

Candelabrum Earrings



*Free Holiday Pattern - December 2008
An original design by Laura McCabe*

"Candelabrum 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

Materials

Size 15° Japanese seed beads (2 grams total of 4-5 colors)
 Size 11° Japanese seed beads (two beads)
 Size 15° Czech Charlottes (approx. 80 beads)
 Two 8mm-ish round pearls
 Two 4-6mm-ish round pearls
 Two 4x6mm rice pearls
 Eight 4x6mm drops (crystal or glass)
 Two 2x4mm Czech glass rondelles
 Two French wire earring hooks

Notions

6lb Fireline
 size 13 English beading needles

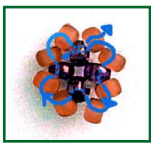
Tools

Scissors
 Microcrystalline wax
 Chain nose pliers

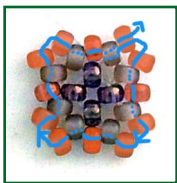
Creating the Beaded Form



String up four 15° seed beads onto 7 feet of fireline. Tie a square knot, leaving about a 20 inch tail. Pass through the first bead (to hide the knot), then pick up two 15°s and go through the very next bead.



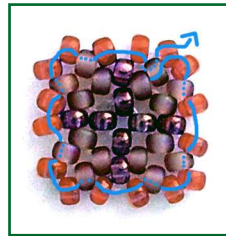
Now pick up two more 15°s and go through the next bead. Repeat two more times until you have gone all the way around and are coming out of the first bead where you began the additions. Step up through the first of the set of two you added. Now you are ready to begin another round.



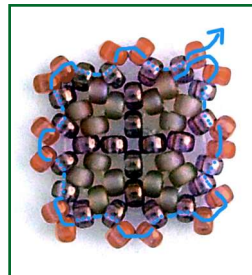
Each set of two beads is the start of a ladder of Ndebele. Working off of the first ladder (coming out of the first bead), pick up two 15°s and go down the second bead in the first set of two. Pick up one 15° before coming up through the first bead in the next set of two, pick up two 15°s and go down through the second bead in that set.

Repeat two more times for a total of 4 additions of 2 beads atop each tower and 4 additions of one 15° between each of the towers.

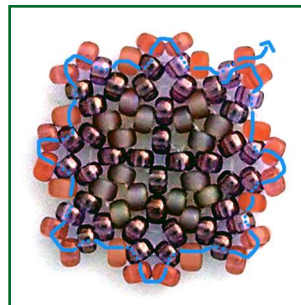
Before beginning the next round, you will need to step up through two beads (the first bead added in the first round and the first bead added in this round. With out this "step up," the herringbone would begin to spiral. Every time you finish around of Ndebele, remember there will be a step up through 2 beads (shown upper right corner in all photos).



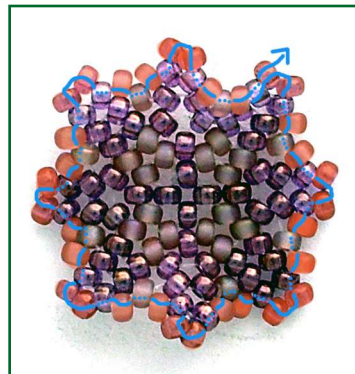
Now do another round, this time picking up two beads atop each ladder and two beads between each of the four ladders.



Do another round, now using the two "between ladder beads" to begin four more ladders (one in between each of the four original ladders), for a total of 8 ladders.



Continue another round, this time adding two beads to each of the 8 ladders, and one bead between ladders.



Now do another round, adding two beads to each of the 8 ladders and peyote stitching in between two between (utilizing the one bead added between towers on the previous round).

Do four more rounds in this manner. The final round has two beads atop each of the “up” ladders of Ndebele, and five beads peyote stitched between each of the ladders.

As you do each round, the sides will curve and wave very quickly in order to take on their pointed forms. Let this form happen as naturally as possible, only assisting when necessary to ensure that every other point is “up” and the ones in between are “down.”

Adding the Pearls and Earring Loop

Before sealing up the chandelier form, you will need to add the pearls that lie inside the form, as well as the loop of beads atop the earrings which the French wires are attached to.

Thread up the long tail thread (which should be coming out of one of the original four beads in the initial circle), and needle down to the “inside” of the form. Pick up one 11° seed bead, one 2x4mm Czech glass rondelle, the larger of the round pearls, the smaller of the round pearls, and three 15° Czech charlottes.

Pass back up through the two pearls, rondelle and 11° and into another of the four 15°s in the initial circle of beads. This makes a picot of the charlotte. Coming out of that 15° in the initial circle of beads on the topside of the form, pick up the rice pearl and nine 15°s. Go back down through the pearl and into the “initial four bead,” directly across from the one you started at. Go back through the pearl and the 15°s another time to reinforce this loop and then back through the “initial four bead” where you began.

Now pick up five size 15° Czech charlottes and go through the “initial four bead” directly across the one you are coming out of (the bead which you utilized when adding the loop). Now pick up five more 15° Czech charlotte and go through the first of the “initial four beads.” Pass through the first set of 5 charlottes, and add on two new ones before passing through the second set of 5 charlottes. Add two more charlottes and go back into the first set of 5, half hitching a couple times before cutting the thread. This creates a circle of charlottes at the base of the rice pearl.

Sealing Up the Form

If your thread on the beaded form is coming out of a “down ladder”, weave it up so it is coming out of the first of the two beads in an “up ladder.”

Now pick up one 15° (a contrast color from the previous row), and go down into the second bead in the ladder. Add one 15° between each bead (peyote stitched) until you have a total of 6 beads added (not including the one at the top point). You should now be coming out of the first of the two beads in a “down ladder” of Ndebele. Pick up three 15°s (a different color than the one being used to “seal up” and go up into the second bead in the down ladder to form a picot of three 15°s at the bottom of the ladder.

Peyote stitch back up to the top of the next “up ladder,” adding a total of 6 peyote stitched beads.

Coming out of the first bead in the “up ladder” of Ndebele, add one 15°, to create a point. Now zip the two sides together by weaving back and forth, utilizing the 15°s previously added to seal the sides together. Zip in this manner for three beads. Then go back to adding a bead in between each bead (that means there will be two new beads peyote-stitched in once you reach the “down ladder” where the picot of three 15°s are added. Continue in this manner all the way around until all the sides have been sealed to each other.

Once complete, you should find yourself coming out of one of the 15°s in one of the top points. String up seven 15° Czech charlottes, one 15° Japanese seed bead, one 4x6mm drop, one 15° Japanese seed bead, and seven 15° Czech charlottes. Go through the 15° atop the next point. Continue in this manner all the way around so you have four “swags” connecting the points.

Half hitch twice before cutting off the tail.

Attaching the Ear Wires

Using a chain nose pliers, attach the French ear wires to the loops of 15°s atop each earring.