

Faber-gist earrings

I call these “Faber-gist” because I was going for look of a Faberge egg and while it’s not quite there, you get the gist. Actually, I was really going for a simple design that you could whip up in no time for a last minute egg stuffer. I adapted these from the “Twin Spin” project in my latest book, *Quick & Easy Stitched Jewelry*.

By Cathy Jakicic

1. Thread a needle on one end of 24 in. (61 cm) of conditioned thread. Pick up: one Super Duo, two 4 mm bicones, one SuperDuo, one bicone, one SuperDuo, two bicones, one SuperDuo, one bicone, one SuperDuo, one bicone, one SuperDuo, two bicones, one SuperDuo, one bicone, one SuperDuo, and two bicones (**FIGURE 1, A-B**). Tie the beads into a ring with a square knot, and sew through all the beads again except the last two bicones (**b-c**). The SuperDuos will point outward for now.

2. Sew back through the open hole of the SuperDuo your thread is exiting (**FIGURE 2, A-B**). The thread path has now reversed directions.

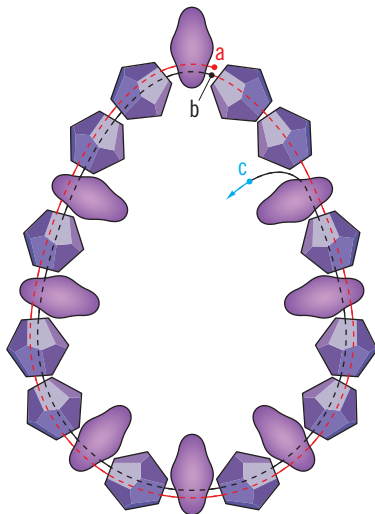


FIGURE 1

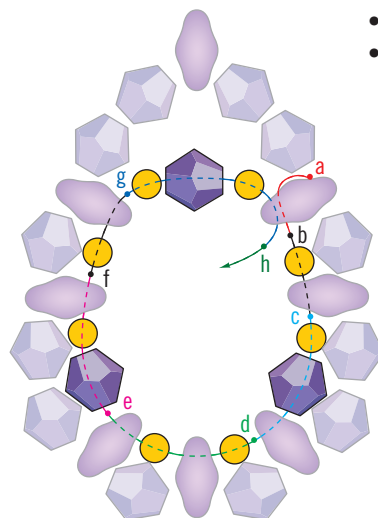


FIGURE 2



Supplies

blue earrings 1¾ in. (4.4 cm)

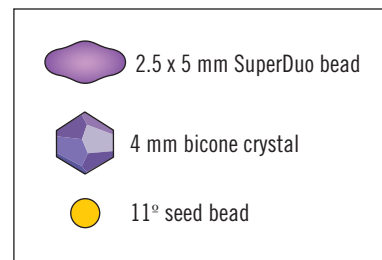
- 16 2.5 x 5 mm SuperDuos (metallic light green suede)
- 30 4 mm bicones (Swarovski, Caribbean blue opal)
- 16 11° seed beads or 11° cylinder beads (Miyuki Delica DB0753, opaque dark red)
- 2 3–7 mm 24-gauge jump rings
- 1 pair of earring wires
- #10 or #12 beading needle
- thread in a color that blends with the SuperDuo color
- thread conditioner
- 2 pairs of chainnose pliers

purple earring colors

- 2.5 x 5 mm SuperDuos (Vega on chalk)
- 4 mm bicones (Swarovski, purple velvet)
- 11° seed beads or 11° cylinder beads (Miyuki 4202, Duracoat galvanized gold)

green earring colors

- 2.5 x 5 mm SuperDuos (turquoise green)
- 4 mm bicones (Swarovski, chrysolite opal AB2X)
- 11° seed beads or 11° cylinder beads (Miyuki 4202, Duracoat galvanized gold)



3. Pick up an 11° seed bead, and sew through the open hole of the next SuperDuo (b–c). Pull snug so this side of the SuperDuo flips to the inside of the ring. Working in the same manner, pick up an 11° and a bicone, and sew through the open hole of the next SuperDuo (c–d). Pick up an 11°, and sew through the open hole of the next SuperDuo. Repeat this stitch (d–e). Pick up a bicone and an 11°, and sew through the open hole of the next SuperDuo (e–f). Pick up an 11°, and sew through the open hole of the next SuperDuo (f–g). Pick up an 11°, a bicone, and an 11°, skip the next two bicones, SuperDuo, and two bicones, and sew through the inner hole of the next SuperDuo (g–h).

4. Retrace the thread path through all the beads in the inner ring again to snug up the beads. Sew through the outer hole of a SuperDuo, and then retrace the thread path of the outer ring again. Tie the working thread and tail together with a square knot, and end the threads.

5. Open a jump ring, and attach the outer hole of the top SuperDuo to the loop of an earring wire. Close the jump ring.

6. Repeat steps 1–5 to make the second earring.



A STURDY FINISH

I often use clear floor finish to stiffen up the bead shape when sewing back through the beads with multiple thread passes doesn't do the job. I just apply the finish between the beads with a paint brush and the thread absorbs it. When it dries, the piece is much stiffer, but not brittle. In this case, it also allows me to soften the narrower end of the loop to make it more "eggy."

On the other hand — and this is a first for me — the finish significantly darkened the appearance of the Delicas. I had used bright red cylinder beads for a contrasting pop of color. But the finish, added to the blue thread, makes them appear much darker. So, it's a good idea to color test your design if you plan to use the floor finish.

If you don't wish to use floor finish, another option to stiffen your beadwork is to use doubled thread.

Cathy Jakicic is the former editor of Bead Style magazine and the author of the books Quick & Easy Stitched Jewelry, Jewelry Projects from a Beading Insider, and Hip Handmade Memory Jewelry. She has been creating jewelry for more than 15 years.

