



HERRINGBONE CLUSTER EARRINGS

These beautiful cluster earrings are made using tubular herringbone that's embellished during the weaving process. Work the earrings from top to bottom, punctuating them with a delicate freshwater pearl.

Note: Japanese charlottes are *much* larger than Czech charlottes; the two are not interchangeable. Be sure to use the type described in the materials list.

► Bead Cluster

1 Cut 6 feet (1.8 m) of thread. Thread it onto a size 13 beading needle, and wax it well.

2 String up sixteen 15° seed beads. Leaving approximately 15 inches (38.1 cm) of tail, pass through the first bead again to create a circle of beads. Begin tubular her-

ringbone: Pick up two 15° seed beads and go through the very next bead. Skip over 2 beads (thread on the outside) and go through the bead after that. Repeat 3 more times. With the last pass through, make sure the needle goes through the 15° that the tail thread is exiting. Step up through the next bead and pull in to create the 4-ladder herringbone start. For detailed directions on tubular herringbone, see page 21.

SUPPLIES

Basic Beading Kit (page 12)

Size 11° Japanese seed beads:

Metallic olive gold, 1 g

Aqua 24-karat gold lined, 2 g

Chartreuse 24-karat gold lined, 2 g

Teal 24-karat-lined size 15° Japanese seed beads, 1 g

24-karat-gold size 15° Czech charlotte beads, 2 g

32 jet AB2X (blue tone) crystal bicones, 3 mm

32 jet AB2X (green tone) crystal bicones, 4 mm

16 gold-colored freshwater pearls, 5.5 mm

2 blue freshwater pearls, 6 mm

French ear wires, 1 pair

Chain-nose pliers

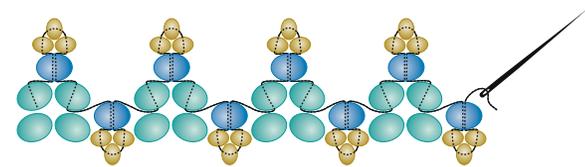


figure 1

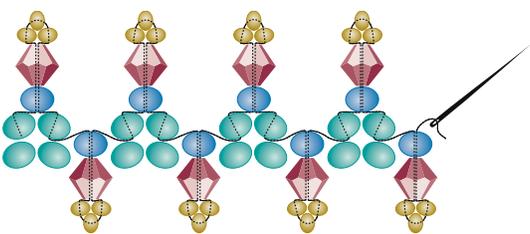


figure 2

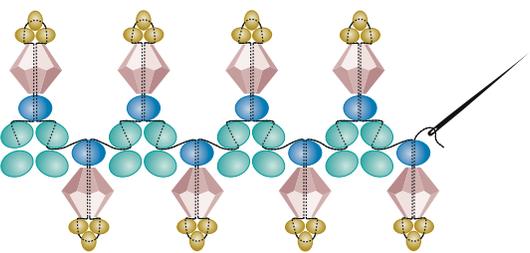


figure 3

3 Bead 1 round of herringbone with 11° seed beads in metallic olive gold. Bead the next round of herringbone with 11° seed beads in aqua 24-karat lined. From this point on, always use aqua 24-karat-lined 11°s for the core of the herringbone.

4 You're ready to add a round of simple picot embellishments. Make them by coming out of the first bead in the first ladder of herringbone and picking up 1 chartreuse 24-karat-lined 11° and three 15° charlottes. From this point on, always use a chartreuse 24-karat-lined 11° as the base bead in all embellishments. Go back through the 11° to form a picot of the charlottes, and down into the second bead in the first ladder of herringbone. Duplicate the embellishment sequence

between the first and second ladders, then come up through the first bead in the second ladder and repeat the embellishment a third time. Continue embellishing around the herringbone core. Upon its completion, you'll have 1 embellishment on top of, and 1 embellishment between, each ladder, for a total of 8 embellishments on that single round (figure 1).

5 Bead 1 round of normal herringbone with 11° seed beads.

6 Bead 1 round of 3-mm bicone embellishments. Do this by coming out of the first bead in the first ladder of herringbone and picking up 1 chartreuse 24-karat-lined 11°, one 3-mm crystal bicone, and three 15° charlottes. Go back through the bicone and the 11° to form a picot of charlottes.

Go back down into the second bead in the first ladder of herringbone. Repeat the embellishment sequence between the first and second ladders, then come up through the first bead in the second ladder and repeat the embellishment a third time. Continue in this manner, adding 1 embellishment on top of each ladder and 1 embellishment between each ladder, for a total of 8 embellishments in the round (figure 2).

7 Bead 1 round of normal herringbone with 11° seed beads.

8 Bead 1 round of 4-mm bicone embellishments by coming out of the first bead in the first ladder of herringbone and picking up 1 chartreuse 24-karat-lined 11°, one 4-mm crystal bicone, and three 15° charlottes. Go back through the bicone and the 11° to form a picot of charlottes. Go back down into the second bead in the first ladder of herringbone. Repeat the embellishment sequence between the first and second ladders, then come up through the first bead in the second ladder and bead an identical third embellishment. Continue in this way, adding 1 embellishment on top of each ladder and 1 embellishment between each ladder for a total of 8 embellishments in this round (figure 3).

9 Bead 2 rounds of normal herringbone with 11° seed beads.

10 Bead 1 round of pearl embellishments: Come out of the first bead in the first ladder of herringbone and pick up 1 chartreuse 24-karat-lined 11°, 1 gold-colored pearl, and three 15° charlottes. Go back through the pearl and the 11° to form a picot of the charlottes. Go back down into the second bead in the first ladder of herringbone. Repeat the embellishment

sequence between the first and second ladders, then come up through the first bead in the second ladder and bead the embellishment a third time. Continue in this manner, adding 1 embellishment on top of each ladder and 1 between each ladder for a total of 8 embellishments in this round (figure 4).

11 Bead 2 rounds of normal herringbone with 11° seed beads.

12 Bead another round of 4-mm bicone embellishments (see step 8 above).

13 Bead 1 round of normal herringbone with 11° seed beads.

14 Bead 1 round of 3-mm bicone embellishments (see step 6 above).

15 Bead 1 round of normal herringbone with 11° seed beads.

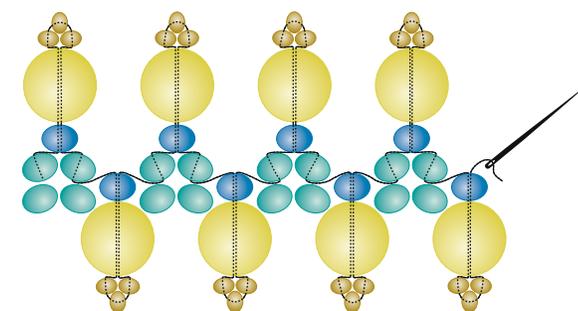


figure 4

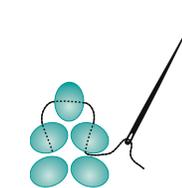


figure 5

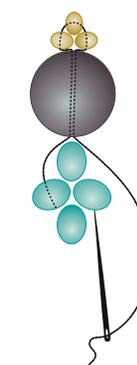


figure 6

► Add the Pearl

1 Add only 1 metallic olive gold 11° on top of each ladder of herringbone (figure 5).

2 Step up so the thread's coming out of the first of the 4 beads just added. Pick up a 6-mm blue pearl and three 15° charlottes. Go back through the pearl to create a picot of charlottes and into the 11° directly across from the bead just exited to create the embellishment (figure 6).

3 Make a second pass up through the pearl, through the picot, back through the pearl, and back into the bead the thread originally came out of.

4 Add 1 metallic olive gold 11° between each of the four 11°s added prior to making the pearl embellishment. Pull tight and weave in the tail, half hitching 2 or 3 times before cutting it off.

► Add the Loop

1 Using the tail thread at the top of the cluster, weave 1 row of regular herringbone using metallic olive gold 11°s.

2 Weave another row, this time adding only 1 metallic olive gold 11° on top of each ladder of herringbone.

3 Step up so you're coming out of the first of the 4 beads just added. Pick up nine 15° charlottes. Go through the 11° directly opposite the one you just exited from (figure 7).

4 Add 3 more 15° charlottes. Go through the middle 3 (of the 9) charlottes previously added, and then add 3 more 15° charlottes.

5 Go back into the original 11° you came out of to create the loop of charlottes, and weave in the tail, half hitching 2 or 3 times before cutting it off.

► Assembly

1 To attach an ear wire to the loop of 15° charlottes at the top of the earrings, pry open the loop on the ear wire with chain-nose pliers, slip the loop of beads onto the ear wire, then close the ear wire.

2 Repeat to make a second earring.

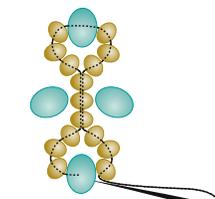


figure 7