

# FALLING LEAVES EARRINGS

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for



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## SUPPLY LIST

- Top-drilled or front-drilled beads, such as leaves, petals, briolettes, daggers, or even SuperDuos! Qty: 24 to 32
- 24 or 22-gauge dead-soft wire
- 4mm jump rings - Qty: 6
- 12mm circle connectors - Qty: 2
- Ear wires - 1 pair

## TOOLS

- Flush cutters
- Chain nose pliers
- Round nose pliers
- Nylon jaw pliers
- Crimping pliers (optional)

## INTRODUCTION

These beautiful earrings were inspired by the swirl of falling leaves as the wind picks up in the fall, blowing leaves down from the trees in a flutter. Although fall-inspired, this design is evergreen in the way you can create a new look and feel depending on the beads you choose.

### WATCH THE VIDEO

There is a YouTube video walking you through this tutorial at:

<https://youtu.be/qONSoyK7wkl>



This step-by-step tutorial is accompanied by a how-to video guide, showing the wire wrapping and assembly techniques in action with many different beads. The basic recipe is customizable in both beads and counts, making it very flexible to adaptation and leveling up the design.

Check out the last page for details on the beads used in the samples!

### THE RECIPE

Use this basic structure to create a stunning cascade of swirling beads.

**Step 1.** Plan your design. Determine the number of beads you'd like to use. This design recipe features four beads per cluster. The basic design features three clusters.

**Step 2.** Cut a 2.5 to 3-inch length of 24 or 22 gauge wire for each bead you plan to use.

**Step 3.** Create a wrapped dangle, often called a "brio wrap" using a top or front-drilled bead. I'll explain how to do that on the next page.

**Step 4.** Connect a jump ring to the loop of this first wrap. Create three more brio-wrapped beads, linking each one to the loop of the former brio-wrapped bead. Linking four beads in this way creates one cluster.

**Step 5.** Repeat Steps 3 through 5 to create two more clusters.

**Step 6.** Link the top loop of one cluster to the bottom loop of the second cluster with a jump ring. (Page 4, Diagram 6).

Using a jump ring, link the top loop of the combined cluster to the 12mm ring (Page 4, Diagram 8).

Attach the 12mm ring and the jump ring of the combined cluster to the ear wire loop.



## HOW TO CREATE A BRIO WRAP

String a top or front-drilled bead onto the 3-inch length of beading wire. Insert it to about 1/2-inch, then fold the wire gently up to meet. See Diagram 1.

Forming with your hands, or using chain nose pliers, compress the wires to meet together in a point above the bead. Make sure the bead has room to swing and move. See Diagram 2.

Using round nose pliers, secure both wires at the indented spot. Using your fingers, bend the longer wire away from you and trim the shorter wire, just above the pliers, with flush cutters.

Choose whether you want the loop facing the front or perpendicular. Now form a loop using round nose pliers - see Diagram 3. To do this, loosen the grip on the pliers and rotate them so that the free jaw is sitting on top.

Use your fingers to bring the long piece of wire over the top of the pliers towards you until it meets the work. Rotate the pliers one more time, back to the position they were.

To complete the loop, take the piece of wire underneath and away from you to create a balloon shape. To centre the loop, grip the work and roll the pliers back gently.

Grip the loop with chain nose pliers, wrap the tail neatly around both wires three or four times.

Trim the tail of the wire left after making the wraps. See Diagram 4. Optionally, use the front position of your crimping pliers to flatten the tail and shape the coil nicely.

**Don't forget, that after making the first brio wrap, ensuing wraps will need to be connected to the loop of the previous brio wrap before you complete the wrap! Do refer back to the recipe on page 2 as you work.**

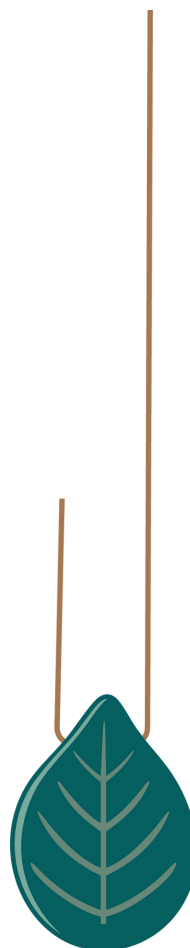


Diagram 1

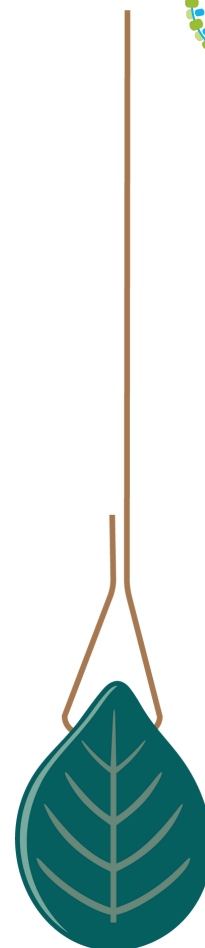


Diagram 2



Diagram 3

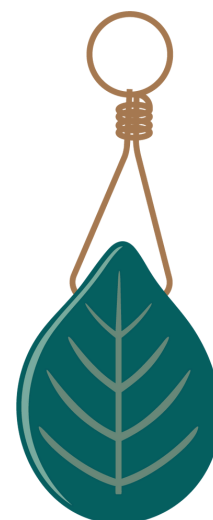


Diagram 4

### CREATING THE CLUSTERS

Create a cluster by linking together four, brio-wrapped beads. Keep track of the top bead by using a jump ring to identify it.

The jump rings come in handy later to join the clusters. Create as many clusters as you'd like. See Diagram 5.

### JOINING THE CLUSTERS

Join together as many clusters as you'd like. Connect them using the jump ring at the top of one cluster and joining to the loop of the bottom brio on the other. See Diagram 6.

### CONNECTOR RING

Join the top cluster to a 12mm connector ring. See Diagram 7.

### FINISHING THE EARRING

Open the loop on an ear wire. Suspend the connector ring, then the top jump ring of the third cluster. Close the loop on the ear wire (see Diagram 8).

**Enjoy the beautiful earrings you've created!**

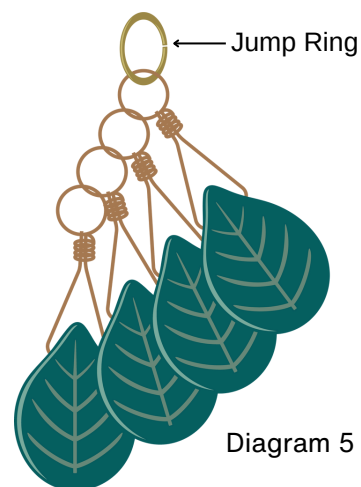


Diagram 5

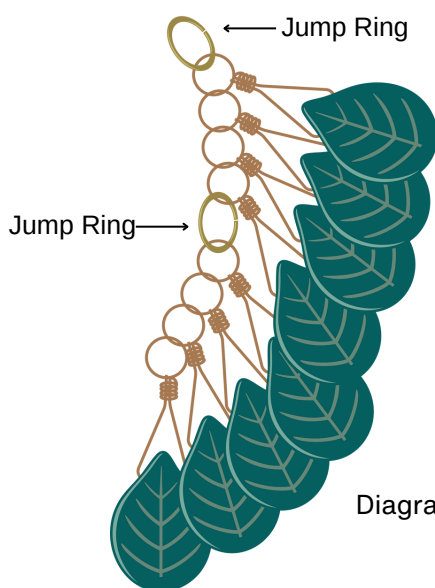


Diagram 6

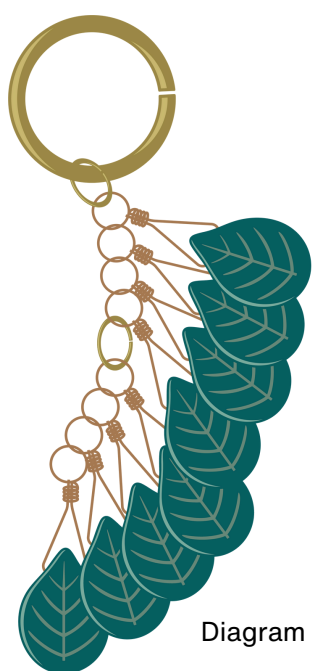


Diagram 7



Diagram 8

## THE CRYSTAL CHAMPAGNE TOAST

- Three Clusters
- Czech Pressed Glass Briolette Beads in:
  - Crystal with Silver Grey Luster - Etched Effect
  - Crystal with Dark Gold Finish - Etched Effect



## SUPERDUO CASCADE

- Four Clusters
- SuperDuo Color-Coordinated Set, Matte Velvet



## THE PETAL BOUQUET

- Three Clusters
- Rose Petal Beads, 8x7mm
  - Alabaster Full AB
  - Green Turquoise Rainbow Iris
  - Pearl Shine Azuro Blue



## TRADITIONAL FALLING LEAVES

- Three Clusters
- Top Drilled Czech Glass Leaves in two colors
- Wire-wrapped Maple Leaf accent, dropped from the bottom loop of the last cluster, suspended by three jump rings.







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