

This is Jan. project



# Hearty Fringe Earrings

These fringe earrings are a classic design just about every bead weaver learns. They combine the **ladder** and **Comanche stitches** and then finish off with the **basic fringe** technique. Fringe is a great way to include other beads besides seed beads, and for this project, rose quartz heart-shaped beads dangle from each piece of fringe. To bring the design together, the **beaded ear hooks** also include heart-shaped bead details. Whether you need

some ladder and Comanche stitch practice or you're in the mood for a quick and easy project, this is a fun earring design. For a different look, just change the beads and dangle elements. In the brilliant blue fringe earrings pictured on page 69, light and dark blue beads are combined with pale blue bugle beads, and the dangles are packed full of bicone and teardrop-shaped crystal beads for added sparkle.

## MATERIALS

- ▶ twenty 1/2" (1.3 cm) hematite-colored bugle beads
- ▶ ten 4-mm rose quartz heart-shaped beads
- ▶ Silamide thread in natural
- ▶ 10 grams size 11 opaque cream-colored Japanese seed beads
- ▶ two sterling silver beaded ear hooks (page 28), each with a rose quartz heart-shaped bead
- ▶ size 12 beading needle
- ▶ scissors
- ▶ round-nosed pliers

1. After threading the needle, use the **ladder stitch** to connect five bugle beads together, remembering to leave about a 6" (15.2 cm) thread tail.
2. Next, bring the needle up through one bugle bead on the end of the ladder section previously stitched, and use the **Comanche stitch** to weave three rows of seed beads. The last row should have two seed beads in it, with the thread coming out of one of these two beads.
3. String on six seed beads, and bring the needle down through the next bead in the last row to form a loop.
4. To make the loop a little stronger, insert the needle through the bottom of the first bead, and continue to thread it through the loop of beads until you come back out of the same bead in step 2.
5. After reinforcing the loop, continue to snake the needle and thread down through the seed beads until you come out on the other side of one end of your ladder.
6. String on three seed beads, one bugle, two seed beads, one rose quartz heart-shaped bead (with the point of the heart facing away from you), and one seed bead.
7. Use the **basic fringe** technique to bring the needle and thread up and then down through the next bugle bead.
8. String on four seed beads, one bugle, three seed beads, one rose quartz heart-shaped bead, and one seed bead.
9. Use the **basic fringe** technique to bring the needle and thread up and then down through the next bugle bead.
10. Repeats steps 6 and 7; steps 8 and 9; and then steps 6 and 7 again to complete the fringe.
11. Use the **finishing thread** technique to finish off the working thread and thread tail.
12. Repeat steps 1 through 11 to make a second earring.
13. Use round-nosed pliers to gently open the **beaded ear hook** loop, slip the beaded loop at the top of one earring onto this wire loop, and then close the ear hook loop again with round-nosed pliers. Repeat this for the other earring.

### Beader's Tip

*Not all beads will have large enough holes to fit on 20-gauge wire. It's always a good idea to double-check that the beads you plan to include on your ear hooks will fit before deciding to include them in other areas of a jewelry design. Also, be careful of gemstone bead shapes such as stars and hearts. They often have flaws, such as crookedly drilled holes. Again, double-check the quality of the beads you plan to use in a design before starting to weave a piece together.*