Beaded Spiral Earrings



Materials required for one earring

4 shuttles, 1.5 metres/yards thread in two contrasting colours (here designated white and red), approx 30 small beads (since this is a 'freestyle' pattern, I suggest adding a few extra beads in case you need them) earring hook.

Abbreviations

CTM continuous thread method, vsp very small picot, cl close, rw, reverse work, B move bead into place, CWJ Catherine Wheel Joins,

Thread the beads onto the red thread and wind each thread onto two shuttles CTM, very little thread on red shuttle with the beads, most on the other shuttle, enough on white shuttle 1 to tat a ring, most thread on the other shuttle.



Special notes:

All picots must be as small as possible. Beads are moved into place on the core thread. All joins except the first 2 are Catherine Wheel Joins. Note that this is a 'freestyle' pattern, where you must judge where to join to the previous chain, and ensure that the tension is such as to make the spiral flat and smooth.

Red chains are worked 1, vsp, 1, B, repeated, joining to the chain below as you go along, with CWJ. Some of the CWJ joins will have a picot before them – just don't snug the join up as tightly as usual to form a picot.

White chains are worked 2 vsp 2, increasing to 3 vsp 3 after a while, joining to the chain below with CWJ as you go. The outer part of the white chain is worked without picots, still joining to chain below.

Method

Start with white ring 3 vsp 3, cl, rw. Chain 2 vsp, 2 vsp 2, lock join to picot on ring. Drop the white threads and join the red thread to the same picot with a lock join:



Work a red chain, joining to the picots below as you go, until you get to the last white picot. Then drop the red threads and work with the white threads:



Work a white chain, joining to the red chain until you reach the last red picot. Alternate





When the spiral is as big as you want it, work a white chain around the outside without picots.

To finish, make a split ring, encapsulating the second thread of both colours and adding the hook. Then you have only two threads to finish off.



Make another one the same!