

FIX(Y)ER ALARM CLOCK EARRINGS
by CAROLYN CAVE
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Skill level: Advanced beginner

Techniques: Beadweaving with multi-hole beads

Finished Size: 1 ¼ x ¾ inches (33x20mm)

MATERIALS

1g size 15° seed beads

1.5g size 11° seed beads

8 Fixer beads with horizontal holes

4 Fixer beads with vertical holes

2 flat metal buttons, four holes, 5/8 inches (16mm)

1 pair of earring wires

D weight beading thread

Size 10 or 12 beading needle

Scissors or thread cutters

2 pair of pliers

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TIP

The edge of the fixer bead is what is featured in this pair of earrings. Often one edge is nicer than the other. Pay attention to this and have the nice sides all facing the same way.

NOTE: Prepare four fixer beads with horizontal holes by laying them on your work surface, flat side up and holes running side to side.

FIGURE 1

Step 1. Cut 120 cm (48 inches) of beading thread. Attach a needle to one end and a stop bead about 3-inches (8cm) from the other end.

Step 2. Sew through a horizontal fixer bead, from left to right, through the hole closest to you. Pick up two 15° seed beads and three 11° seed beads. Sew through any of the four holes in the button, from front to back. Pick up three 11°s and two 15°s. Sew through the unused hole of the fixer bead, from right to left (**a-b, blue thread**).

Step 3. Pick up two 15°s and three 11°s. Sew through the hole in the button to the left of the one already used, from the back to the front. Pick up three 11°s and two 15°s. Sew through the first hole of the fixer bead again, in the same direction (**b-c, green thread**). Pull the thread snug. Pick up one 15°, two 11°s and one 15° (**c-d, orange thread**).

FIGURE 2

Step 4. Sew through a second horizontal fixer bead, from left to right, through the hole closest to you. Pick up two 15°s and three 11°s. Sew through the next hole in the button to the right, from front to back. Pick up three 11°s and two 15°s. Sew through the unused hole of the fixer bead, from right to left (**a-b, blue thread**).

Step 5. Pick up two 15°s. Sew down through the nearest three 11°s at the back of the button, the hole in the button and up through three 11°s at the front of the button. Pick up two 15°s. Sew through the first hole of the fixer bead again, in the same direction (**b-c, green thread**). Pull the thread snug. Pick up one 15°, two 11°s and one 15° (**c-d, orange thread**).

FIGURE 3

Step 6. Repeat Steps 4 and 5 once using a third fixer.

FIGURE 4

Step 7. Sew through a fourth horizontal fixer bead, from left to right, through the hole closest to you. Pick up two 15°s. Sew down through the nearest three 11°s, the hole in the button, and up through three 11°s at the back. Pick up two 15°s. Sew through the unused hole of the fixer bead, from right to left (**a-b, blue thread**).

Step 8. Pick up two 15°s. Sew down through the nearest three 11°s at the back of the button, the hole in the button and up through three 11°s at the front of the button. Pick up two 15°s. Sew through the first hole of the fixer bead again, in the same direction (**b-c, green thread**). Pull the thread snug.

Step 9. Pick up one 15°, two 11°s and one 15°. Sew through the front hole of the first fixer (**c-d, orange thread**).

FIGURE 5

Step 10. Turn around and sew through the other hole of the fixer bead. This means you will be working at the back of the earring. Pick up one 15°, two 11°s and one 15°, and sew through the next fixer bead, four times.

NOTE: Lay two vertical fixer beads on your work surface smooth side up, with the groove along the back running side to side.

FIGURE 6

Step 11. Sew up through the lower left corner of one vertical fixer bead. Pick up one 15°, three 11°s and one 15°. Sew down through the lower right corner of the fixer bead, the horizontal fixer bead along the edge, the next grouping of seed beads (15°, two 11°s and 15°) and the next horizontal fixer (**a-b, green thread**).

Step 12. Sew up through the lower left corner of the second vertical fixer bead. Pick up one 15°, two 11°s and one 15°. Sew down through the lower right corner of the fixer bead, the horizontal fixer bead along the edge, the next grouping of seed beads (15°, two 11°s and 15°) and the next horizontal fixer. Retrace the thread path of the start of this round through one hole of the vertical fixer, 15° and two 11°s (**b-c, blue thread**). Turn the work over.

FIGURE 7

Step 13. Pick up seven size 15°s and sew through the 11° that the thread is leaving, in the same direction. This loop of beads is the attachment point for the earring wire. Pick up one 11° and one 15°. Sew down through the nearest empty hole of the vertical fixer (**a-b, green thread**).

Step 14. Sew through the next horizontal fixer bead along the edge, the next grouping of seed beads (15°, two 11°s and 15°) and the next horizontal fixer (**b-c, purple thread**).

Step 15. Sew up through the nearest empty hole of the vertical fixer bead. Pick up one 15°, two 11°s and one 15°. Sew down through the last remaining empty hole of the vertical fixer bead, the horizontal fixer bead along the edge, the next grouping of seed beads (15°, two 11°s and 15°) and the next horizontal fixer (**c-d, orange thread**).

Step 16. Sew up through the last remaining empty hole of the next vertical fixer. Pick up one 15° and one 11°. Sew through the 11° that the thread was leaving at the start of this round. Sew along the thread path of the loop (**d, orange thread**), through the vertical fixer and the horizontal fixers along the edge.

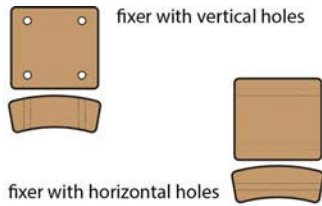
Step 17. Finish off the thread by sewing along any existing thread path. Tie a few overhand knots along the way. Trim the thread. Undo the stop bead at the start of the work and finish off the tail thread in the same way.

Step 18. Open the metal loop on one ear wire with two pairs of pliers. Slip the open loop through the ring of beads, ensuring that it faces the right way. Close the ring.

Make a second earring!

FIX(y)ER ALARM CLOCK EARRINGS ILLUSTRATIONS by CAROLYN CAVE

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EARRINGS
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- size 11/0 seed bead
- size 15/0 rocaille

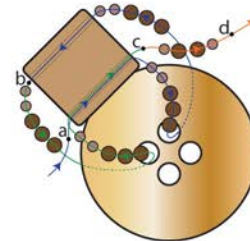


Figure 1

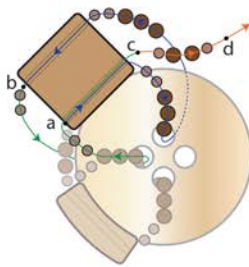


Figure 2

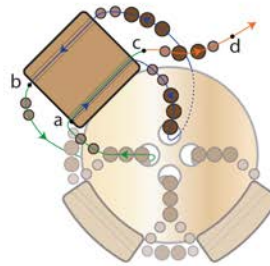


Figure 3

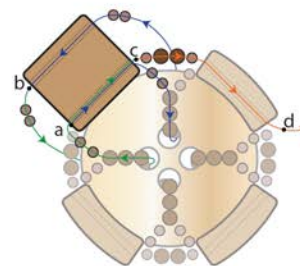


Figure 4

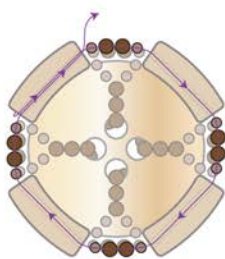


Figure 5
(back of work)

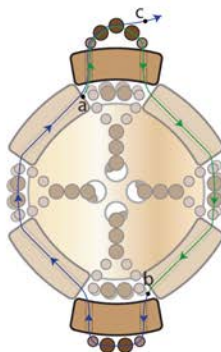


Figure 6
(back of work)

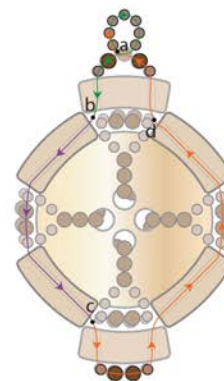


Figure 7