet of thread, pick up 6A beads and then sew through the first bead to create a circle, leaving a 6-7" tail. Pick up 1B and sew through the next bead, repeating 5 times. Step up through the first B bead added. (6 total beads)

Row 3: Pick up 1B and sew through the next bead. Repeat 5 times. Step up. (6 total beads)

Row 4: Pick up 1B + 1C (increase) and sew through the next bead. Repeat 5 times. Step up through the first bead of pair. (12 total beads)

Row 5: Pick up 1B and sew through the second bead in the pair, and then 1C in next space. Repeat 5 times. Step up. (12 total beads)

Row 6: Continue using peyote, with 1B and then 1C in next two spaces. Repeat 5 times. Step up. (12 total beads)

Row 7: Repeat Row 6. (12 total beads)

Row 8: Repeat Row 6. (12 total beads)

➔ Gently pull thread to snug up the beads to create an inverted cup shape. (In other words, Row 1 closest to you and Row 8 away from you with somewhat firm tension on Row 8.)

Row 9: To create the pinwheel, pick up 1B + 1A (increase) and sew through the next bead, and then 1C in the next space. Repeat 5 times. Step up through the first bead of pair. Be sure that tension on this row is firm; if too loose, earring may become floppy.

➔ It's easier to bead this row by flipping over the beadwork so you can see the Row 8 beads, and then return to "bump side up" for the remaining rows. Enlarged photo of Row 9 front view on page 5.

➔ After Row 9 is complete, secure and weave in the tail thread. Push down on the center of the cupped shape with a pencil eraser, which will emphasize the center 6 bead floret from the front view of the earring. I prefer to work with the cupped shape (back side of earring) facing me with my thumb on the top of the cupped shape and my fingers underneath the pinwheel.

Row 10: Pick up 1B and sew through the second bead in the pair, and then 1A and 1C in next two spaces. Repeat 5 times. Step up. (18 total beads)

➔ **NOTE:** It is important to keep Rows 10-16 flat. Adjust tension as necessary. It's helpful to lay the pinwheel on a table after each row, gently pressing the pinwheel edges flat.

Row 11: Peyote 1B, 1A, 1C in next three spaces. Repeat 5 times. Step up. (18 total beads)

Row 12: Peyote 1B and 1A in next two spaces and then 1C + 1A (increase) in next space. Repeat 5 times. Step up. (24 total beads)

Row 13: Peyote 1B, 1A, 1C between pair, 1A. Repeat 5 times. Step up. (24 total beads)

Row 14: Peyote 1B, 1A, 1C, 1A. Repeat 5 times. Step up. (24 total beads)

Row 15: Peyote 1B, 1A + 1B (increase), 1C, 1A. Repeat 5 times. Step up. (30 total beads)

Row 16: Peyote 1B, 1A between pair, 1B, 1C, 1A. Repeat 5 times. Secure and weave in thread to end.

Loop: Decide if you want the loop along the edge or on a corner tip bead. Keep in mind that the loop color will visually affect the overall look of the earring. Loop 1 option uses color B and Loop 2 is color A. Other options are to attach a loop of coordinating 15/0 seed beads, wire guard, or jump rings.

Loop 1 (edge placement): Leaving a 6-7" tail, pick up 6B beads and then sew through the first bead to create a circle. Pick up 1B and then sew through the next bead, repeating 5 times. Step up. With tail thread, sew through the circle in opposite direction of lead thread until the thread exits the opposite side of the step up bead. Sew the loop between the two middle beads along one edge. Reinforce the join. Secure and weave in threads to end. Attach ear wires.

Loop 2 (tip placement): Create a loop as above using A beads but incorporate one of the pinwheel corner point beads as part of the loop. Reinforce the loop and also where it joins to the pinwheel. Secure and weave in threads to end. Attach ear wires.

Design suggestions:

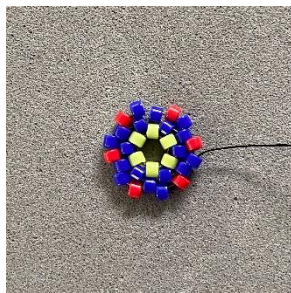
1. For a smaller earring, end pinwheel on Row 13.
2. For a pendant, create a larger pinwheel by making increases every third row (Rows 18, 21, etc.) so that the increases are directly above the increases in Rows 12 & 15. Create a tube bail by doing multiple rows of odd-count peyote along one edge of the hexagon (flat edge) and then zip to the first row.
3. For a bracelet, bead several Pinwheel Florets, adding rows of odd-count peyote on opposite sides of the hexagons, zip together, and then add a clasp.



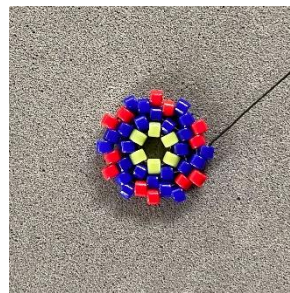
Rows 1 & 2



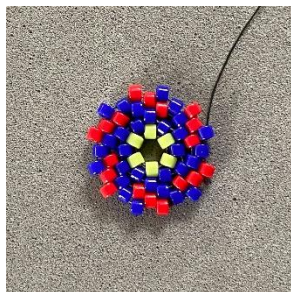
Row 3



Row 4



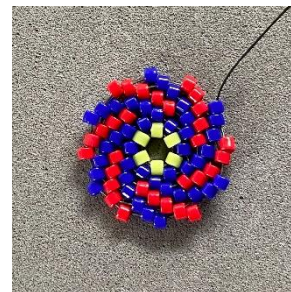
Row 5



Row 6



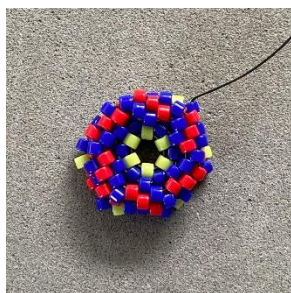
Row 7



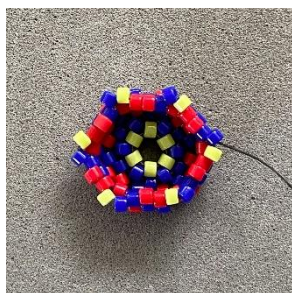
Row 8



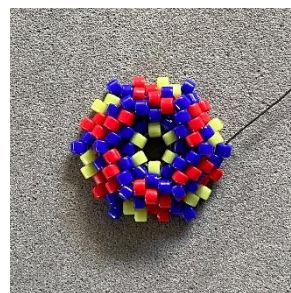
Row 8 snugged up



Row 9 back view



Row 9 (See page 5)



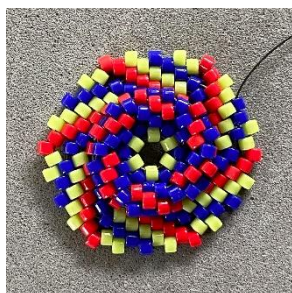
Row 10



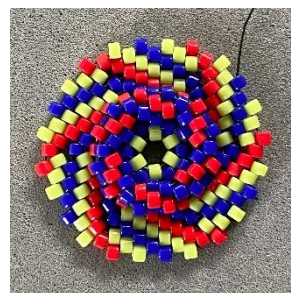
Row 11



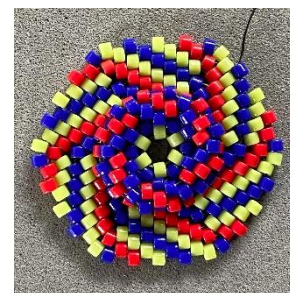
Row 12



Row 13



Row 14



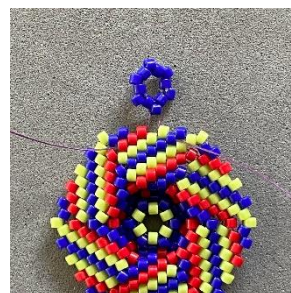
Row 15



Row 16



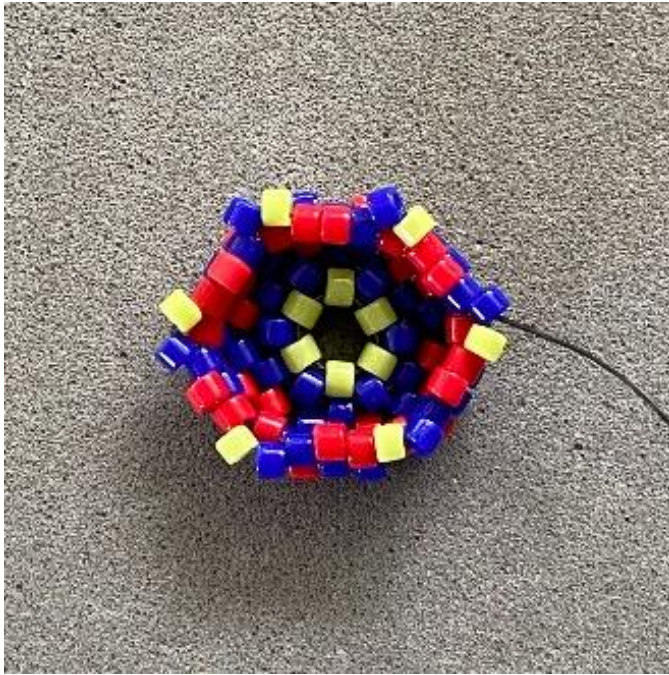
Loop options



Loop option 1



Loop option 2



Enlarged view of Row 9 - front side of earring

- ➔ The 1B + 1A increases form the six pinwheel corners with 1C in each of the six middle spaces along the sides