

INDIAN CORN EARRINGS

By Rhonda Besaw

(Note: some of this information was taken from About.com Beadwork which offered this free beading pattern in 2008. I've changed and added to their instructions as to what has worked for me in making these earrings)

What You'll Need:

A small amount of several colors of size 10 or 11 seed beads. Appropriate colors include: burgundy, black, off-white, white, yellow, orange, red, dark purple, and any other color you might see in a real piece of ornamental Indian corn.

Size D white Nymo beading thread

Size 10 beading needle

18 or 20 gauge steel headpins

Deer Hide

Elmer's Glue

Round needle nose pliers

Wire Cutter

Earrings



The main portion of the ear of corn is made from a square-stitched rectangle which is then stitched together down the edges to make a cylinder. This method was chosen over tubular square stitch so that the kernels would lie correctly. Using tubular square stitch will make vertical kernels instead of horizontal kernels. The rectangle is 15 beads long and 7 rows high. Use the Square Stitch which is briefly outlined below.

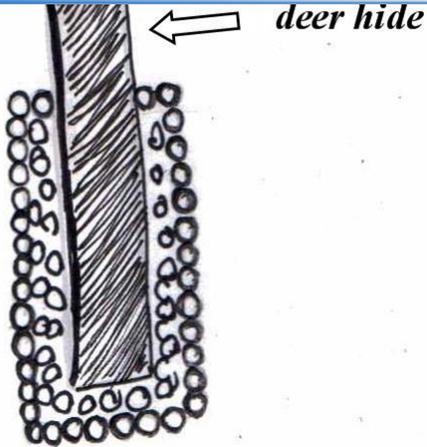


Pick up a single bead and go through it twice. This is the stop bead; it will be removed later. (Note the stop bead does not appear in these diagrams) I use a large bead like a size 8 for the stop bead. Make sure to leave a tail long enough to weave back in later without too much frustration. **Pick up 15 beads to form the base row. Pick up another bead and go back through the 15th bead and through the bead you just added.**



Pick up another bead and go back through the 14th bead and forward through the new bead.

Continue this way until you have 7 rows of 15.



Cut a piece of deer hide a little bit smaller (a bead's width or so) than the width of the beaded rectangle and about one half inch longer. This longer piece will end up being the "husks" of the corn. Glue this deer hide piece to the beaded rectangle with Elmer's Glue.



Now fold the piece lengthwise so that the two long sides meet. The thread should be coming out of one end of one of the sides. It's easiest to start your sewing at the top and sew down towards what will be the bottom of the corn. Sew the two sides together by going down through the top of the first bead on the opposite side, then up through the first bead on the original side then down through the first two beads on the opposite side then up through the second bead on the first side, etc. The X marks the beginning of the thread path.



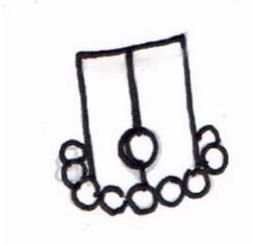
After the sides are sewn together, take an 18 to 20 gauge headpin (3 inch) and from the bottom, run it up the middle of the beaded tube. The headpin should catch and not pull right out the top. If it pulls out, bend the bottom of the headpin at an angle and try it again. You just want it to stay put as this will be what the earwire will attach to.



Now close off one end of the tube by brick stitching a round of 5 beads (skip two threads opposite from each other), and a round of three. This will give the corn a tapered look.

Weave any threads into the cylinder. Remove your stop bead and weave the end into the piece to secure.

Take your round needle nose pliers and wirecutters and make a the headpin into a loop for your earwire (if you don't know how to do this, there are many instructions available on line).



Take sharp scissors and cut the extending piece of deer hide right down the middle.



Then trim into two elongated diamond shapes.

Attach your ear wires and you are done!

You can use bigger beads and make these into key chains or pendants too!

