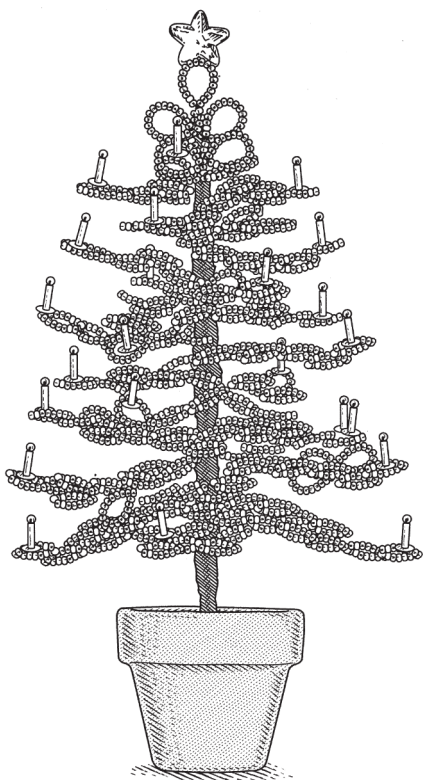


HOMEMADE: THE HEART AND SCIENCE OF HANDCRAFTS
CAROL ENDLER STERBENZ

Heirloom: A Miniature Christmas
Tree



This is one of my favorite beading projects of all time. No matter how many of these little trees I have made over the years, I continue to be amazed at the delicate beauty of the branches and ornaments as I begin yet another one. The preparation steps are somewhat tedious; seed beads come on lengths of thread and must be transferred to wire. But even this effort will be forgotten as you become engaged in the fantasy of shaping the branches and decorating your own beaded holiday tree. Design miniature ornaments using any leftover beads you have from other projects.

MATERIALS AND TOOLS

12 ounces (340.2 g) glass seed beads, size 11/0, on beaded strands totaling 268" (680.7 cm), in green

23 seed beads, in red
23 bugle beads, in white
23 sequins, in gold
Silver glass star, ½" (1.3 cm) high
Spool wire, green, 28-gauge
Beading wire, brass, 34-gauge
Stem wire, 16-gauge
Miniature terra-cotta pot, without drainage hole, 2" (5.1 cm) high
Florist tape, brown
Acrylic craft paint, in pale turquoise (optional)
Plaster of Paris
White craft glue
Instant glue (cyanoacrylate)
Paintbrush (optional)
Chain-nose pliers
Wire cutters
Scissors
Smooth, flat-weave cotton cloth
Small paper cup
Craft stick
Ruler

Step 1

Transfer the green seed beads to the spool wire.

Lay a piece of fabric on your work surface to keep the seed beads from rolling and bouncing. Pull about 20" (50.8 cm) of 28-gauge green wire from the spool; do not cut it. Transfer approximately 16" (40.6 cm) of green seed beads (I used 267 beads) from the strand onto the wire, 1" to 2" (2.5 cm to 5.1 cm) at a time.

Step 2

Make an 11-loop beaded piece.



Lay a ruler on the scrap fabric. Press your thumbnail against the wire 2" (5.1 cm) from the end, slide the beads against it, and measure a 1" (2.5 cm) segment of beads (approximately 17 beads). Bend this section back on itself to

HOMEMADE: THE HEART AND SCIENCE OF HANDCRAFTS
 CAROL ENDLER STERBENZ

form a beaded loop and then twist the wires twice at the base to secure the loop. Slide some loose beads up to the base, count off 5 beads, set your thumbnail against the wire, and measure a second 1" (2.5 cm) segment. Bend this segment into a loop and twist it once to secure it. Repeat the process to form 11 loops. To secure the end loop, twist the wires twice and then use wire cutters to cut the wire 1" (2.5 cm) from the twisted base.

Step 3

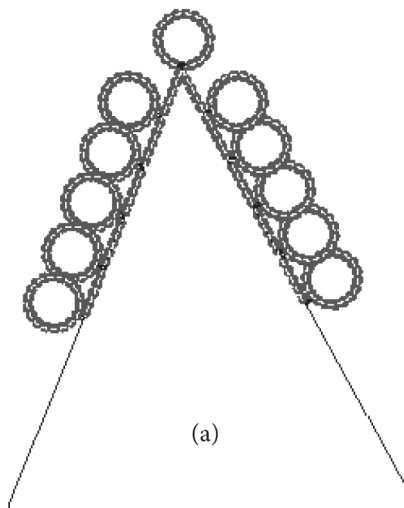
Make more beaded pieces.

Repeat steps 1 and 2 and follow the chart below to make 26 beaded pieces total.

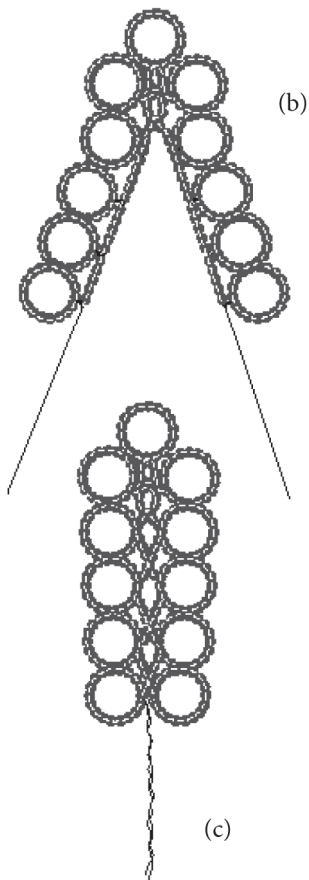
Number of Loops	Number of Pieces to Make	Length or Number of Beads to Start
11 loops	6	16" (40.6 cm) or 267 beads
9 loops	6	12" (30.5 cm) or 201 beads
7 loops	6	9" (22.9 cm) or 151 beads
5 loops	8	7" (17.8 cm) or 117 beads

Step 4

Shape the branches.



(a)



(c)

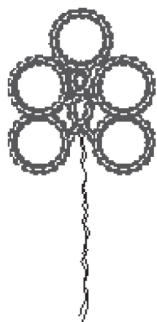
For each branch, bend a beaded piece in half so the middle beaded loop forms the branch tip (a). Give the branch a half twist between the pair of loops below the center loop (b). Continue making half twists between the remaining loops until the loops from each side of the branch are interlaced. Twist the cut wire ends together into a tight spiral, using pliers, if necessary (c).

Beaded Branches at a Glance

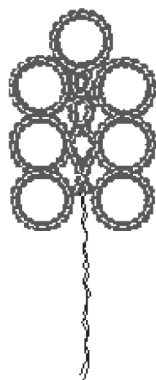
The beaded branches of the tree are bound onto a central stem in a downward spiral according to the number of loops, beginning with a cluster of 5-loop beaded branches at the top of the tree and ending with a cluster of 11-loop branches at the bottom of the tree.

HOMEMADE: THE HEART AND SCIENCE OF HANDCRAFTS
 CAROL ENDLER STERBENZ

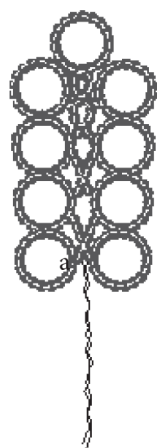
5-loop branch



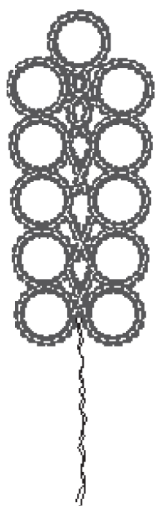
7-loop branch



9-loop branch



11-loop branch



them together using florist tape. Cluster 3 five-loop branches around the trunk $\frac{1}{8}$ " (0.3 cm) below the top branch and bind them in place with tape. Cluster 4 five-loop branches around the stem another $\frac{1}{8}$ " (0.3 cm) down and bind them in place with tape. Continue binding the remaining branches to the trunk in a downward spiral about $\frac{1}{8}$ " (0.3 cm) apart, increasing the branch size as you descend. Leave 2" (5.1 cm) of the wrapped trunk free at the bottom.

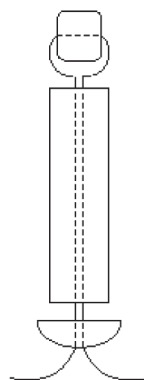
Step 6

Make the tree stand.

Paint the outside of the terra-cotta pot, if desired, with two coats of turquoise paint, letting the first coat dry before applying the second. Let the second coat dry completely. Use a craft stick to mix water and plaster in a paper cup, following the manufacturer's directions. Transfer the plaster to the pot. Insert the trunk of the tree into the plaster and prop the tree, keeping the stem straight, until the plaster is set, about 10 minutes.

Step 7

Make and attach the candles.



Step 5

Attach the branches.

Lay the 26 completed pieces on a clean surface in order of size. Cut a $5\frac{1}{2}$ " (14.0 cm) length of 16-gauge stem wire and wrap it with brown florist tape for the tree trunk. Choose a five-loop branch for the tree top. Touch the stem of the branch to the trunk and bind

For each candle, cut a $1\frac{3}{4}$ " (4.4 cm) length of brass wire. Thread a red seed bead onto the wire, slide it to the midpoint, and bend the wire in half. Insert both wire ends through a white bugle bead and a sequin, concave side first. Push the beads toward the seed bead and

COPYRIGHT

The written directions, illustrations, drawings, diagrams, patterns, and projects in this material are intended for the personal use of the reader and may be reproduced for that purpose only. Any other use, especially commercial use, is forbidden under law without the written permission of the copyright holder.

DISCLAIMER

Every effort has been made to present the information in this book in a clear, complete, and accurate manner. It is important that all instructions are followed carefully, as failure to do so could result in injury. This information is not intended to be a substitute for manufacturer's recommendations or standard safety practices, such as wearing gloves, a respirator mask, or safety glasses. However, due to differing conditions, tools, and individual skills, the author, editors, and publisher disclaim any and all liability for any resulting injuries or loss or damage to either property or person, whether direct or consequential and howsoever arising.

Copyright © 2011 by Carol Endler Sterbenz

All illustrations copyright © 2011 by Harry Bates except those listed on pages 753–54.

All rights reserved, including the right to reproduce this book or portions thereof in any form whatsoever. For information address Scribner Subsidiary Rights Department, 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020.