

Hoop Dreams



MATERIALS

earring pair

- 1g assorted seed beads, size 6° to 11°
- 2 25mm wire hoop earrings
- Nymo B or D conditioned with beeswax
- beading needles, #10 or 12
- G-S Hypo Cement or clear nail polish
- chainnose pliers

Weave leftover beads into brick-stitch curves. Finish with picot edges to score a few 3-pointers.

by **Carol Cypher**

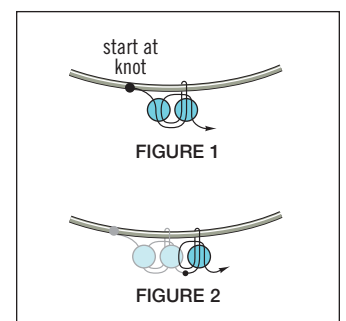
stepbystep

[1] Using 2½ ft. (76cm) of thread, tie a half-hitch knot (Basics, p. 170) on an earring hoop, leaving a 6-in. (15cm) tail. Thread the needle onto the long end.

[2] Select a group of size 6° and 8° seed beads. Pick up two beads and slide them against the outer rim of the hoop. Align the holes so they

are parallel to the wire. Take the thread around the hoop, then sew back through the the beads as shown in **figure 1**. Pull tight and position the beads against the hoop (**photo a**).

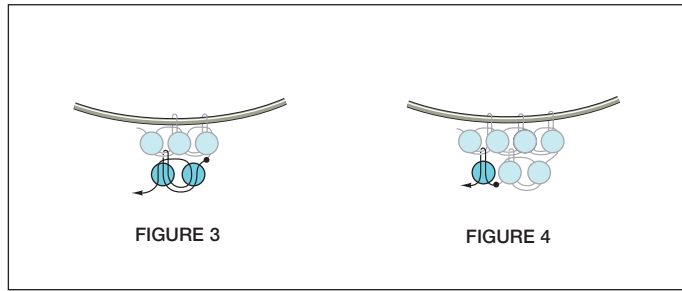
[3] Pick up one bead and go around the hoop. Sew back through the third and second beads then through the third bead (**figure 2**). Continue in this modified ladder stitch,





picking up a total of 13 to 15 beads (photo b).

[4] Work row 2 in brick stitch (Basics and figures 3 and 4). Pick up two beads, then go around the thread bridge between the second and third beads at the end of row 1. Sew back through the second and first bead added in row 2, then go back through the second bead. Pick up a total of 11 to 14



beads (photo c). **[5]** For the beads on the outer edge to fit snugly, you may need to work an increase in brick stitch (Basics) by connecting two beads to the same bridge thread.

[6] For row three, work in brick stitch adding a picot edge as follows: Pick up an 11° and a larger bead. Skip the 11° and sew back

through the new bead as usual. The picot beads sit perpendicular to the other beads on row 3 (photo d).

[7] Weave your thread back through the beads, following the thread path. Tie a half-hitch knot between beads, then dab the knot with glue. When the glue dries, weave the tail through the next few

EDITOR'S NOTE:
Don't limit your mix of beads to seeds. Use metal spacers and small crystals for added sparkle.



beads and cut the excess. Thread your needle on the tail and repeat.

[8] Bend 1/8 in. (3mm) of wire on the hoop earring using your chainnose pliers (photo e).

[9] Make a second earring to match the first. ●

Carol teaches felting and beading nationwide. Contact her at carol@carolcypher.com or (845) 384-8417. To view more of her work, visit www.carolcypher.com.

