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Beautifully iridescent dagger beads with an etched feather pattern work up into outstanding earrings!

SUPPLIES:

14 - 5x17mm feather-etched dagger beads, wasabi green

Size 11 Delica beads, 1 gram of each:

A DB385 matte sea glass translucent

BDB799 matte lilac

CDB23C bronze AB hex cut

DB371 matte gold-green

Size 15 seed beads: 1 gram 457 bronze

Beading needles Beading thread, Miyuki #9 purple Gold kidney earwires, 47.5mm) Indicates dagger bead

Shape indicates size 11° Delica seed bead.

Do you prefer photos? Refer to page 5 for photos of these steps.



Cut 5 feet (1.75M) of thread and thread your needle. Pick up: 1 Dagger, 1 Delica A, 1 Dagger, 1 Delica A. Run your needle back through the first two beads. Leave a 10-12 inch (25-31cm) tail.

Editor's note: Steps 1-5 Illustrate a modified right-angle weave start to this project. If you'd prefer to use regular RAW, start as in step 1, using Daggers and Delica A, to make a strip with 7 daggers. Then skip to step 6 below.





Pick up: Delica B, A, Dagger, A. Pass needle through the adjoining Dagger, then through the first A you picked up in this illustration 2.



Continue in the pattern as above until there are **seven** Daggers in the band, as represented by the aqua beads below:



Next you'll use Delica B to fill in the spaces all the way around the band. I have drawn the needle travelling clockwise, but you will likely be moving the beadwork around as you go. Do what feels natural, and use these illustrations to refer to the threadpath. The first bead in this round is marked 'B'.



Upon adding the last bead, put your needle through both the seated **A** and the first **B**. This will position you to start the next row in Peyote stitch.

This 'step up' will be performed at the end of each round, and is illustrated by the needle going through both beads.



From now on, you'll be working in the round, off the edge of the MRAW band. The first round begins by adding one C, peyote-fashion, shown in green, marked with 1.



Continue working around the band, adding two beads instead of one between the Bs at the ends as shown. Notice the step-up at the end of the round.



The next round (D) is shown in aqua; pick up and add the first bead as usual. In the next space, pick up two beads instead of one, going through the neighboring C normally.

At the ends, begin stacking the pairs. Go through the first C, pick up two D, then come down through the next C from the pair.

The illustration above shows the round completed, including step up.



Illustration 14 shows the next round, in Delica A.

This round is added in exactly the same way as the last, working in peyote except for the stacking pairs at the ends and on the sides.

Keep working in this pattern: next rounds B-C-D-A.

This is where the beadwork will start to flex and fold, making the threadpath difficult to diagram. Skip to page 6 where the directions continue in photographs. The illustration above corresponds to the photo marked with *.

Look out for the pairs of beads getting twisted. Always make sure the thread is straight before adding the next pair. This problem only lasts for the first couple of rounds. Things will start to sit better as you go along.

The numbers refer to the corresponding diagrams.

1) Starting the MRAW band:



2) and 3) Adding the next segment:



6-8) Adding accent beads around the opposite side of the band, photos showing the end, adding one accent, go through dagger, pick up accent, go through Delica.



9) First round of beads added peyote-fashion, showing step-up at the end. Note the thread coming out the first (green) bead in this round.



13) Beginning with this round, add a pair of beads at the midpoint of each side and at the ends



14) Continuing in the same fashion:



You can see in these photos how the pairs and their neighbors stack up neatly, and how the beadwork starts to fold as you work.

15) Reading counter-clockwise from the photo at left, continue the pattern.

Counting from the MRAW center, your pattern will be A-B-C-D-A-B-C-D-A.





16) Here's a view of the 'daggers' side of the work. The size of the dagger beads means your band is likely loose. At this point, after finishing your last round, take a moment to tighten up any loose places in your work and weave in (and cut) your tail. Just follow the existing threadpath, backtracking regularly to secure the thread.

To proceed, needle your working thread to one of the points along the side of the piece.



17) Add one size 15 round bead in each space on ONE side of the piece. Pick up six beads to form a hanging loop at the tip.



18) Fold the piece up, like a book.

Your needle, after step 17, is coming out of one of the pairs along the side, corresponding to the bead indicated by a black arrow.

The blue line shows the threadpath you'll follow, zipping the edges together, effectively using the round 15s to fill each space.

Zip the whole edge, creating a closed arrowhead shape.



19) Open an earwire and gently slide the loop of 6 size 15s over the wire and into the loop at the bottom.

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