

Holly Leaf & Berry Earrings

an easy bead weaving design for the holidays

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Holly Leaf & Berry Earrings are easy earrings you can make for the holidays. Use a combination of stitches including picots, loops, and peyote stitch to make the individual leaves. Then assemble two leaves with 4mm round beads to make the dangles for the earrings. Finally, finish the assembly of the earrings with jump rings and ear wires. Each leaf is just over an inch long (3 cm) and each earring is 2 inches (5 cm) long, including the ear wire. This pattern is suitable for advanced beginner bead weavers.

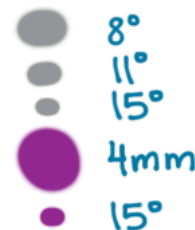
I used two different greens for the leaves to provide contrast, but you can also use just one color.

Materials

Size 8/0 seed beads, green (matte & shiny)
Size 11/0 seed beads, green (matte & shiny)
Size 15/0 seed beads, green (matte & shiny)
4 mm round beads, red [22]
5.5-6 mm open jump rings, 20-22g. [2]
ear wires [2]
Thread: Nymo, size D or Fireline, 6 lb.
Beading needle, size 11

About the Illustrations

On a given round, beads with a pink dot are those you use in that step, but which were added to the bead work in a previous step. Beads with a green dot are new beads you add in that step, and they are labeled with their size. Beads are drawn in two colors: gray (green leaves) and purple (red berries). Start at the bead with the orange dot, and end at the black arrow. Step 1 describes Figure 1, Step 2 describes Figure 2, and so forth.



Instructions

Seed Beaded Leaf

1. Always keep the tension of your thread fairly tight. **For one leaf, cut 2 feet (60 cm) of thread.** Thread your needle, and *pick up

- 1 size 11° seed bead,
- 1 size 8° seed bead.

Repeat from * until you have picked up 8 pairs of 11° and 8° (16 beads total).

Pass through all 16 beads again, in the same direction, to make the *first loop*, and slide the loop down leaving an 8 inch tail that you will later weave into the bead work. Pass through first 11°.

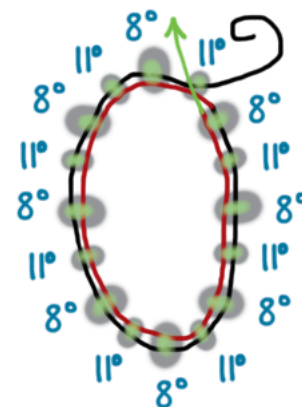


Figure 1

2. Pick up

- 3 gray 15°,
- 2 gray 8°.

Pass back through the first 8° you just picked up to make a picot. That is the *leaf top*. Pick up

- 3 gray 15°.

*Skip over the next 8° in the first loop, and pass through the next 11°. Pick up

- 2 gray 15°,
- 1 gray 11°,
- 2 gray 15°.

Skip over the next 8° in the first loop and pass through the next 11°. Repeat from * two times to finish the left border. Pick up

- 3 gray 15°,
- 1 gray 8°,
- 1 gray 15°.

Pass back through the 8° you just picked up to make a picot. Repeat the part in red to finish the right border. You should end at the same bead where you started this round.

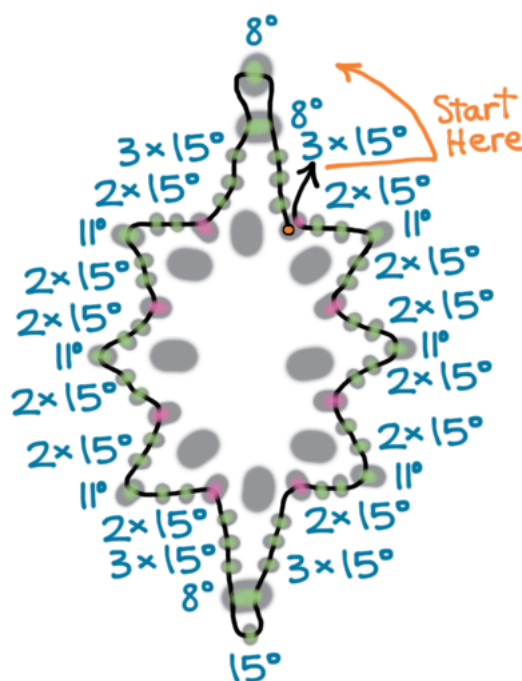


Figure 2



A finished leaf

3. Pass through all of the beads you picked up or passed through in Step 2, skipping the six 11° at the points. Each time after you skip an 11° and pass through two 15°, you need to pull the thread tight to force the 11° to pop out to a nice sharp point. Use your thumb or finger nail on one hand to help pull the 11° into position as you pull the thread tight with the other hand.

4. Pass through the adjacent 8°, *skip the 11° and pass through the next 8° in the first loop. Pick up
• 1 gray 8°.
Skip the 11° and pass through the next 8°. Pick up
• 1 gray 8°.
Skip the 11° and pass through the next 8°.
Skip the 11° and pass through the next 8°.
Repeat from *.

5. Pick up
• 1 gray 11°.
Skip an 8° and pass through the next 8°. Pick up
• 1 gray 8°.
Skip an 8° and pass through the next 8°. Pick up
• 1 gray 11°.
Skip an 8° and pass through the next 8°.

6. Zig zag up the center to zip up the hole in the center of the leaf. In particular, pass through 11°, 8°, 8°, 8°, 11°, 8°.

Tie Off

7. Weave through the beads, tightening as necessary. Sew through the beads so that you are just about to enter a size 8° seed bead. Tie two half hitch knots in the same place, and weave through a few more beads. Unthread the needle, rethread it with the tail of the thread, and tie off the second end in the same way. Cut off both ends of the thread close to the beads.

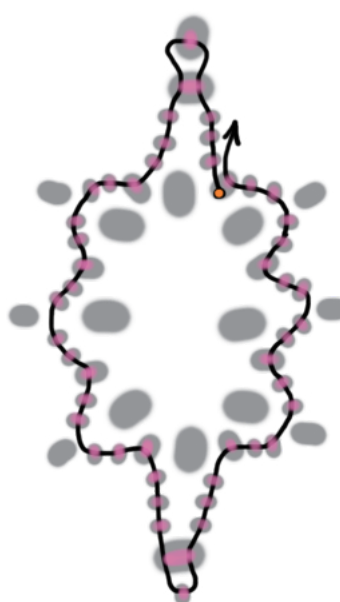


Figure 3

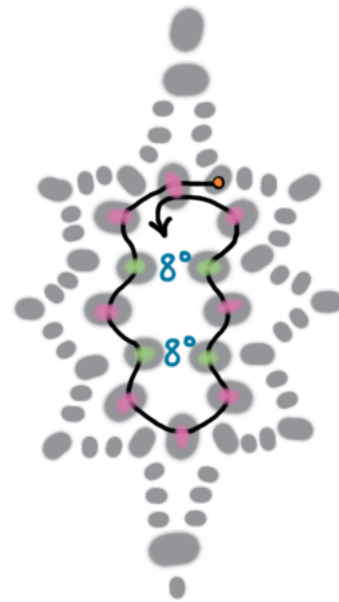


Figure 4

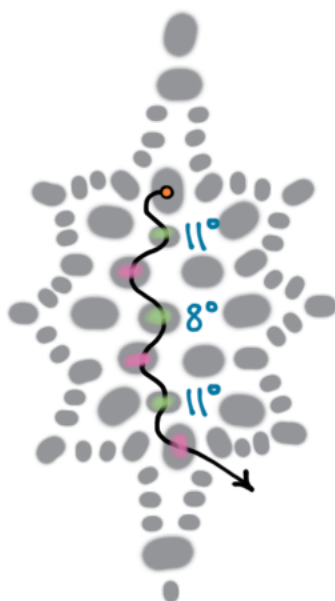


Figure 5

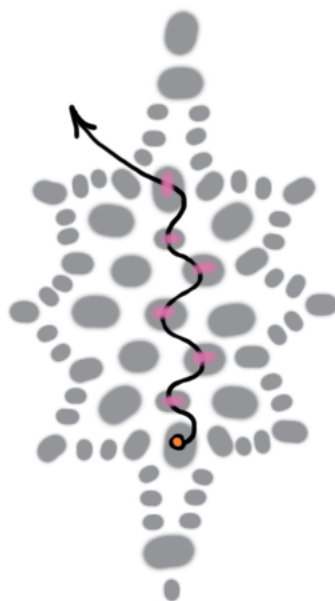


Figure 6



A finished leaf

Assemble Leaves and Berries

8. Complete Steps 1-7 to make two leaves per earring. Thread a needle with 2 feet of thread. Pick up

- 2 gray 8°.

Pass back through the last 8° you just picked up to make a picot. Pass through the 8° in the top of a matte green leaf. Pick up

- 1 gray 8°.

Pass through the 8° in the top of a shiny green leaf. Pick up

- 1 purple 4 mm.
- 1 purple 15°.

Pass back through the 4mm and the 8° at the top of the last leaf.

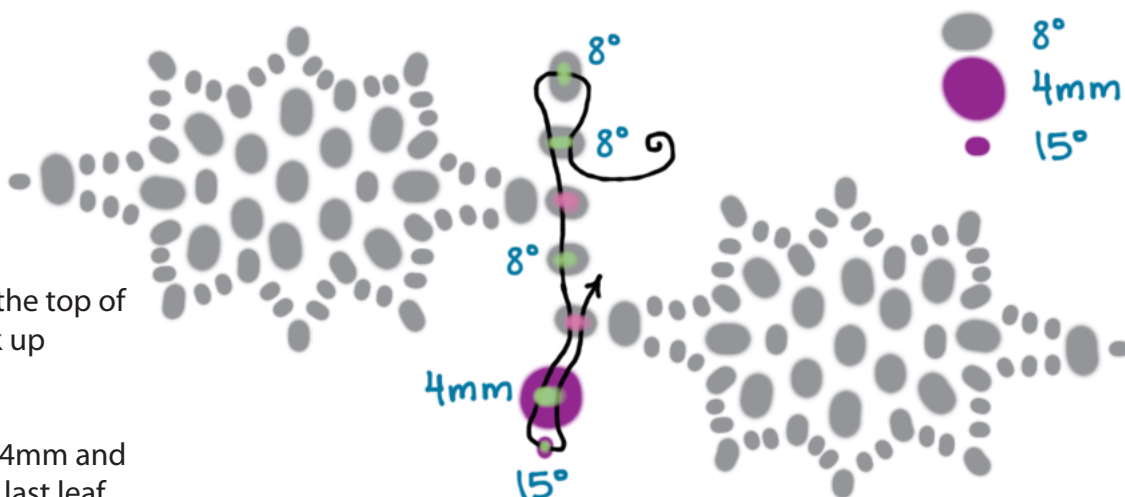


Figure 8

9. Now make picots to add berries as you work your way back up the stem. In particular, *pick up

- 1 purple 4 mm.
- 1 purple 15°.

Pass back through the 4 mm and the next 8°. Repeat from * two more times. Pass through the 8° at the top of the stem and the back down the next 8°.

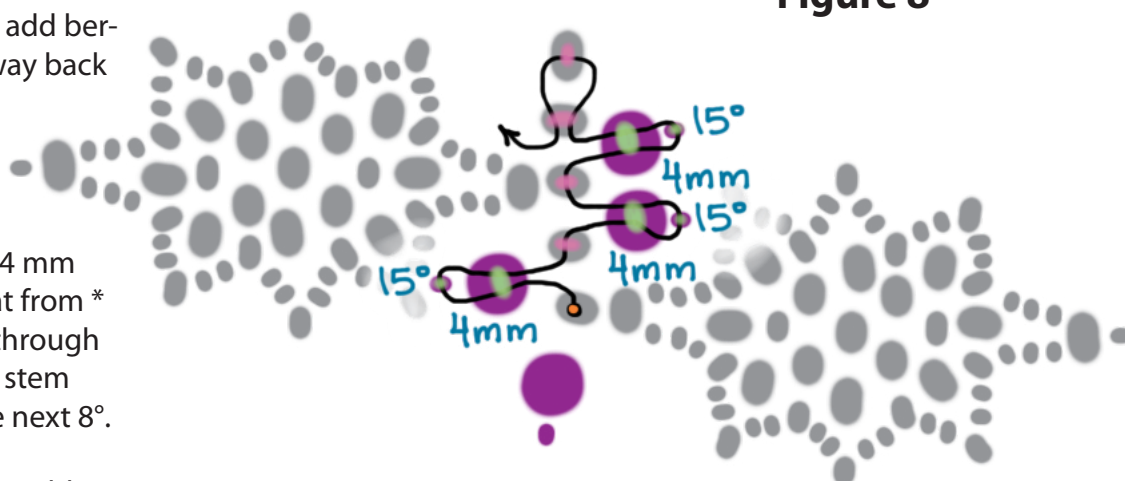


Figure 9

10. Now make picots to add berries as you work your way back down the stem. In particular, *pick up

- 1 purple 4 mm.
- 1 purple 15°.

Pass back through the 4 mm and through the next 8°. Repeat from * three more times. Pass back through the 8° at the top of the bottom leaf.

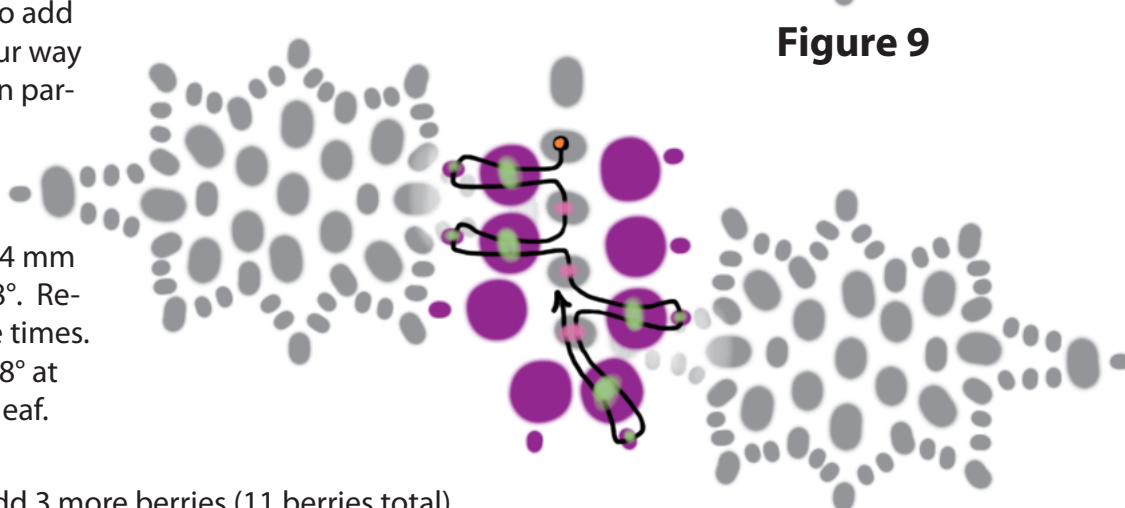


Figure 10

11. Repeat Step 9 to add 3 more berries (11 berries total). Tie off both ends as in Step 7.

Assemble the Earrings

12. Attach a leaf-and-berry assemblage to an ear wire with a jump ring. In particular, open a jump ring, and loop it through the top 8° of the stem (the second bead you added in Step 8). Add the ear wire and close the jump ring. Repeat with the second earring. Now your holiday earrings are done. So put them on and go be festive!

Happy holidays,
gwen

