

Fireworks Earrings

These lovely tassel earrings
explode with colour & sparkle.

Made using a graduated
palette of five Delica tones
and four shades of
4mm crystal bicones.

This design is great for
trying out new colour
combinations or using up
leftovers from your stash.



Designed by Julie Ashford
of Spellbound Bead Co
for International Beading Week 2024

<https://www.internationalbeadingweek.com>

You Will Need -

Five graduated Delica bead colours - we used

1.5g of DB1342 dyed silver lined dark rose A
1.2g of DB1340 dyed silver lined fuchsia B
1.0g of DB602 silver lined red C
0.8g of DB2154 duracoat silver lined hibiscus D
0.8g of DB0681 semi matte silver lined orange E

Four colours of 4mm crystal bicones to tone with the Delica beads - we used

Twenty-six 4mm AB fuchsia F
Twenty-six 4mm AB light siam G
Twenty 4mm hyacinth orange H
Ten 4mm AB topaz J

0.5g of size 15/0 seed bead for the ends of the strands - we used Miyuki 15-1436 silver lined raspberry K

Two 6mm crystal bicones - we used topaz L
Two 8mm fire polished glass round beads - we used red M
Two 4mm soldered jump rings
A pair of earfittings
A size 10 beading needle and size D beading thread

Please note - General guidance is given for the placement of the colours and the lengths of the strands to make a pair of earrings similar to the sample shown however you may wish to make longer strands, shorter strands or to use a more limited colour selection.

The Earrings are Made in Three Stages

The M bead is covered with straps of Delica beads to form a support for the fringe strands.

Graded length and colour fringe strands are added to each strap around the M bead.

A separate two-strand tassel is made - these two strands add the longest strands to the design.

The tassel is pulled up to the base of the M bead, the top L bead is added and the findings are attached to complete the design.

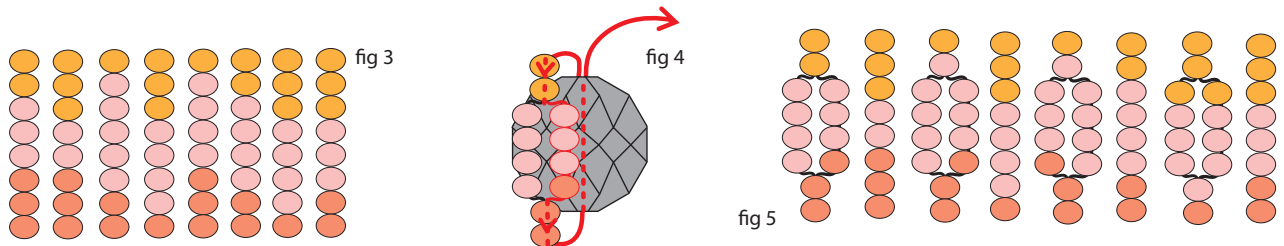
Making the Fireworks Earrings

1 Covering the M Bead - Prepare the needle with 1.8m of single beading thread and tie a keeper bead 15cm from the end.

Thread on 1M, 3E, 3D and 2C. Pass through the M bead again to make an 8-bead strap on the side (fig 1).

Repeat to add an 8-bead strap of 2E, 3D and 3C (fig 2).

Repeat to add six more 8-bead straps in various combinations of 2, 3 and 4 beads with E beads at the top, D in the middle and C beads at the base of each combination (see fig 3 with the straps laid parallel).



2 There are gaps between the straps - these gaps are concealed by adding four short straps. Choose a strap with 2E at the top - call this Strap 1.

Pass down the top 2E and thread on 3D and 1C.

Pass down the bottom two beads on the same strap and up the M bead (fig 4).

Repeat on Straps 3, 5 and 7 to add appropriate 4-bead short straps, in similar combinations of E, D and C, to blend in with the work so far (fig 5).

Finish with the needle emerging at the top of the M bead (as fig 4).

Adding the Fringe Strands

Each 8-bead strap and 4-bead short strap supports one or more fringe strands.

Long strands attach near the bottom of each strap: shorter strands nearer to the top.

Delica bead colours A to E and crystal bead colours F to J are graded, to fade one tone into the next, with the darkest near the base and the brightest/lightest at the top.

The exact bead sequences are given below for the first two straps to establish the overall colour gradation and the maximum/minimum strand lengths required.

3 Fringe Strand 1 - Select an 8-bead strap.

Pass down through this strap to emerge from the sixth bead (fig 6).

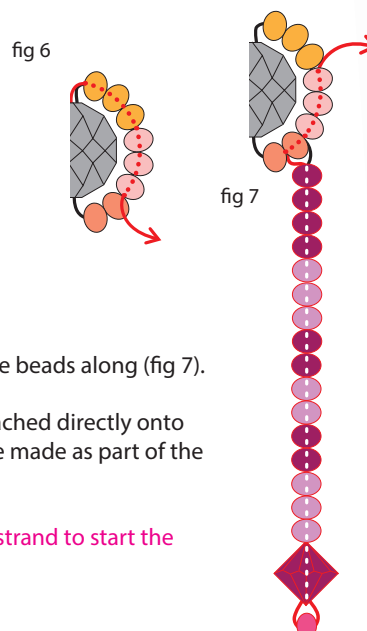
Thread on 4A, 3B, 2A, 2B, 2A, 3B, 1F and 1K (a total of 16 beads above the crystal bicone).

Pass back up the F bead and the following 16 beads to emerge at the top of the sequence.

Pass up the seventh bead on the strap and the up following three beads along (fig 7).

Note - This is the maximum length of any fringe strand to be attached directly onto the straps (the two longest strands as seen in the main photo are made as part of the separate Two-Strand Tassel in Step 8).

The different Delica colours are added in short blocks along the strand to start the tonal blend.

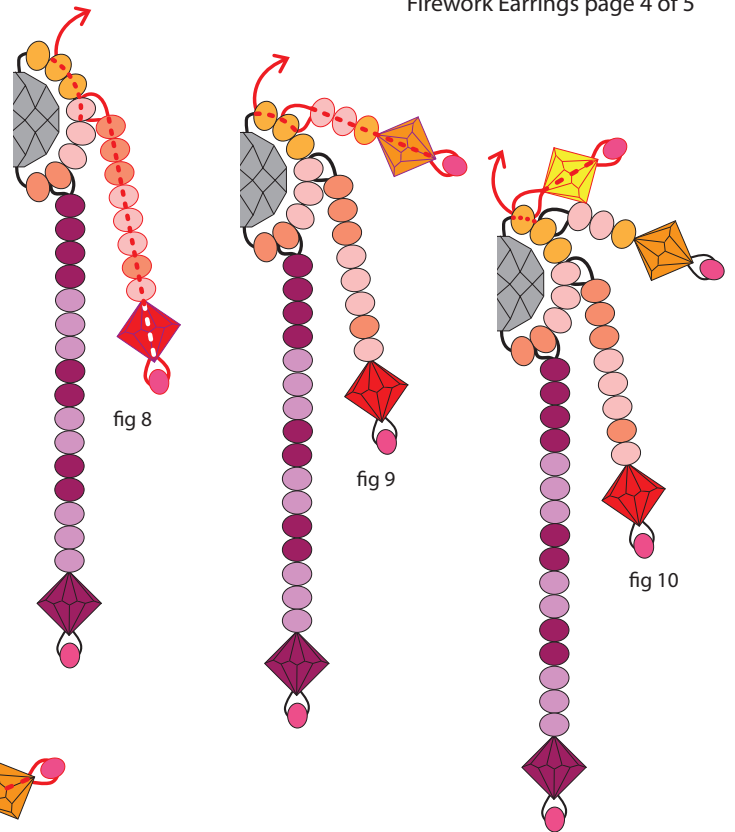












4 Fringe Strand 2 - Thread on 3C, 3D, 1C, 1D, 1G and 1K (8 beads above the bicone).
Pass back up the G bead and the following eight beads to emerge at the top of the sequence.

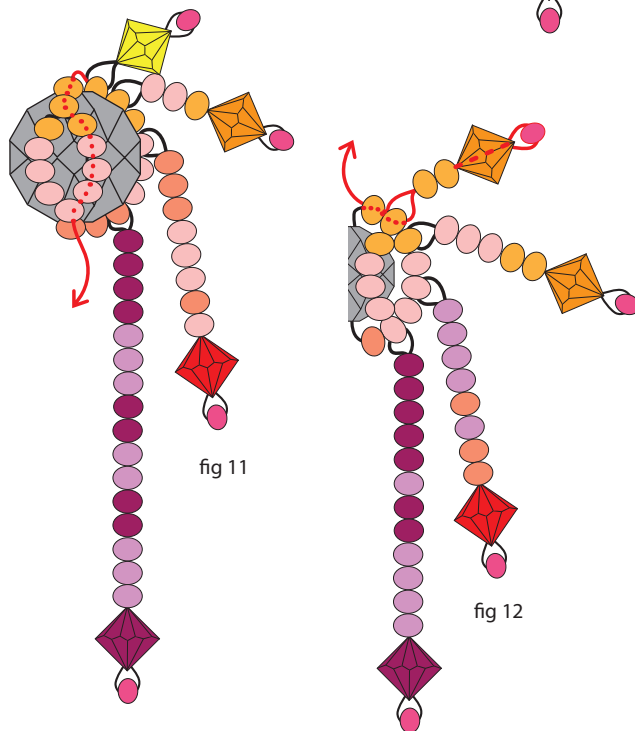
Pass through the same bead on the strap and the following two beads along (fig 8).

Fringe Strand 3 - Thread on 2D, 1E, 1H and 1K (3 beads above the bicone).
Complete the fringe strand as before and reposition the needle to emerge from the top 1E on the strap (fig 9).

Fringe Strand 4 - Thread on 1J and 1K (zero beads above the bicone).
Pass back through the J bead and the top 1E of the strap (fig 10).



Key	
	A
	B
	C
	D
	E
	F
	G
	H
	J
	K



5 Pass down the adjacent seven beads of the next strap around the M bead (a split strap) (fig 11).

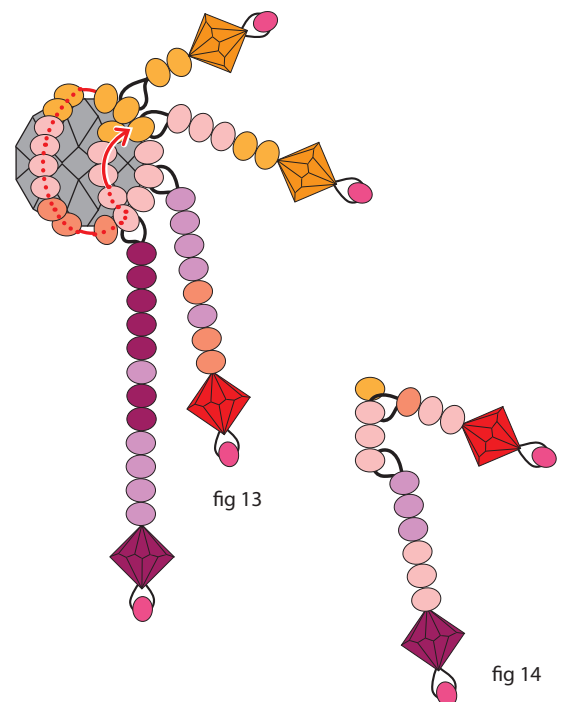
The same fringe technique is used up this 8-bead side of the split strap (see fig 12). Note that this time the fringe strands connect to the seventh, fifth, third and second beads from the top of the strand.

Referring to the key illustrated on the left, work **Fringe Strands 5, 6, 7 and 8** as shown in fig 12.

6 To reposition the needle pass down the eight beads of the next plain strap around the M bead. Now pass up the bottom three beads of the previous split strap to emerge one bead up the currently plain 4-bead side of the split (fig 13).

Add the two fringe strands as shown in fig 14 and pass up to the top of the strand to emerge adjacent to the M bead hole.

You now have four strands attached to a single row strap and six strands attached to a split strap.



Completing the Stranding

The stranding technique in Steps 3-6 needs to be repeated around the remainder of the M bead. However to make a 'fully-explosive' effect the strand lengths need to be varied a little more than already achieved.

Keeping to the overall rule of long strands at the base and short strands at the top, make adjustments in the exact lengths by altering the total number of Delicas on each strand by +/- 1 to 3 beads (by adjusting the exact numbers in each colour block).

You may find that only three fringe strands are required to decorate some 8-bead straps and a couple of the 4-bead short straps only require one fringe strand to maintain the full effect.

When all the fringe strands are attached finish off the thread ends neatly and securely without blocking the hole in the M bead.

7 The Two Strand Tassel - This will pull up to the base of the M bead to provide the longest two strands of the design.

Prepare the needle with 1m of single thread and tie a keeper bead 15cm from the end.

Thread on 2A. Pass back through the first 1A to pull the second A bead into an anchor (fig 15).

Thread on 15A, 2B, 1A, 1B, 2A, 3B, 1A, 3B, 1A, 1F and 1K.

Pass back up the F bead and all the following beads to emerge from the 1A anchor at the top.

Pass back down the first 1A added in the Step to be in the correct position to add the second strand (fig 16).

Thread on 11A, 1B, 2A, 3B, 1A, 3B, 1F and 1K.

Pass back up the F bead and all the following beads to emerge from the anchor bead at the top.



fig 15

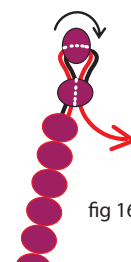


fig 16

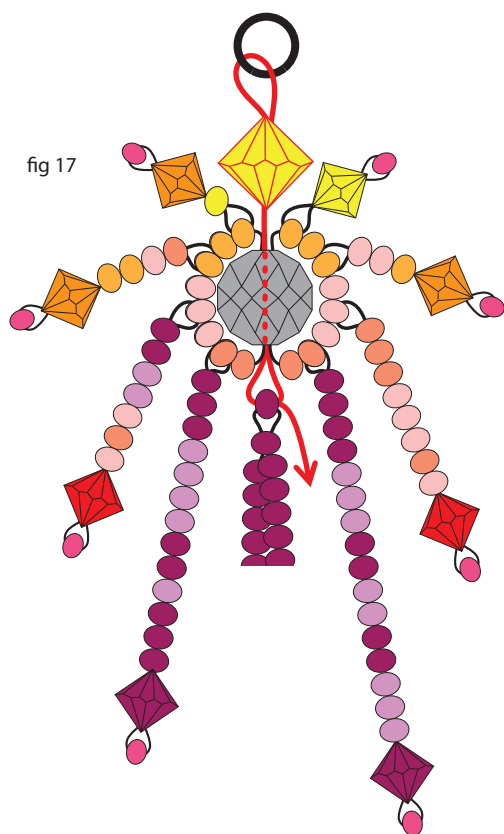


fig 17

8 Assemble the Final Design - Pass up the M bead to pull the two-strand tassel up to the bottom hole on the M bead.

Thread on 1L and one soldered jump ring.

Pass back down the 1L, the M bead and the 1A anchor on the top of the two-strand tassel (fig 17).

Pull the thread firmly to bring the stack together neatly.

Reinforce the connection with at least two more thread passes. Finish off the thread ends neatly and securely.

Add the earfitting to the top ring and repeat to make the second earring.

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