TOFU LABS · FREE BEADING PATTERN

Bobble the Bauble

A cute Christmas brick stitch earring

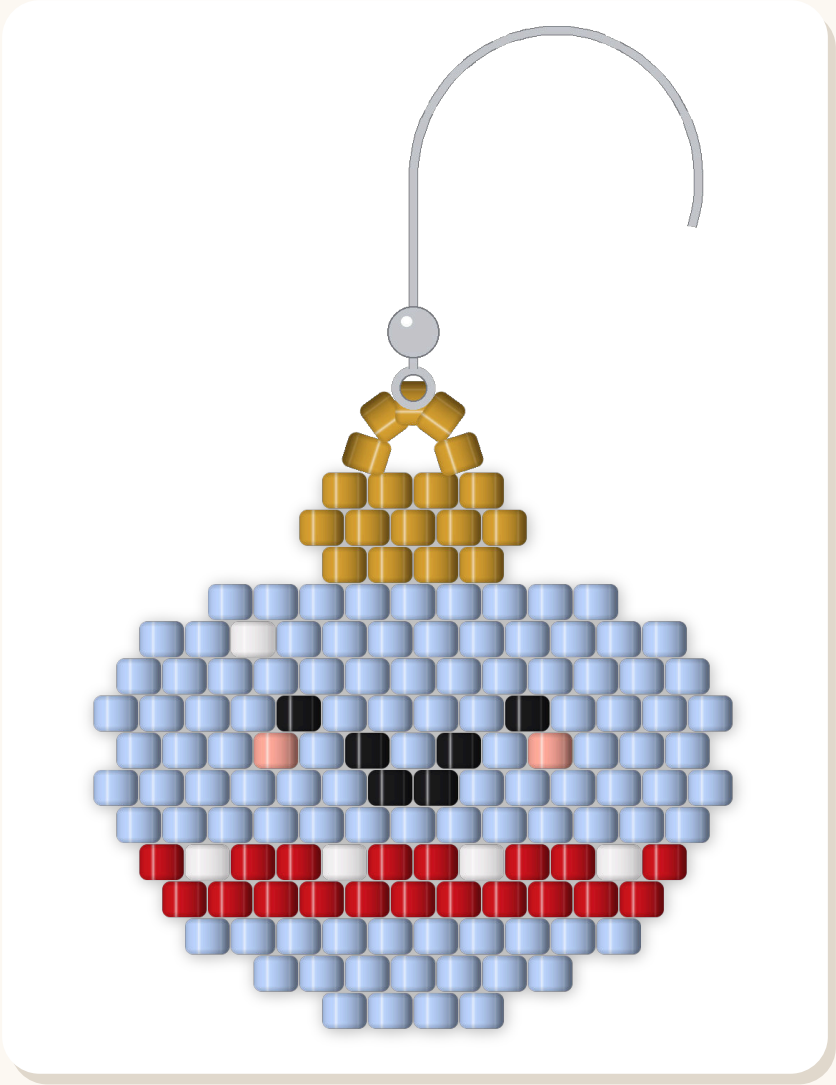


Chart · row-by-row word chart · beginner how-to · bead list

About 22 x 20 mm · Miyuki Delica 11/0 · 6 colors

Free · beginner friendly · one evening

Hello, beader!

A little round bauble to stitch, wear and give away.

Bobble the Bauble is a free brick stitch earring pattern from Tofu Labs: a frosty blue Christmas bauble with a gold cap, a candy-red stripe and a happy face. It's a quick make (an evening for a pair once you know the stitch), made with Miyuki Delica 11/0 cylinder beads, and a nice first brick stitch project: the shape is simple and only the face, the shine and the dotted stripe need counting.

What's inside

- Brick stitch, step by step — page 3
- The chart and the row-by-row word chart — page 5
- Meet the rest of the family — page 7

What you need

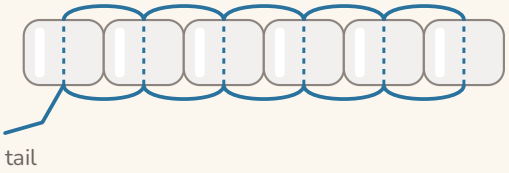
- Miyuki Delica beads, size 11/0 (cylinder beads) in 6 colors. The chart page lists each color with its Delica number and how many beads one pair takes.
- A beading needle, size 10 or 12.
- Beading thread: Nymo size D, KO, One-G or Miyuki thread in a color close to your beads, or 4 to 6 lb FireLine. About 1.5 m (5 ft) per earring; add more as you go.
- Earring hooks (French hooks or lever backs), one pair. Small pliers help to open and close the hook loop.
- Scissors and a bead mat (a folded towel works too).

Made with love by Tofu Labs. This pattern is free for personal use, and you're welcome to sell the earrings you make from it, by hand, in small numbers. Sharing? Please send the link instead of the file: tofuplay.pages.dev/free. Thank you!

Brick stitch, step by step

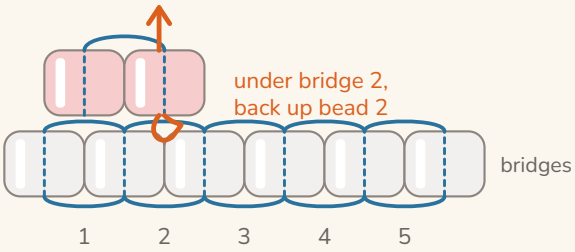
New to it? Read this once with beads in hand. It's easier than it looks.

1. The ladder row



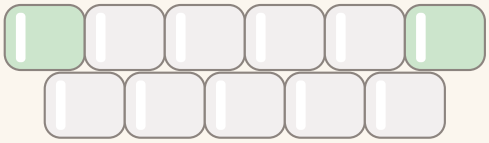
Leave a 20 cm (8 in) tail. Pick up 2 beads, go back up the first and down the second so they sit side by side. Then pick up 1 bead, sew back through the bead before it (the opposite way to how you came out) and through the new bead again. Repeat until the row has the number of beads the pattern says.

2. A row on top of it



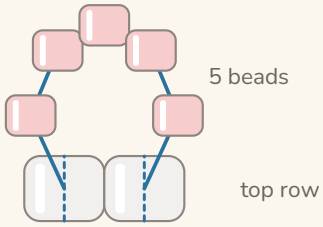
A thread bridge is the little bit of thread between two beads. Start a row by picking up 2 beads (pink here), slide the needle under bridge 2 from back to front and go back up the 2nd bead. Then 1 bead at a time: under the next bridge, back up the bead. Go down the 1st bead and up the 2nd once to make them stand straight.

3. Making a row wider or narrower



Increase at the start (green, left): the first 2 beads go under bridge 1, so bead 1 hangs half a bead out. Increase at the end (green, right): a 2nd bead into the last bridge. A narrower row happens by itself (one bead less). To lose more, the word chart says to start a bridge or two in, or stop early. To start in, weave down and up through the beads of the row below until the thread comes out where the row starts.

4. The loop for the earring hook



When the top half is done, come out of the top of the first top bead the pattern names, pick up 5 beads, go down the other named top bead and back up the first. Go round the loop twice more for strength. Open the loop of your earring hook sideways with pliers, hang the bead loop on it and close it.

The order you stitch in

- Row 1 is the ladder, the long row marked START on the chart. Stitch the rows above it first (rows 2, 3, 4… going up), add the earring loop, then weave back down to the ladder.
- For the lower half, turn the earring upside down so the ladder is on top again and stitch the rows below it the same way. Turn the chart page upside down too, and it matches what's in your hands.
- Weave in the tails through a few beads, changing direction twice, then trim close.

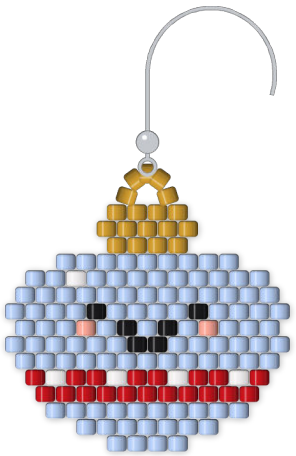
Reading the pattern

The pattern has a chart page and a word chart page.

- Each little block is one bead, drawn the way it sits in the finished earring. The letter on it matches the color key, so the charts also work printed in black and white.
- Row numbers on the left are the order you stitch in, not top to bottom: row 1 is the ladder, then up, then down. The number on the right is how many beads that row has.
- The word chart lists every row with its colors from left to right as you see them. Rows above the ladder are written as on the chart. Rows below it are written the way they look once you've turned the earring upside down (ladder on top), so they match what's in your hands.
- Some rows have a note (an increase, or start a bridge or two in). Rows with no note are plain: 2 beads under bridge 2, then one bead per bridge to the end.
- Bridge numbers count from the left end of the row you are stitching onto, as you see it. Count only the bridges you can see.
- Keep the front facing you. The charts and word charts show the front of the earring. Each row ends at the far side, so the next row starts from there: every other row goes right to left. On those rows read the colors from the end of the list and swap the start and end notes: for example, worked from the right, "start 1 bridge in" becomes "stop 1 bridge early", so the empty bridge stays on the left, where the chart shows it. Don't flip the work over between rows, or the uneven rows come out mirrored.
- Color words in the word charts are short names; the letter after each one, like (P), is the bead in the color key.
- Colors and sizes: Delica numbers are Miyuki's own codes (DB-0200 is the same as DB200). The finished size is worked out from the bead size (a Delica 11/0 is about 1.6 mm wide and 1.3 mm tall in brick stitch); yours may differ by a millimeter with your tension. The size doesn't include the loop and the hook.
- Tension: pull each bead snug but not tight, so the rows sit flat and the edges stay smooth.
- Swap colors freely: a red or green bauble, or a white stripe with red dots, are lovely too. Any Delica 11/0 will fit the same chart.

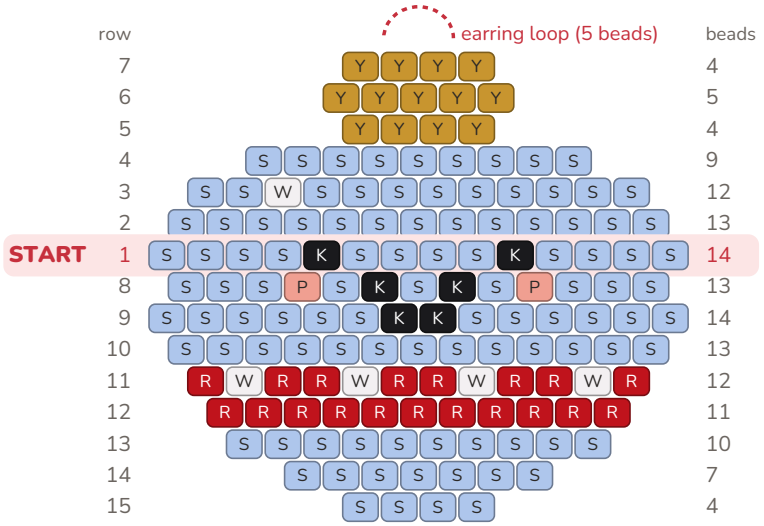
Tip for a tidy first try

Bobble is all one piece with no split rows. Only five rows change color (the shine, the eyes, the cheeks and smile, and the dotted stripe). Stitch the first earring slowly with the word chart, then the second one goes much faster.

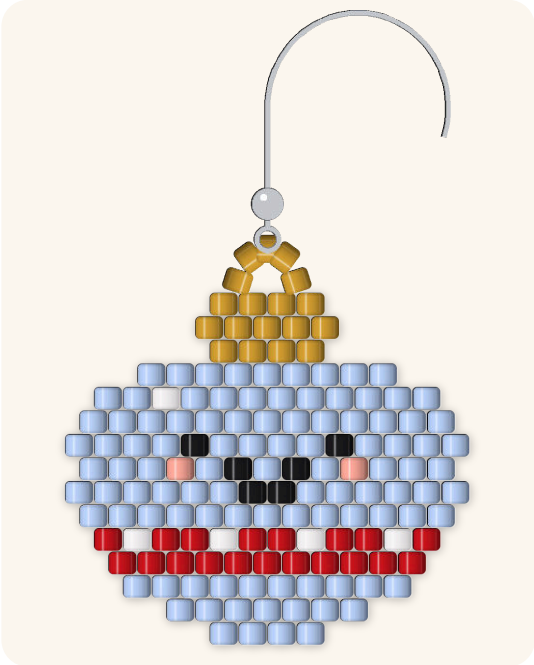


Bobble the Bauble

A frosty blue Christmas bauble with a gold cap, a candy-red stripe and a happy face.



Row 1 is the ladder (pink band). Rows 2 to 7 go up from it, then the earring loop. Then turn the earring and this page upside down: rows 8 to 15 go below the ladder.



Finished size: 22 x 20 mm

about 0.87 x 0.79 in, without the hook

Color key

		1 earring · pair
S	DB-1497 Opaque Light Sky Blue	100 · 200
R	DB-0723 Opaque Red	19 · 38
Y	DB-1832 Duracoat Galvanized Gold	18 · 36
K	DB-0010 Black	6 · 12
W	DB-0200 Opaque White	5 · 10
P	DB-0206 Opaque Salmon	2 · 4
Total beads		150 · 300

Counts include the 5 loop beads. Buy a few extra: Delicas vary a little.

Bobble the Bauble: row by row

Colors from left to right as you see them. Tick each row as you go.

- [ ] Row 1 (ladder) 14 4 light sky blue (S), 1 black (K), 4 light sky blue (S), 1 black (K), 4 light sky blue (S)

Top half: rows 2 to 7, going up

- [ ] Row 2 13 13 light sky blue (S)
- [ ] Row 3 12 2 light sky blue (S), 1 white (W), 9 light sky blue (S)
- [ ] Row 4 9 9 light sky blue (S)
  » start 1 bridge in: 2 beads under bridge 3; stop 1 bridge early (last bead under bridge 10)
- [ ] Row 5 4 4 gold (Y)
  » start 2 bridges in: 2 beads under bridge 4; stop 2 bridges early (last bead under bridge 6)
- [ ] Row 6 5 5 gold (Y)
  » increase at both ends: 2 beads under bridge 1 to start, and a 2nd bead into the last bridge
- [ ] Row 7 4 4 gold (Y)

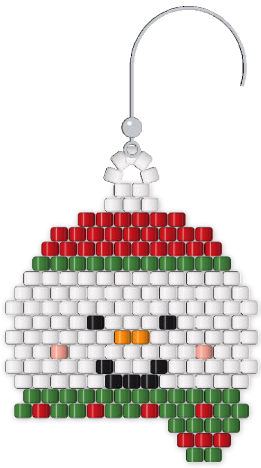
Earring loop, then the lower half: rows 8 to 15, going down

Earring loop: out of top bead 2, pick up 5 gold, down top bead 3, up top bead 2; go round twice more. Weave back down to the ladder and turn the earring upside down, so the ladder is on top. The rows below are written the way you now see them: left to right, bridges counted from the left.

- [ ] Row 8 13 3 light sky blue (S), 1 salmon pink (P), 1 light sky blue (S), 1 black (K), 1 light sky blue (S), 1 black (K), 1 light sky blue (S), 1 salmon pink (P), 3 light sky blue (S)
- [ ] Row 9 14 6 light sky blue (S), 2 black (K), 6 light sky blue (S)
  » increase at both ends: 2 beads under bridge 1 to start, and a 2nd bead into the last bridge
- [ ] Row 10 13 13 light sky blue (S)
- [ ] Row 11 12 1 red (R), 1 white (W), 2 red (R), 1 white (W), 2 red (R), 1 white (W), 2 red (R), 1 white (W), 1 red (R)
- [ ] Row 12 11 11 red (R)
- [ ] Row 13 10 10 light sky blue (S)
- [ ] Row 14 7 7 light sky blue (S)
  » start 1 bridge in: 2 beads under bridge 3; stop 1 bridge early (last bead under bridge 8)
- [ ] Row 15 4 4 light sky blue (S)
  » start 1 bridge in: 2 beads under bridge 3; stop 1 bridge early (last bead under bridge 5)

Did you enjoy Bobble?

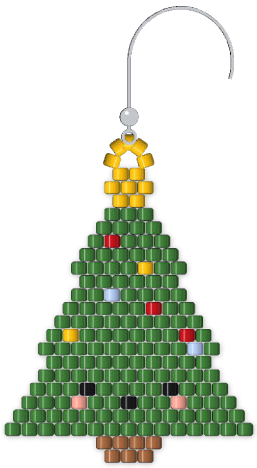
Meet the Jingle Bead Friends: six more Christmas earrings in the same style.



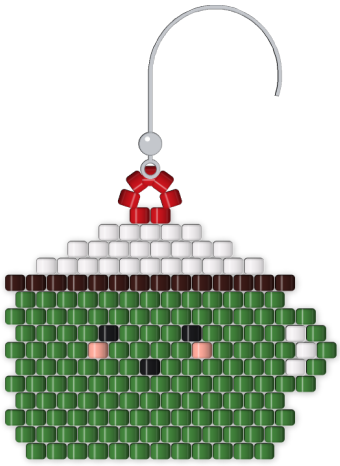
Snowy the Snowman



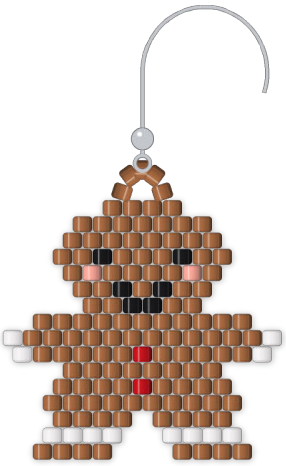
Pip the Penguin



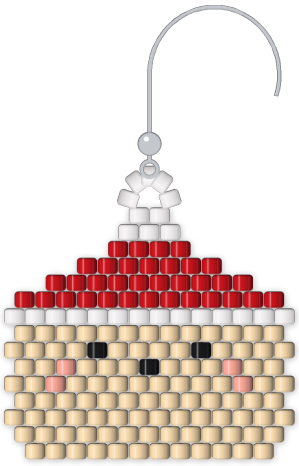
Twinkle the Tree



Cocoa Cuddles



Ginger the Gingerbread Friend



Santa Tofu

Snowy the Snowman, Pip the Penguin, Twinkle the Tree, Cocoa Cuddles, Ginger the Gingerbread Friend and our own Santa Tofu. Same layout as this pattern: a chart, a row-by-row word chart and the bead list for each, plus a shopping list for all six.

Get all six Christmas patterns on Etsy

etsy.com/shop/TofuLabs · questions? message us there, a real person reads every one.

Merry beading!