

# Umber Pheasant Feather Earrings

Melody MacDuffee

## Materials

14 pheasant or other feathers measuring 1" to 1¼" in slightly graduated lengths  
18 smoke 3mm round fire-polished beads  
28 topaz round 4mm round fire-polished beads  
16 metallic brown 4mm button-shaped fire-polished beads  
30 copper 4mm daisy spacers  
3½" of 22-gauge sterling silver wire  
2' of 26-gauge sterling silver wire  
2 sterling silver 4-6mm soldered jump rings  
1 pair of sterling silver ear posts  
G-S Hypo Tube Cement

## Notions

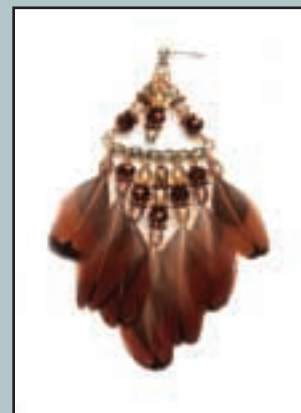
Round-nose pliers  
Flat-nose pliers  
Wire cutters  
G-S Hypo-Tube Cement

## Techniques

Wire loops, stringing

## Finished Size

2½"



**Step 1:** Sort the feathers into two sets of seven feathers. The center feather of each set should be the longest, and the three feathers on each side of it should symmetrically decrease in size.

**Step 2:** Cut 1" of 26-gauge wire. Make a modified head pin by using the flat-nose pliers to bend one end of the wire into a U-shape just wide enough to hold a 4mm bead (the heads of traditional head pins will bend the shafts of the feathers and they won't hang straight). String 1 topaz. Dab glue on the shaft of a short feather and pass into the bead at the end of the head pin (Figure 1). Repeat for three more pins and set aside to dry. You may want to test the strength of the glue bond by tugging gently on the feather.



Figure 1

**Step 3:** Make another modified head pin using 1¼" wire. String 1 topaz, 1 spacer, and 1 brown, and attach a feather slightly larger than the one used in Step 2. Repeat for three more pins and set aside to dry.

**Step 4:** Make another 1¼" modified head pin. String 1 topaz, 1 spacer, 1 brown, 1 spacer, and 1 topaz, and attach a feather slightly larger than the one used in Step 3. Repeat for three more pins and set aside to dry.

**Step 5:** Using a 1½" modified head pin, string 1 topaz, 1 spacer, 1 brown, 1 spacer, 1 topaz, 1 spacer, and 1 topaz. Repeat once and glue the largest feathers into the beads.

**Step 6:** Use round-nose pliers to form wrapped loops at the top of each of the 14 beaded feather head pins.

**Step 7:** Cut the piece of 22-gauge wire in half. Use round-nose pliers to curl one end of each piece up to form a simple loop. String the head pins on the crossbar with 3mm smoke beads between them so that the feathers form a V. Form a loop at the other end of the wire, trimming off any unnecessary length.

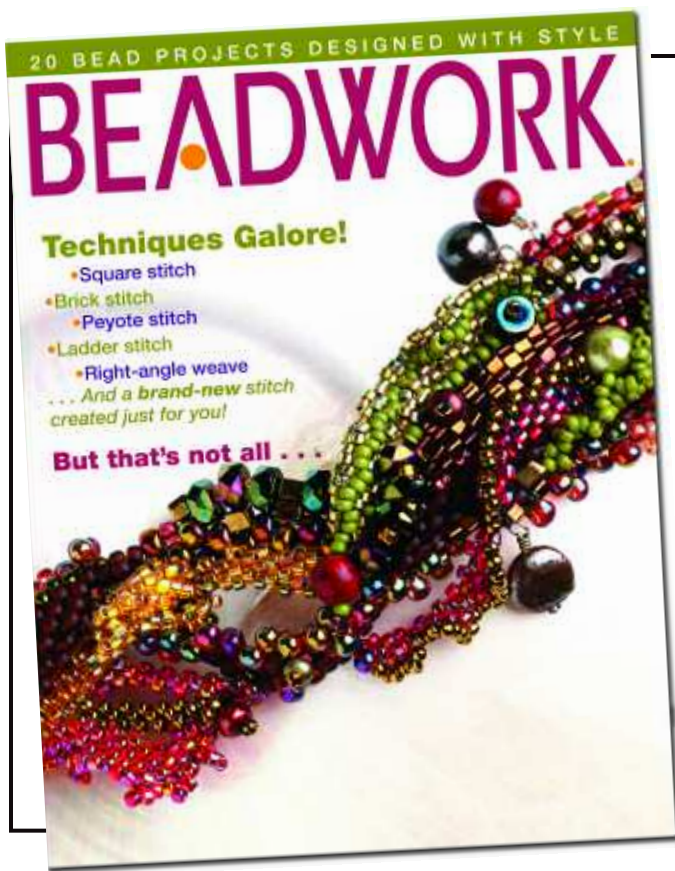
**Step 8:** Cut 2" of 26-gauge wire and wire-wrap a loop at one end. String 1 brown, 1 spacer, 1 topaz, 1 spacer, and 1 smoke. Attach to a jump ring with another wire-wrapped loop. Repeat once using the same jump ring. Attach each end to the wire loops of the feathered crossbar, using pliers if necessary to close the loops (Figure 2).



Figure 2

**Step 9:** Use a 1¼" piece of 26-gauge wire to make another modified head pin. String 1 smoke, 1 spacer, 1 brown, 1 spacer, and 1 topaz. Form a wrapped loop to attach the head pin to the jump ring between the two pins already there. Attach the jump ring to the soldered ring on an earring post. Repeat to finish the other earring. ☺

Jewelry artist Melody MacDuffee loves finding ways to use nontraditional materials in her pieces. She organizes and teaches classes on a variety of beading techniques in a state-of-the-art bead store in Mobile, Alabama. She is widely published in both bead and crochet publications.



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