



Flowering Gum Blossom Earrings

Use tubular herringbone and fringing to create this iconic Australian flower.

Skill Level: Intermediate- you must be comfortable with tubular herringbone for this design.

Stitches:

Herringbone, fringe, wire wrapped loop

Materials (for one pair of earrings)

Regarding bead brands: I have thus far only tested the pattern using Miyuki seed beads as they were what I had on hand in the colours I liked. I have not yet experimented with Toho or mixing brands. I

wouldn't recommend matsuno. However, feel free to use whatever you have on hand and see what happens!

I encourage you to look up some images of flowering gums for some colour inspiration. I have provided some suggestions below.

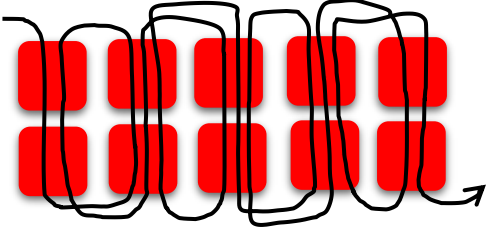
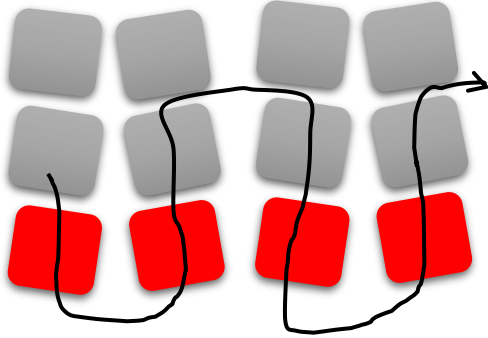
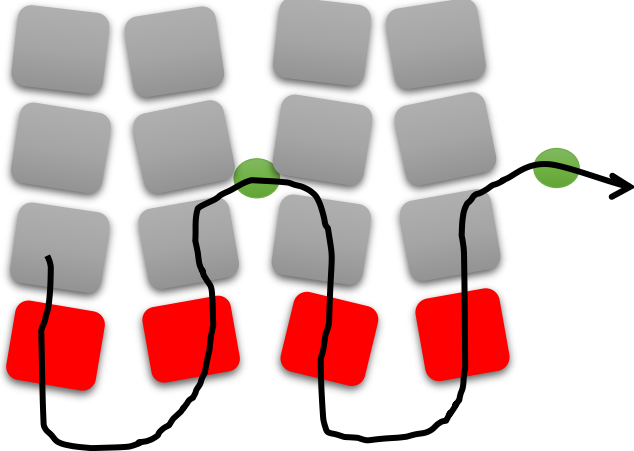
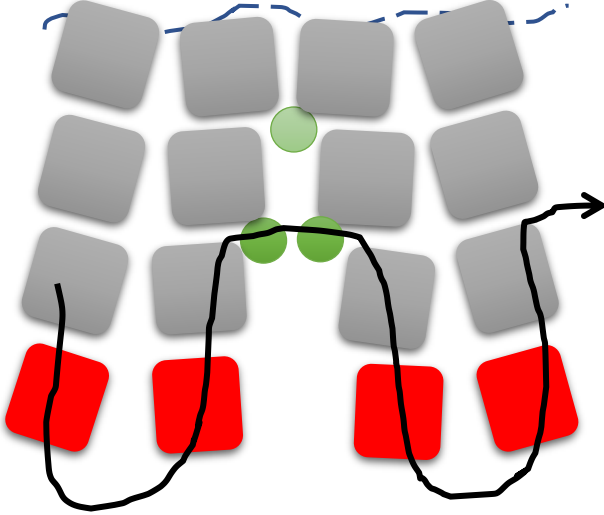
- 4g 11o (main)- *Think browns, greys, bronze, dark greens*
- 2g 15o A (same colour as main)-unless otherwise specified, when the pattern asks for a 15o, it is referring to this colour.
- 5g 15o Colour B. *Think reds, pinks, whites, oranges*
- 0.5g 15o Colour C. *These are the tips of the fringes. Usually yellow, but can also be the same colour as your B.*
- 2x10mm pearl/round bead-same colour as any of your 15o's.
- 2x 4cm headpins
- 2x earring hooks-I used antique bronze for a 'woody' feel
- Needle-size10-12. You may find a size 12 is easier, especially for the fringe section
- Thread of choice-HOWEVER: if you use Fireline, you need to change to a flexible thread option for the fringe section, or they won't drape very well. Therefore you may find it easier to use a flexible thread throughout. I used Hana thread.
- Scissors
- Round nosed pliers, 2 pairs if possible.
- Wire cutters

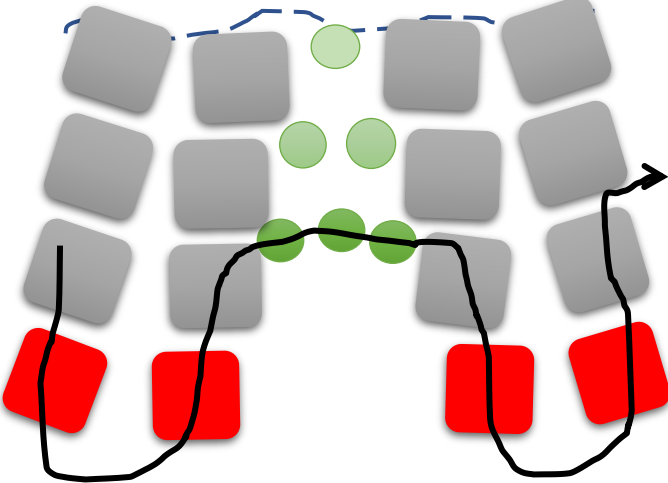
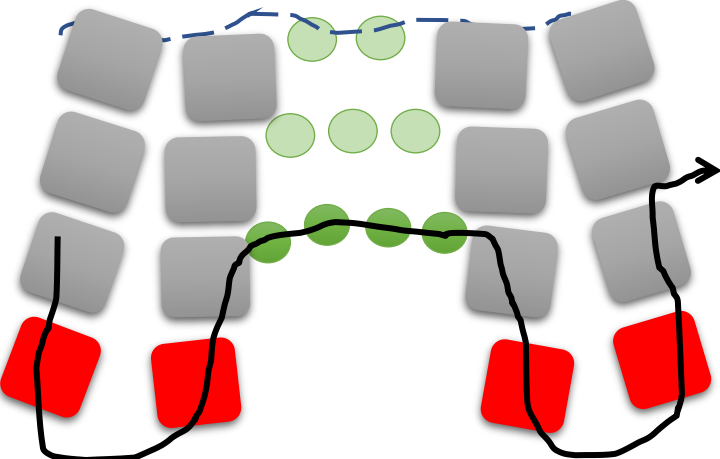
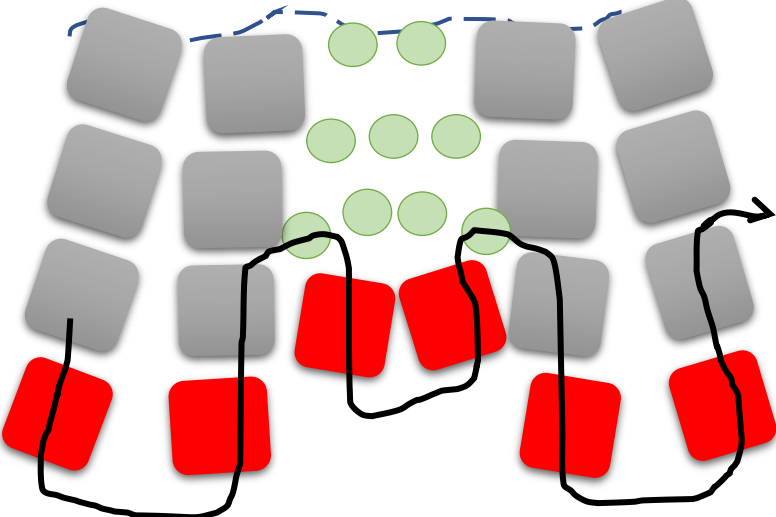
A note about thread tension

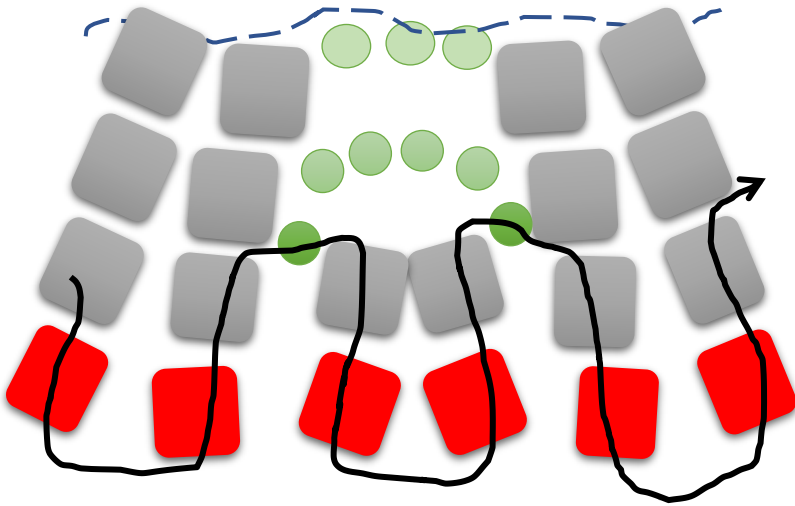
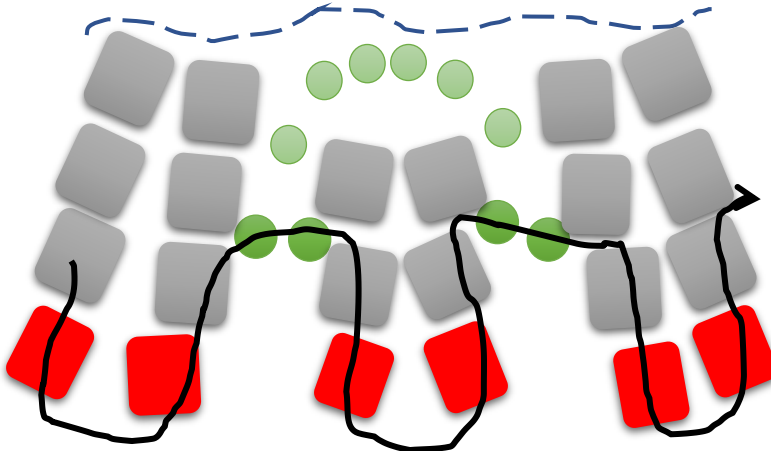
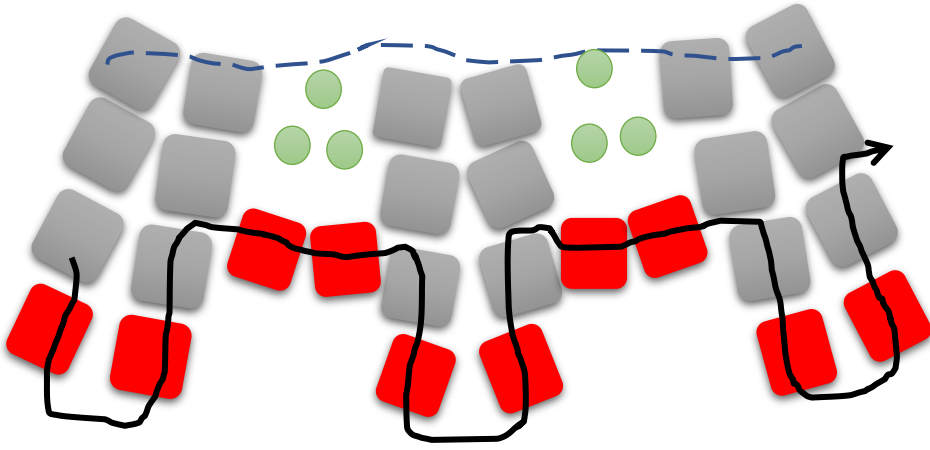
Keep a firm, fairly tight tension for the main 'body' of the flower (ie the section using the 11's and main 15o's), particularly the final round. Ease off your tension for the fringe section; however, you may find you still need to pull firmly here at times to manoeuvre the fringe strands into the correct position.

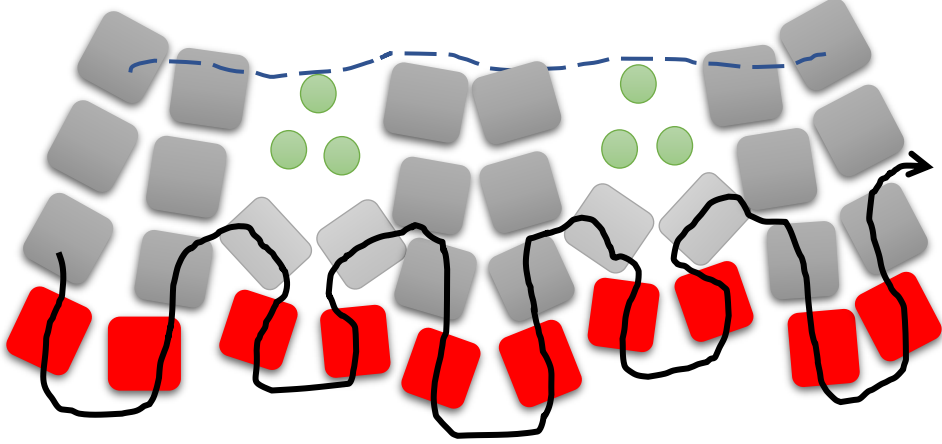
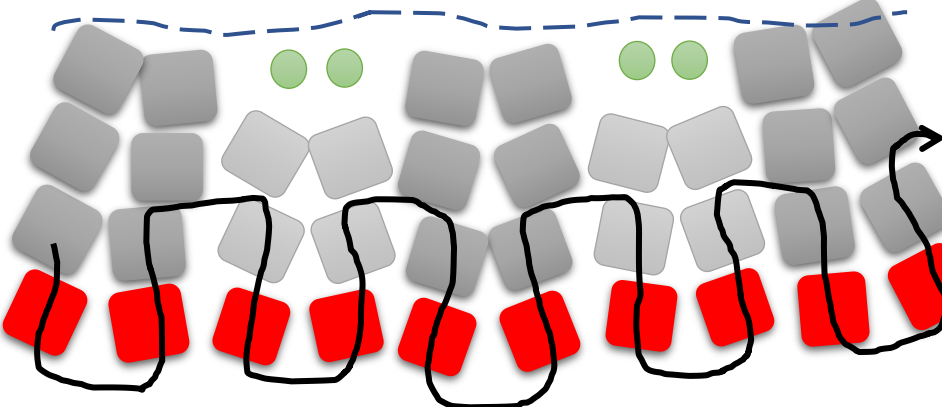
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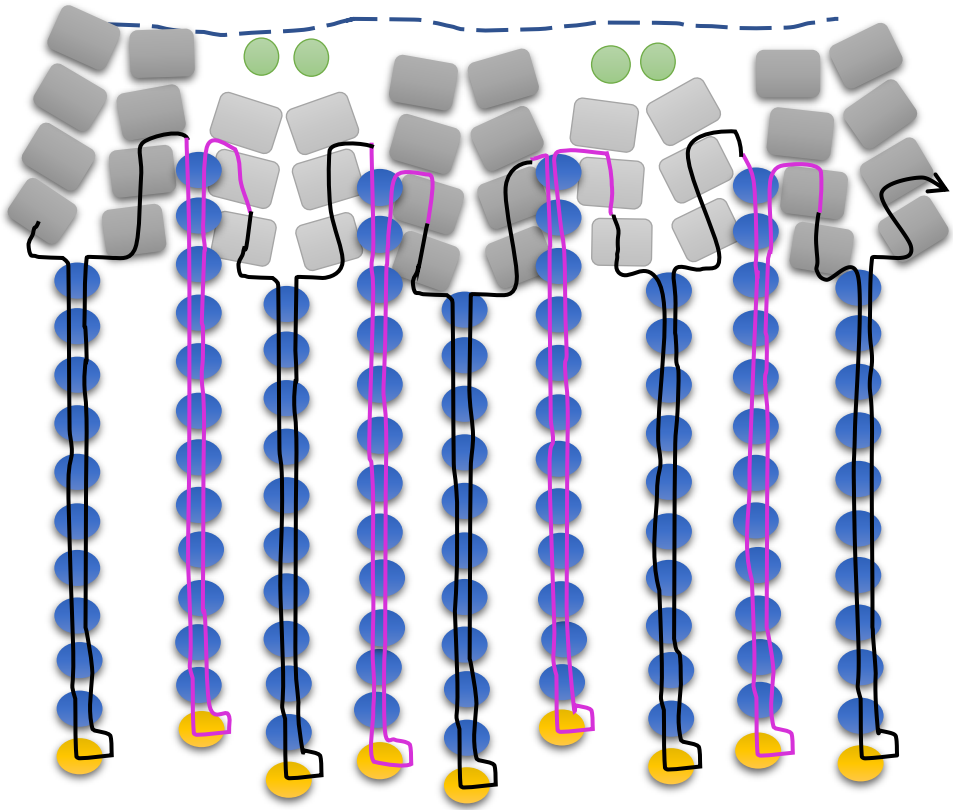
Steps:

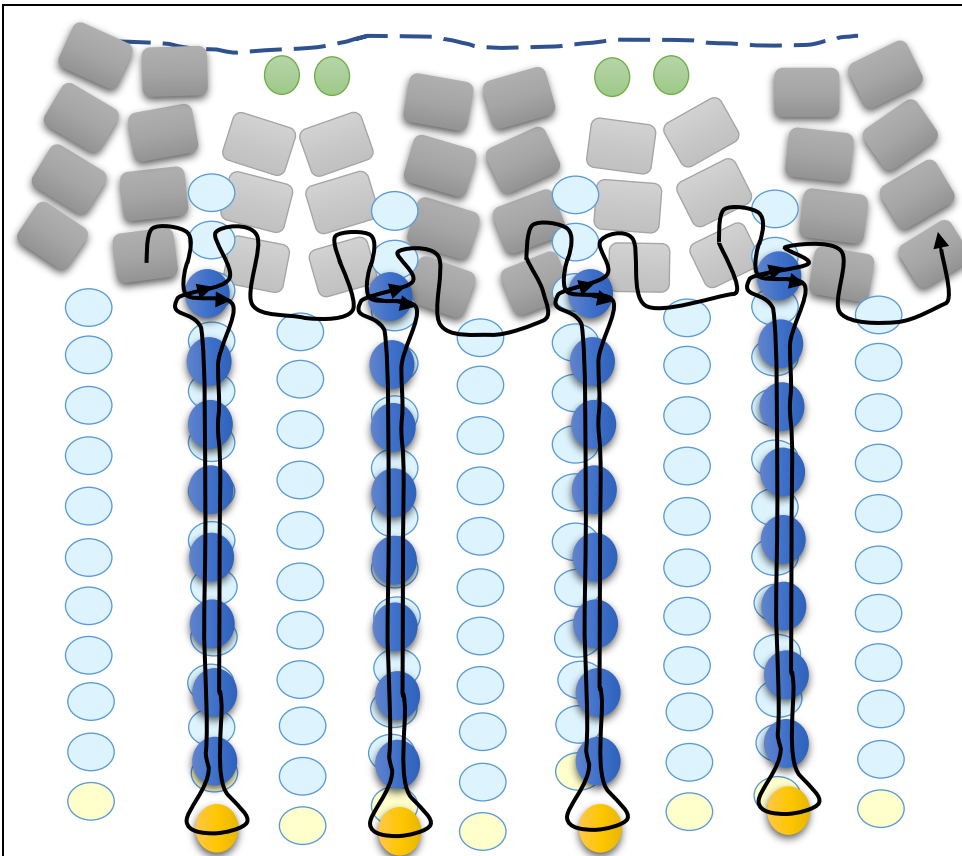
	<p>Step 1 Using ladder stitch, make a strip 2 beads high and 6 beads long (total 12 beads). Join into a circle by passing through the first and last stacks</p>
	<p>Step 2 <i>From here on, the diagrams will only show one side of the design for clarity in following the diagrams</i></p> <p>Bead one round of herringbone stitch and step up (6x11o)</p>
	<p>Step 3 <i>Increase:</i> Bead one round of herringbone (6x11o), but add one 15o between each herringbone 'spine'</p>
	<p>Step 4 <i>From here on, as the work moves down, previous rows are denoted by the wavy blue dotted line</i></p> <p><i>Increase:</i> Bead one round of herringbone (6x11o), this time adding 2x15o's between each 'spine'</p>

	<p>Step 5 <i>Increase:</i></p> <p>Bead one round of herringbone (6x11o), adding 3x15o's between each spine.</p>
	<p>Step 6 <i>Increase:</i></p> <p>Bead one round of herringbone (6x11o), adding 4x15o's between each spine.</p>
	<p>Step 7 <i>Starting the middle spines:</i></p> <p>Bead one round of herringbone; this time between the spines, go through the first 15o added in the last step, pick up 2x11o's, pass through the 4th 15o from the previous step, before passing up to the top of the next spine. Continue all the way around (12x11o).</p>

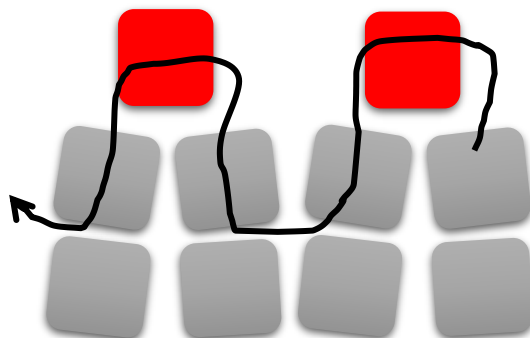
	<p>Step 8 We now have a total of 6 spines (instead of the original 3).</p> <p><i>Increase:</i></p> <p>Bead one round of herringbone (12x11o), adding 1x15o between each spine.</p> <p>The first beads in the new middle spine might not want to sit nicely, but this round will sort that out!</p>
	<p>Step 9 <i>Increase:</i></p> <p>Bead one round of herringbone (12x11o), adding 2x15o between each spine.</p>
	<p>Step 10 <i>Increase- creating the inner spines):</i></p> <p>Bead one round of herringbone (12x11o), adding 2x11os between each spine.</p>

	<p>Step 11</p> <p><i>Note: previous rounds on the newest spines are shown in a lighter shade of grey, for easier viewing</i></p> <p>Bead one round of herringbone, including on the inner (newest) spines (24x11o).</p> <p>Just like in step 7-8, this round forces the first 2 beads in the newest spines to sit in the 'herringbone way'</p>
	<p>Step 12</p> <p>Bead one round of herringbone (24x11o).</p> <p>At this point you should have 13 rows of the main spines (counting the 2 from the starting ladder stitch rows), 6 rows in the middle spines and 3 rows in the inner spines.</p>

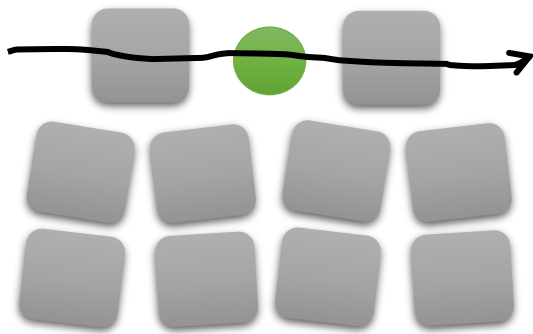
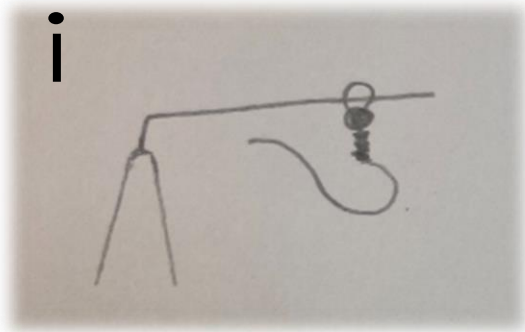
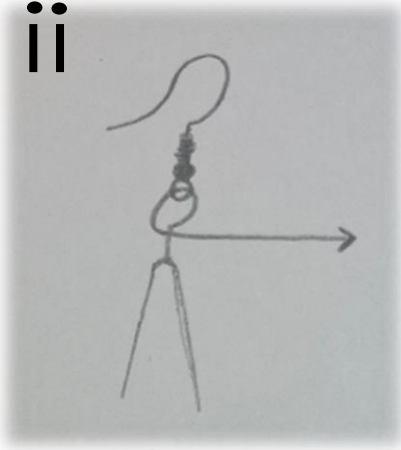
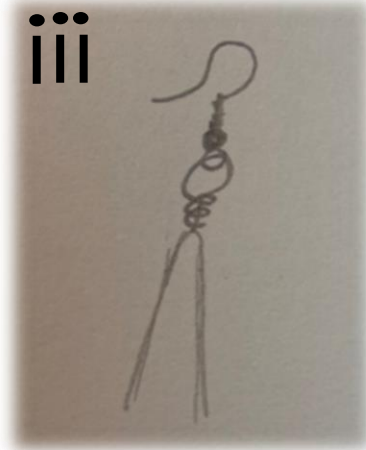
	<p>Step 13</p> <p><i>NOTE: if you are using fireline, you now need to switch to flexible thread (eg OneG, Hana, etc)</i></p> <p>Coming out of the step up, instead of picking up 2x11o as usual we will do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pick up 9x15o in Colour B and 1x15 in colour C. Go back through all the B beads to make a little fringe and pass through the 2nd bead of the spine you're working from and the bead below it (black thread). • Pick up 11xB and 1xC, pass back up through the B's and through the top 2 11o in the next spine (pink thread). Push this fringe strand to the inside of the flower. • Repeat these two steps all the way around.
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**Step 14**

Weave your thread in until you are coming out of the second bead in the nearest spine. Pick up 8xB and 1xC and go back through the last 7 B's. Pass through the top B in the same direction you came out of it originally, so it lies horizontal to the rest of the fringe strand (this bead will now act like an 'insert' bead between the spines). Pass through into the next spine bead. You may have to wiggle the fringe strand around a bit, so it sits in the gap properly. Go through the adjacent top spine bead, making sure your thread is passing *behind* the fringe strand that's there. Repeat this step all the way around and end your thread. GENTLY tug on the fringe strands to loosen them.

**Step 15**

Using your tail thread at the top of the flower, pick up 1x11 and pass down into the next 11, making sure the new bead is sitting in line with the main spines of the flower (you'll be going in the opposite direction to what you've been doing so far). Go up through the next 11. Repeat twice more.

	<p>Step16</p> <p>Coming out of one of the 11o's added in the previous step, pick up 1x15o (A) and pass through the next 11o. Repeat twice more. Go through this thread path twice and end your thread.</p>
<p>Step17</p> <p>Add a 10mm round bead to the head pin. Slide your flowering gum onto the head pin over the bead.</p>	
<div><p>i</p></div> <div><p>ii</p></div> <div><p>iii</p></div>	<p>Step18</p> <p>Add an earring hook and make a wrapped loop with the top of the head pin:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Bend the wire back at a slight angle with the pliersGrasping close to the bend point, angle the top of the head pin into a loop shape. Make sure the earring hook is in the loop!Holding the loop with one pair of pliers, grasp the other end of the free wire and wrap tightly around the loop 3-4 times. Do this slowly to make it as neat as possible. Snip any remaining wire. <p>Stuck on wrapped loops? Have a search on YouTube, lots of great videos out there</p>

	<p>Step 19 Repeat all steps to make the second earring.</p>
	<p>Hope you enjoyed making a pair of flowering gum earrings! I encourage you to explore some variations too! Find some photos of the real life thing for some colour inspiration.</p>

Thank you for supporting me with this tutorial. Happy beading!

This original design was written by:

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A Beaded World

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