

"The Seven Year Itch" Earrings

As seen in the 2008 Fall Supplement



Created by: Amy Mickelson

Suggested Materials:

<u>Qty.</u>	<u>Stock #</u>	<u>Name</u>
2	05-181-17-157	17mm Swarovski® keystone beads, crystal/copper
2	44-109-7	33x16mm tower filigrees, antiqued copper
6"	40-099-16-7	2.1mm drawn cable chain, antiqued copper
4	05-301-04-157	4mm Swarovski bicones, crystal/copper
2	05-301-06-157	6mm Swarovski bicones, crystal/copper
6	37-422-7	2" head pins, antiqued copper
2	37-722-7	2" eye pins, antiqued copper
16	20-228-081	Size 11 Toho® Japanese glass seed beads, bronze
1 pair	34-003-8	TierraCast™ niobium ear wires, copper

Tools: flat-nose pliers, round-nose pliers, cutters

To make this design:

1. Cut chain into four 1.5" pieces.
2. To make crystal dangles, add seed beads and crystal bicones to head pins and make loops or wrapped loops as pictured. See earring techniques on back.
3. Using flat-nose pliers, carefully make two 90-degree bends near the loop end of the tower filigree. (See figure 1). This will form a seat for the small end of the keystone crystal to sit in.
4. Use flat-nose pliers to carefully fold each side of the base of the tower filigree back 90 degrees. (See figure 1). This will keep the crystal from sliding sideways.
5. Place the keystone crystal into the 'seat' of the filigree.
6. Add a seed bead to an eye pin and thread it through both the folded side of the filigree and the large end of the keystone. Add another seed bead and make a loop. This will secure the filigree to the keystone crystal.
7. Attach an ear wire, two pieces of chain and the large crystal bicone dangle to a jump ring.
8. Attach the small crystal dangles and loose ends of chain to the loops on each side of keystone crystal.
9. Repeat steps 2-8 for second earring.

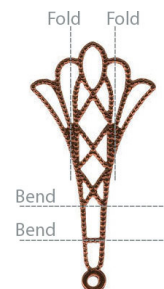


figure 1

Techniques for making earrings

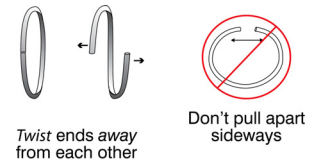
Basic earrings: Gently open the loop on the earring component, (see jump ring hint) and insert the earring dangle loop. Close the loop.

Chandelier earrings: Attach charm or connector to earring component (see jump ring hint). Attach dangles by attaching beaded head and eye pins to charm or connector before closing the loop on the dangle.

Ear threads: Ear-thread designs can be changed every day. Just slide beads on and wear. The next day re-arrange yesterday's beads or slide on a whole new design! To keep beads in place use SmartBeads or Bead Bumpers™.

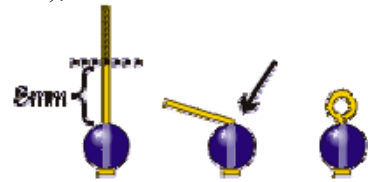
Jump-ring hint:

When you open and close jump rings, twist sideways instead of "ovalling" them. This keeps their shape better, which makes them easier to close all the way.



To make nice loops on head or eye pins:

1. String selected beads on the head or eye pin.
2. Keep about 8mm (1/3") of wire. Cut off any extra.
3. Use round-nose pliers to grasp the wire just above the bead (at the arrow), and bend sharply away from you.
4. Now use small round-nose pliers to grasp the tip of the wire, and bend it smoothly around the pliers down close to the beads.



To make nice wire-wrapped beaded head and eye pins:

(For best results, use both chain-nose and round-nose pliers.)

1. Use chain-nose pliers to grasp the wire just above the top of the bead.
2. Use your fingers to bend the wire sharply over the top of the pliers, at a 90° angle. You should have 2-3mm of straight wire between the bead and the bend (less for fine-gauge wire, more for heavy wire or more wraps).
3. Use round-nose pliers to grasp a spot just above the bend, and use your fingers to smoothly bend the wire all the way around the tip of the pliers. (For different sizes of loops, bend the wire around thinner or thicker portions of the pliers' tip.)
4. Now use round-nose pliers to grasp the wire firmly across the loop. Use your fingers or chain-nose pliers to carefully wrap the wire around the stem. For best control, experts recommend you break this step into a series of half wraps.
5. Trim excess with flush cutters.

