

Beautiful Blizzard Earrings

An original design by Laura McCabe, ©2018

Instructions by Laura McCabe, Illustrations by Melissa Grakowsky-Shippee



Supply List:

Materials (for 1 pair of earrings):

- **5mm round fresh water pearls** (or 5mm Swarovski pearls), 2 pearls
- **4mm Swarovski crystal rondelles** (article #5040), 12 beads (crystal AB)
- 11° Japanese cylinder beads
 - **color A**, 1 gram (opaque white luster (DB231))
 - **color B**, 24 beads (transparent white luster (DB51))
- 15° Japanese seed beads
 - **color A**, less than 1 gram (white luster (miyuki 471))
 - **color B**, 24 beads (silver plated (toho 714))
- **15° Czech charlottes**, less than 1 gram (sterling silver)
- **15° Japanese charlottes**, 12 beads (silver plated (toho 714))
- French ear wires (sterling silver)

Notions:

- Size 13 English beading needles
- Fireline, 6lb or preferred beading thread

Tools:

- Scissors
- Microcrystalline wax
- chain nose pliers

Earrings

1. Begin by single threading 5 feet of fireline onto a size 13 English beading needle. Wax well. Thread up twelve **cylinder A** and pass through the first two beads a second time, creating a circle. Tie a knot if you prefer. Leave approximately 6 inches of tail thread. **(figure 1)**

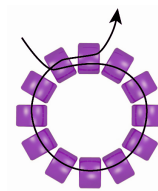


Figure 1

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

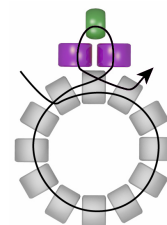


Figure 2

3. Thread up one **cylinder A**, one **15°A** and go down through the cylinder bead A 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)**

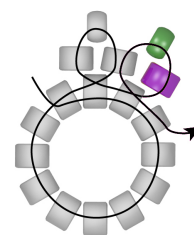


Figure 3

4. When you reach the final bead in the initial circle, coming out of that bead, pass through the cylinder bead from the very first stitch, add one **15°A**, and go down through the cylinder bead from the previous stitch and through the cylinder bead 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 twelve 15°s along the outer edge of the structure. **(figure 4)**

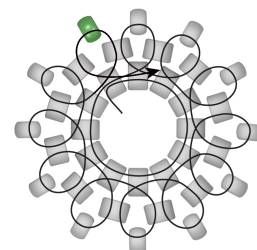


Figure 4

Coming out of the cylinder bead in the initial circle, thread up one **cylinder A**, go backwards through the 15°A that is already there, add one more **cylinder A** and go forward through two cylinder beads in the initial circle. **(figure 5)**

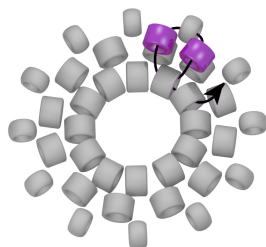


Figure 5

6. Continue stitching in this manner, however for the next 10 stitches, you will only be adding one **cylinder A** and then passing through the 15° and cylinder bead already in place from the previous stitch. **(figure 6)**

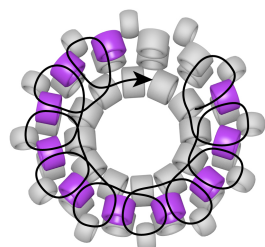


Figure 6

7. For the last stitch in this round there will be NO bead added in the stitch, you will merely be passing through the beads to pull the beads into place. At the end of the round, step up as shown in **figure 7**, so you are coming out of a 15° along the outer edge of the structure.

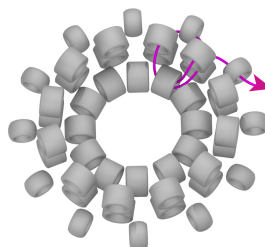


Figure 7

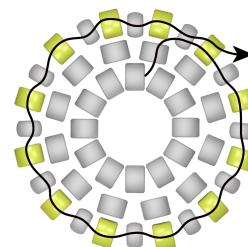


Figure 8

8. Add one **cylinder B** between every 15° along the outer edge of the ring. As this is even count peyote, you will step up at the end of the row. (**figure 8** (previous page))

9. Add two **15°A** between each of the cylinders added in the previous round. At the end of the row, pass down through the beads so you are emerging from one of the twelve cylinder beads in the initial circle of cylinders at the center of the structure. (**figure 9**)

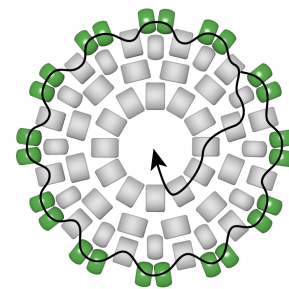


Figure 9

10. Thread up one **5mm round fresh water pearl** (or 5mm Swarovski pearl) and pass through the cylinder bead in the initial circle directly across from the one you were coming out of. Go back through the pearl and through the cylinder bead you started from. (**figure 10**)

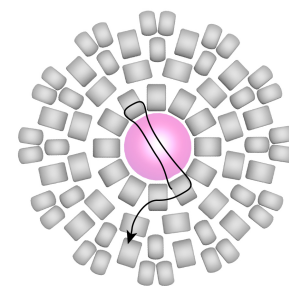


Figure 10

11. Weave the working thread so it is coming out of one of the “spoke” (right angle weave) cylinder beads, with the needle pointed towards the outside edge of the circle. String up three **15° Czech charlottes** and pass down through the next spoke bead. String up one **15° Japanese charlotte** and go up through the next spoke bead. Continue in this manner, adding picots of **15° Czech charlottes** alternating with single **15° Japanese charlottes** along either side of the row of “spoke” beads. (**figure 11**)

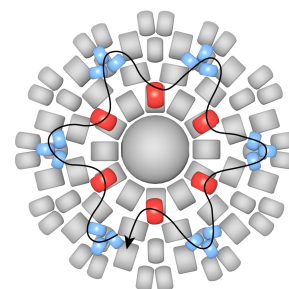


Figure 11

12. Weave the thread up through the beads so it is emerging between the two 15°s in any one of the twelve sets of two that were added in step 9. Slide the needle down on your thread to create a double thread.

String up one **15°A** and pass through the second 15° in the set of two.

Then string up one **15°B** and pass through the first 15° in the next set of two.

String up one **4mm crystal rondelle** and three **15°A**. Pass back down through the rondelle and through the second 15°A in the set of two.

String up one **15°B** and pass through the first 15° in the third set of two. (**figure 12**)

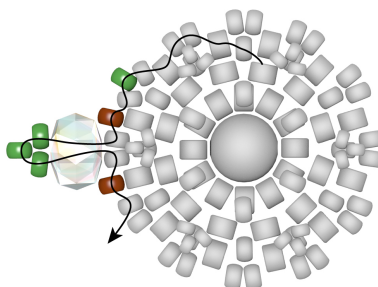


Figure 12

13. Repeat step 12 five more times to complete the snowflake. If you are making earrings, be sure to make a loop of seven **15° Czech charlottes** in one of the places where you would usually put one 15°A between a set of two. (**figure 13**)

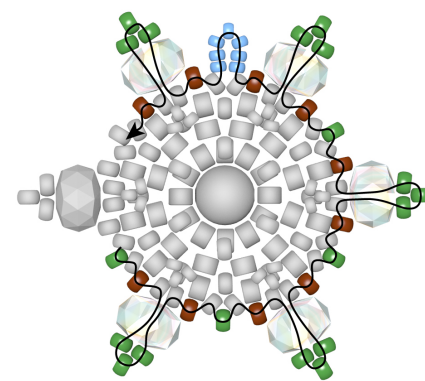


figure 13

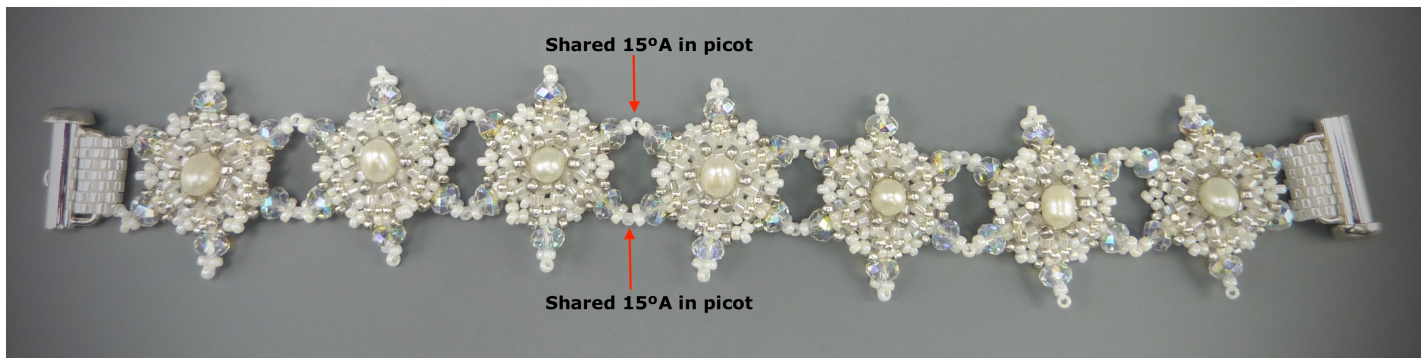
14. Using a pair of chain nose pliers, attach an ear wire to the loop of Czech charlottes.

15. Repeat steps 1 through 14 to create a second earring.

Making a Bracelet

This component also lends itself well to a bracelet. Complete the first component in the same fashion as the earring snowflake was made (with one **15°A** between every other set of two 15°As, the **rondelle/15°A** picot embellishment between every other set of two 15°As and **15°Bs** added between the sets of two) however in place of the loop of Czech charlottes added on the earring, add a single **15°A** between the 15°As.

To attach the first component to the second, you will share the tip bead in the picot of two of the rondelle/picot embellishments. This will connect the two components together in a tidy fashion. This connection process can be continued for as long as you wish to make the bracelet.



Finish off with a clasp of your choice (either beaded or fabricated from metal).

In the sample shown above, I opted for a small (15mm) slide clasp with bar. I first built a strip of flat, odd count peyote with **cylinder A** that is 7 beads wide by 12 rows long. I wrapped this around the bar portion of the clasp, zipped the ends together to create a tube and then tacked two points of each of the end snowflakes to the top and bottom of the tube.



"Beautiful Blizzard Earrings & Bracelet" pattern is 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 project for financial gain. Few things in life are free – as for the things that are – let's keep them that way.