



Sparkling Snowflake Earrings

An original design by Laura McCabe, ©2015

Instructions and photos by Laura McCabe



Supply List

Materials:

- 11° Japanese cylinder beads, 2 grams
- 11° round Japanese seed beads, 64 beads
- 15° round Japanese seed beads
 - color A (ivory gold luster), 32 beads
 - color B (opaque white), 64 beads
 - color C (white gilt lined), 1 gram
 - color D (crystal AB), 64 beads
- 15° Czech charlottes, less than 1 gram
- super 8s, 16 beads
- 3.5-4mm fresh water pearls (or 4mm Swarovski pearls), 2 beads
- French ear wires

Tools:

- Microcrystalline wax
- scissors
- pliers

Notions:

- Fireline, 6lb
- size 12 and 13 beading needles



Note on images: seed beads and super-8s shown in white are relevant to the step described. Seed beads shown in black and super-8s shown in orange have already been added in previous steps.

Part One: Building the Center of the Flake

1. Thread up 3 feet of fireline onto a size 12 beading needle and wax well. String up one 3.5-4mm pearl and three 15°A. Leaving a 6 inch tail, pass back through the pearl to create a picot. **(figure 1)**
2. String up three more 15° A and pass through the pearl again to create a second picot directly across from the first one. Then pass through all three beads in the original picot again. **(figure 2)**
3. String up five 15°A and pass through the three beads in the second picot. **(figure 3)**
4. String up five 15°A and pass through the first and second bead in the first picot. **(figure 4)**
5. Begin peyote stitching with 15°B. Continue stitching until there is a total of eight 15°B added, then step up. **(figure 5)**
6. String up three 15°B and pass through the next 15°B in the previous peyote round. **(figure 6)**
7. Continue in this fashion until there are eight sets of three 15°B. At the end of the round, step up through the first and second 15°B in the first set. **(figure 7)**
8. String up two 15°C, one super 8 and two 15°C. Pass through the middle 15°B in the set of three in the previous round. **(figure 8)**
9. Continue in this fashion until there are eight sets of <two 15°C, one super 8 and two 15°C>. **(figure 9)**
10. Reinforce the previous round by passing through all the bead in that round again. Then weave off both working and tail threads, half hitching once or twice before cutting.



figure 1



figure 2



figure 3



figure 4



figure 5



figure 6



figure 7



figure 8



figure 9

Part Two: Building the Ring

1. Thread up approximately 7 feet of fireline onto a size 12 beading needle. String up sixty-four 15°C. Leave approximately 10 inches of tail. **(figure 10)**
2. Peyote stitch back towards the tail using 15°C. **(figure 11)**



figure 10



figure 11

3. When you reach the tail end, wrap the flat section of peyote stitch around to form a ring. Pass the needle through one of the two 15°s at the far end of the strip. Then change direction and pass through the other of these two 15°s and back through the bead from which you started in this step. Then step up. **(figure 12)**
4. Peyote stitch 4 rows of cylinder beads. **(figure 13)**
5. Weave to the other side of the 15°s and peyote stitch 3 rows of cylinder beads. **(figure 14)**
6. Wrap the tail thread around the inside of the ring and then zip the last row on this side to the last row on the other side to create a solid ring. **(figure 15)**



figure 12



figure 13



figure 14



figure 15

Part Three: Attaching the Flake to the Ring

1. Weave through the beads so the thread is emerging from one of the cylinder beads in the row closest to the 15°s on the inside of the ring. **(figure 16)**



figure 16

2. String up two 15°D. Then pass through the second hole in one of the super 8s on the flake. String up two more 15°D and pass through the next cylinder bead in the row you are working off of on the ring. **(figure 17)**

3. Pass through 6 more cylinder beads in the ring so you are emerging from the cylinder bead 3 ditches away from the first cylinder bead along the same row of cylinders you were working out of. **(figure 18)**



figure 18



figure 17

4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 seven more times to attach all 8 arms of the flake to the inside of the ring.
5. Weave through the cylinder beads so you are emerging from a cylinder bead two rows away from the row that the flakes are attached to.
6. If necessary, switch out to a size 13 beading needle. String up three 15° Czech charlottes and pass through the next cylinder in this row to create a picot. **(figure 19)**
7. Repeat step 6 thirty-one more times to complete the round. **(figure 20)**
8. Step down one row so you are in the middle row of cylinders along the outside edge of the ring. Weave through the beads so you are coming out of a cylinder that is lined up with one of the arms of the flake.
9. String up seven 15° Czech charlottes and pass through the same bead again to create a loop (to which the ear wire will later be attached). **(figure 21)**
10. Then, add one 11° between every cylinder bead in this row. **(figure 22)**
11. Weave off the thread, half hitching once or twice before cutting the tail.



figure 19



figure 20



figure 21



figure 22

Part Four: Attaching the Ear Wire

Using a pair of pliers, attach an ear wire to the loop of charlottes at the top of the ring.



Repeat Parts One through Four to create a second earring.

Another idea:

If you prefer a pendant to an earring, you can add a small peyote stitch bail rather than the loop of Czech charlottes at the top of the flake. After you complete step 7 in Part Three, weave the thread so it is coming out of a cylinder along the middle row of cylinders on the ring. Peyote stitch two cylinders. Change direction with in the ring and continue to build the 3-bead wide tab. **(see figure 23)**



figure 23



What I used:

Materials:

- 11° Japanese cylinder beads (DB551F)
- 11° round Japanese seed beads (miyuki 551)
- 15° round Japanese seed beads
 - color A (miyuki 2442)
 - color B (miyuki 471)
 - color C (miyuki 551)
 - color D (toho 161)
- 15° Czech charlottes (crystal AB)
- super 8s (crystal AB)
- 3.5-4mm fresh water pearls (white pearls)
- French ear wires (sterling silver)



“Sparkling Snowflake Earrings” 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.