Bead mixes vary — some contain several shades of the same size bead whereas others, like the one I used, contain beads of several different colors and styles. This bead mix contains three colors of 110 seed beads, four colors of 80 seed beads, one color of 60 seed beads, and two colors of 6 mm bugle beads. For these earrings, you’ll need one color each of 110s (seafoam) and 80s (gold) and both colors of bugle beads (I used the shiny one as color A and the matte one as color B). You won’t need all the beads in all three packages of the mix, but you’ll probably need all three packs to make sure you have enough of each individual bead. It’s better to have too many than fall short. And these packages are inexpensive — three packages cost less than $4!

**Earring dangle**

1. On 2 yd. (1.8 m) of thread, pick up four 80 seed beads. Leaving a 6-in. (15 cm) tail, tie the beads into a ring with a square knot, and sew through the first 80 again.

2. Pick up an 110 seed bead, and sew through the next 80. Repeat this stitch three times, exiting the first 80 (figure 1).

3. Pick up a color A bugle bead, an 110, an A, an 80, an A, an 110, and an A, and sew through the 80 your thread exited at the start of this step (figure 2, a–b). Retrace the thread path through the bugles, skipping the seed beads, and sew through the first bugle again (b–c). Pull tight so the seed beads pop out at the corners, forming a diamond shape.

4. Pick up an A, and sew through the first bugle again (figure 3). Pull tight so the bugles are side by side.

5. Pick up an A, an 110, an A, an 80, an A, and an 110, and sew through the adjacent A and the next 80 (figure 5).

6. Repeat steps 4–5 twice. Sew through the adjacent A in the first diamond and the A your thread just exited (figure 7). Add a B as before, and sew through the adjacent A in the first diamond (figure 8, a–b).

7. Sew through all the tip 80s (b–c), and pull them into a tight ring.

**Pre-mixed bead blends are great, but it can be hard to know what to do with them. Start with a pair of earrings and then see where the beads take you!**

by Julia Gerlach

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**BEAD WEAVING**

**Beaded diamonds**

Bead mixes vary — some contain several shades of the same size bead whereas others, like the one I used, contain beads of several different colors and styles. This bead mix contains three colors of 110 seed beads, four colors of 80 seed beads, one color of 60 seed beads, and two colors of 6 mm bugle beads. For these earrings, you’ll need one color each of 110s (seafoam) and 80s (gold) and both colors of bugle beads (I used the shiny one as color A and the matte one as color B). You won’t need all the beads in all three packages of the mix, but you’ll probably need all three packs to make sure you have enough of each individual bead. It’s better to have too many than fall short. And these packages are inexpensive — three packages cost less than $4!

**Earring dangle**

1. On 2 yd. (1.8 m) of thread, pick up four 80 seed beads. Leaving a 6-in. (15 cm) tail, tie the beads into a ring with a square knot, and sew through the first 80 again.

2. Pick up an 110 seed bead, and sew through the next 80. Repeat this stitch three times, exiting the first 80 (figure 1).

3. Pick up a color A bugle bead, an 110, an A, an 80, an A, an 110, and an A, and sew through the 80 your thread exited at the start of this step (figure 2, a–b). Retrace the thread path through the bugles, skipping the seed beads, and sew through the first bugle again (b–c). Pull tight so the seed beads pop out at the corners, forming a diamond shape.

4. Pick up an A, and sew through the first bugle again (figure 3). Pull tight so the bugles are side by side.

5. Pick up an A, an 110, an A, an 80, an A, and an 110, and sew through the adjacent A and the next 80 (figure 5).

6. Repeat steps 4–5 twice. Sew through the adjacent A in the first diamond and the A your thread just exited (figure 7). Add a B as before, and sew through the adjacent A in the first diamond (figure 8, a–b).

7. Sew through all the tip 80s (b–c), and pull them into a tight ring.
Difficulty rating

Materials
earrings 1½ in. (3.8 cm)
• 3 8 g packages of Toho bead mix (mint/forest and gold; www.artbeads.com)
• 1 pair of earring findings
• 2 2-in. (5 cm) head pins, 22–26 gauge
• beading needles, #11
• Fireline, 6 lb. test
• chainnose pliers
• roundnose pliers
• wire cutters

Basics
• peyote stitch: tubular
• ending and adding thread
• square knot
• wrapped loop

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8 Pick up an 11°, and sew through the next 8°. Repeat this stitch three times, exiting the first 8° (figure 9).
9 Sew through the adjacent A, pick up a B, and sew through the next A (figure 10).
10 Sew back through the B and the adjacent A (figure 11).
11 Sew through the B and the adjacent end 11°, and sew back through the B (figure 12).
12 Pick up three 11°s, sew through the opposite B and the adjacent end 11° (figure 13, a-b), and then sew back through the same B (b-c). Sew back through the third and first 11°s added in this step, and continue through the opposite B and the next 8° in the ring (figure 14).
13 Repeat steps 9–12 three times.
14 Sewing through the end 8°s, work a round of tubular peyote stitch using 11°s, and step up through the first 11° added in this step (figure 15).
15 Sewing through the beads added in the previous round, work another round of peyote using 11°s (figure 16). Retrace the thread path through the new beads added in this round.
16 Sew through the beadwork to exit an 8° on the other end of the beadwork, and repeat steps 14–15. End the threads.
17 Repeat steps 1–16 to make a second diamond.

Assembly
1 On a head pin, string an 11° and one end hole of a diamond. String two bugles on the head pin, and then guide the head pin through the other end hole of the diamond. String an 11°, and make a wrapped loop.
2 Open the loop of an ear wire, attach the dangle, and close the loop.
3 Repeat steps 1–2 to complete the second earring.

what else?
After you’re done with the earrings, make more projects with the leftover beads. Make another pair of earrings with different bead colors, or see what else you can come up with. I made this pendant with my leftovers (plus a few extras from my stash). You can get the instructions at www.BeadAndButton.com/freeprojects.