

Lantern earrings tutorial

By Pauline Peskoff



Lantern earrings

Peskoff Designs •••

Beads & materials:

- A. 2 12mm Swarovski Artemis beads (yellow)
- B. 2 4mm jet black round beads
- C. 2 size 6 round black seed beads
- D. 2 size 6 or 8 crystal seed bead
- E. 4 size 8 round black seed beads
- F. 6 black drop (fringe) beads
- G. Size 15 round black seed beads
- H. Size 11 black Delica
- I. Size 15 Czech charlottes in a dark colour/finish (these are smaller than 15 rounds). Size 21/22 seed beads also work.
- J. 2 jumprings
- K. 2 earwires
- L. FireLine thread
- M. 1 English beading needle, size 11-13

Introduction:

This project assumes prerequisite knowledge of Cubic Right Angle Weave (CRAW) and square stitch. With this in mind, the exact thread paths are not always shown.

Follow the thread path in the way that's comfortable to you to go from one step to another. You will need work with thin needles (size 12/13 are good, if you have a size 15 needle, you may need that in tight spaces) and thin Fireline thread (0.08 inches). Make sure to rest your eyes as you will be working with some of the tiniest beads in the industry.

Note: the length of thread is not given. Work with comfortable length and add more as you need to. This will prevent unnecessary tangling.

Project Overview:

Lanterns are composed of several parts that are stitched on their own and then sewn together. We will be working through the project in this order (per 1 lantern):

- I. Lantern base with Artemis bead
- II. 4 lantern posts
- III. Roof base
- IV. Roof top
- V. Combining roof base with roof top
- VI. Put the lantern together + finishing touches

Part I: Lantern base

1. Stitch up a square of CRAW with size 15 rounds (G), each side 4 CRAW units long (Figure 1).

Basic CRAW unit:

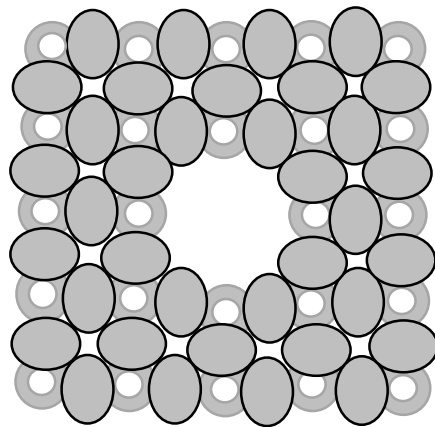
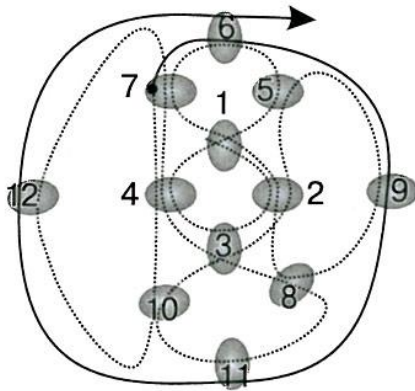


Figure 1

2. Complete one side of the square with right angle weave. You will end up with a CRAW square with a pit in the middle (Figure 2).
3. Exit one of the middle beads you just added, pick up the Artemis crystal and the size 6 crystal seed bead (D), go back through the Artemis bead, and anchor them in the base of the CRAW square. Repeat thread path 3-4 times to make sure Artemis bead sits tightly in the square (Figure 3).

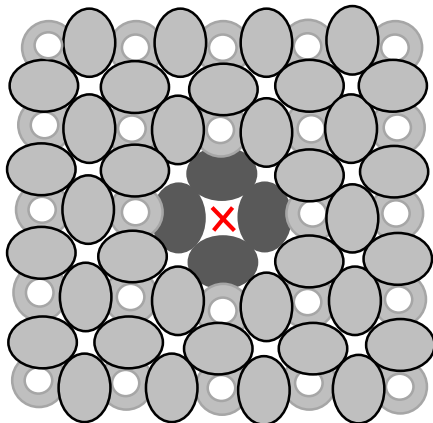


Figure 2

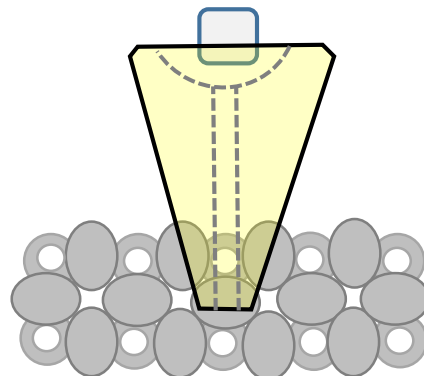


Figure 3

- Exit on the bottom of the CRAW base (through the middle, indicated by a cross in Figure 2) and add a loop of 4mm round bead and 3 drop beads (Figure 4).
- You will notice that the Artemis bead still sits pretty loosely in the pit. Artemis bead is not actually perfectly symmetrical, so it won't sit perfectly straight when looking from any side. However, we will anchor it more.
- Add a row of size 15 charlottes (I) on the inner edge of CRAW square, immediately next to the Artemis bead. Pull the row tight to make a tight circle around the bead to hold it in place better (Figure 5).

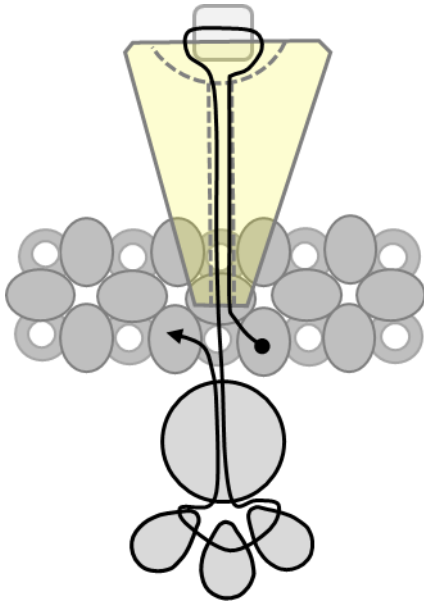


Figure 4

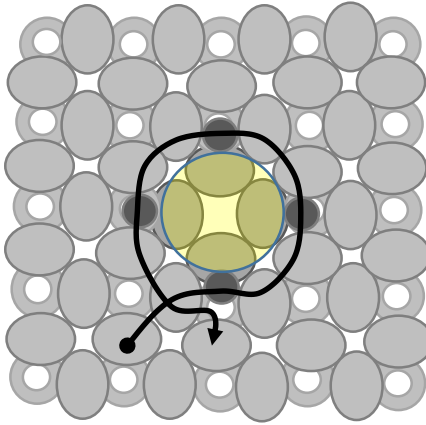


Figure 5

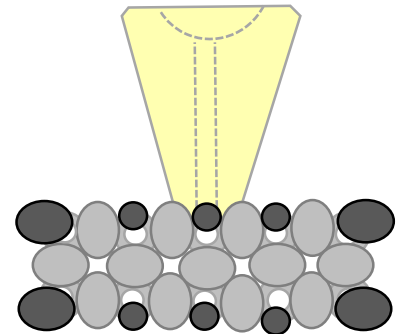


Figure 6: side view of the CRAW square base.

- Add a row of charlottes all around the square base on the bottom and the top (Figure 6). Note: on the corners, place a size 15 round (G) instead. This will give the structure a more "square look". Tie a knot but don't cut off the tail.

Part II: Lantern Posts

- Stitch up a ladder 13 steps high, using 11 Delicas (H) (Figure 7). The diagram shows a 5-step ladder.
- Add another column to the ladder using a square stitch (Figure 8).
- Squeeze the outer two columns together and stitch them together in a similar fashion. You will now have a tight tri-column of Declicas. This is your Lantern post! Make three more of these and set them aside. Do not trim off the tails just yet.

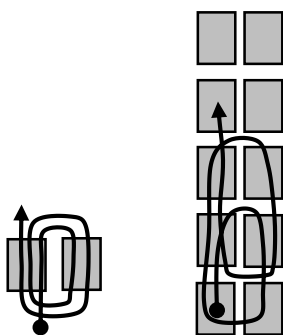


Figure 7

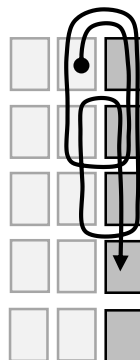
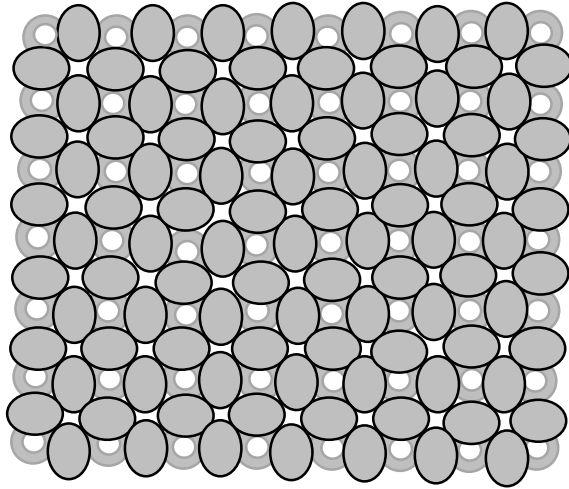


Figure 8

Part III: Roof base

1. Stitch up a CRAW block 7 units long and 6 units wide using 15 rounds.
2. Embellish with charlottes and 15s as in part I, step 7.



Part IV: Roof top

1. Back to Delicas! Make a ladder of Delicas (2 rows), 12 step high. Keep adding rows using square stitch, 2 less each time, until you have 4 Delicas in the top row (Figure 9). Add another row of 4 delicas. This is Roof Side 1.
2. Stitch up another roof side in the same way, except with only one row of 4 Delicas on top (Figure 10). This is Roof Side 2.

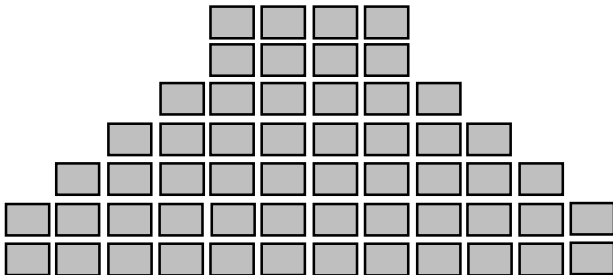


Figure 9: Roof Side 1

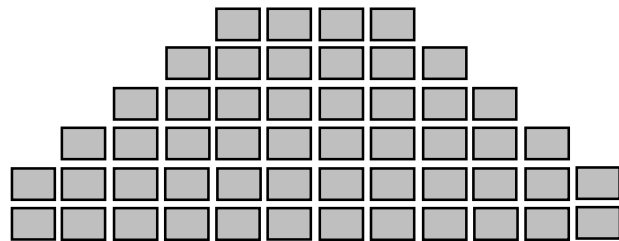


Figure 10: Roof Side 2

3. Stitch together the first row of 4 Delicas on Roof Side 1 and the 4 Delicas on Roof Side 2 (highlighted). This will push down the second row of 4 Delicas on Roof Side 1 (Figure 11).
4. Use the same square stitch to add two Delicas. You need these to sit in the middle of the two highlighted rows in Figure 11, so you need to stitch it to one row of 4 and then stitch it to another on the other side (Figure 12).

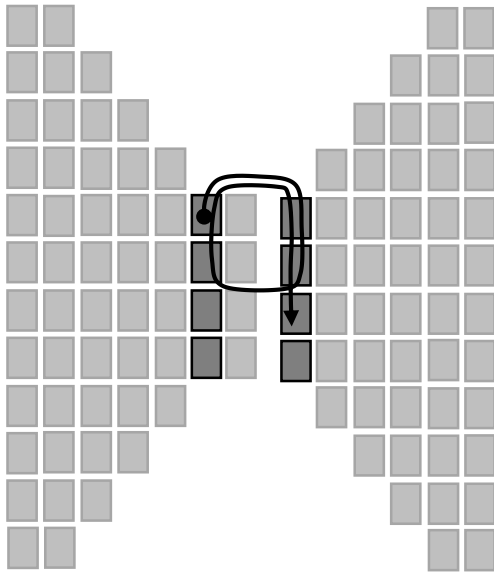


Figure 11

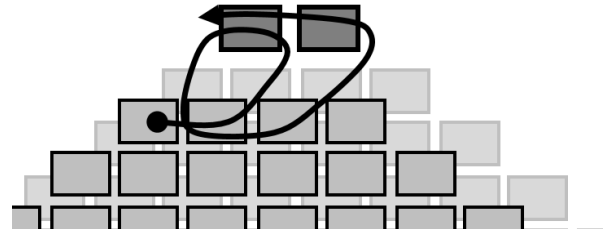


Figure 12: Repeat on both sides

5. Exit the top two Delicas. Pick up 1 size 8 black round seed bead, 1 size 6 beads, and another size 8. Go through the top 2 Delicas again, making a loop (Figure 13). Repeat again skipping the size 6 bead. This will make the two size 8 beads lift upward (Figure 14).
6. Use pliers to put a jumpring onto your chosen ear wire, then put the jumpring through the top size 6 bead. Close up the jumpring (Figure 15).

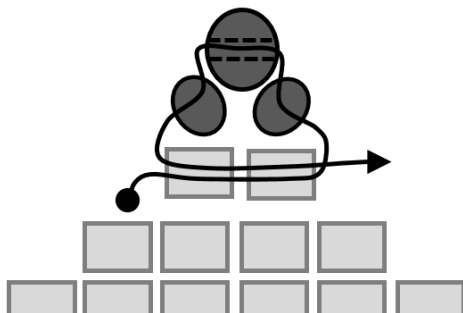


Figure 13

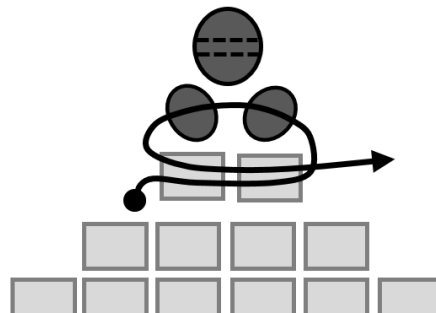


Figure 14

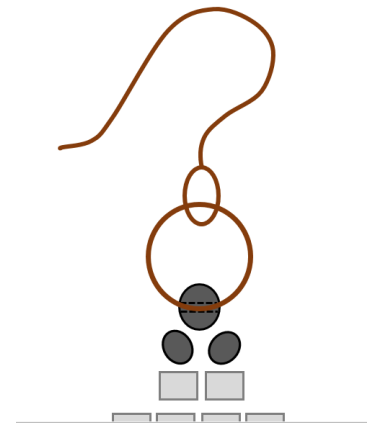


Figure 15

Part V: Combine roof base + roof top

1. Place the roof top over the roof base as shown on Figure 16 and sew each roof side onto the base between two outer rows (shown by dash line).
2. Follow the thread path over to the top and add side walls with Delicas and charlottes (Figure 17). You are now making tight passes through bead holes. If you have a thinner needle (e.g. size 15), using that will help.

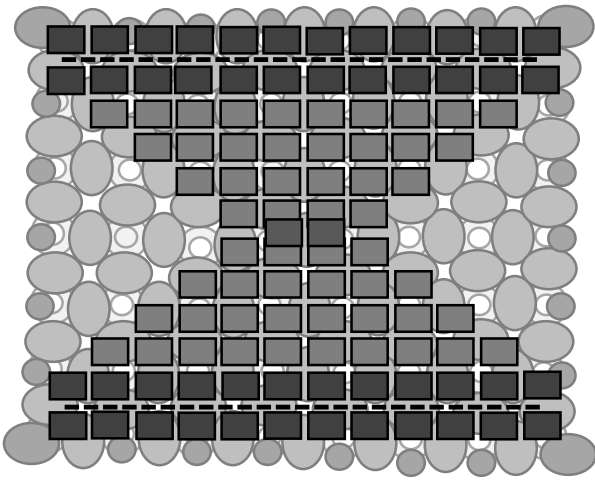


Figure 16: top view

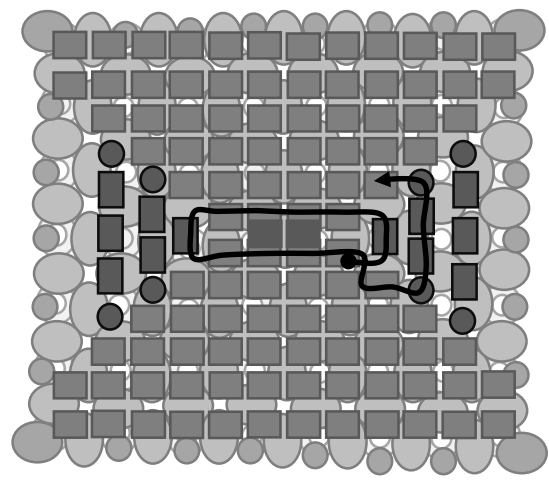


Figure 17

Part VI: Put the lantern together + finishing touches

1. Now you have all of these components with what feels like a million thread tails. Be patients and fight the urge to make knots and end thread! Thread longer tails of components for next steps.
2. Thread a tail on the lantern base, if you have a long enough one. If not, start a new thread. Place one of the lantern posts on one corner of the base and sew it on going through corner beads of the base, through a column of Delicas (shown as cylinders for simplicity), then through the corner beads of the roof (Figure 18).
3. Pick up 6 15 rounds, go back through the 3rd bead. Pick up 3 more 15 rounds. Make a thread path that's comfortable to go back down through a side column of Delicas in the lantern post.
4. Follow a comfortable thread back in the base, go up the third column of Delicas in the post and add 3 15 rounds on the other side of the six you pick up in step 3. You may need to go up and down additional times through the post until it is sewn tightly to the lantern base and the lantern top. Repeat steps 1-4 for 3 remaining posts.

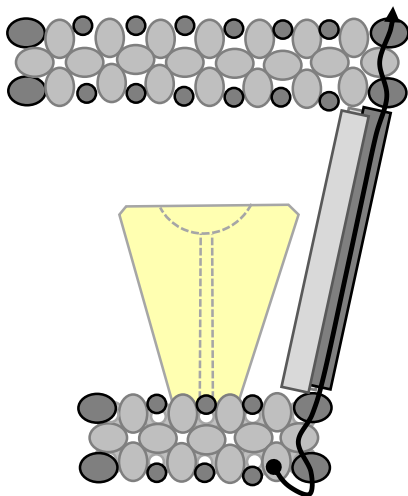


Figure 18

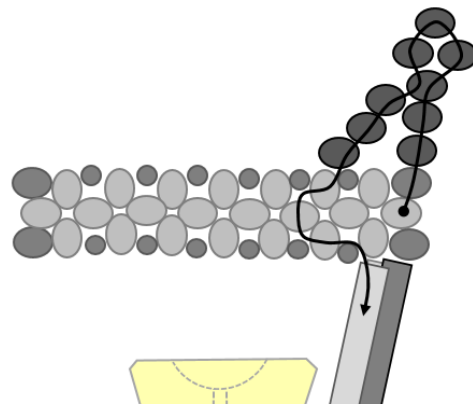


Figure 19

Final touch: Pin the lantern down on a lint free surface (I use zip-lock bag over my beading board) making sure the posts are as straight as can be. Apply clear nail polish over them and let them dry. Repeat for other components to ensure the lantern hold its shape well. **Congratulations, you are done!**