

Bollywood Dreams

Eni Oken, Designer



Carnelian beads and gold wire combine to create exotic earrings reminiscent of the wares of Far Eastern markets. The designer's fine wirework has the appearance of filigree.

MATERIALS

- 12 round beads, 7 mm diameter
- 2 top-drilled faceted flat pear carnelian beads,* ½ inch (1.3 cm) long
- 20 round carnelian seed beads, 3 mm diameter
- 2 round carnelian beads, 5 mm diameter
- 26-gauge gold-filled dead-soft wire, 9 feet (2.7 m) long, for the wraps
- 18-gauge gold-filled dead-soft wire, 7½ inches (19 cm) long, for the teardrop-shaped element
- 2 gold-filled lever-back ear wires

* Faceted flat pear beads are sometimes called briolettes.

TOOLS

- Wooden dowel or pen, ¼ inch (1.9 cm) diameter
- Mallet or hammer
- Anvil

INSTRUCTIONS

MAKE 2.

1 Cut 6 pieces of 26-gauge wire, each 3 inches (7.6 cm) long. Make eye pins with tiny wrapped loops out of each of them, then slip a 7-mm round bead onto each. Close the open ends with another miniscule wrapped loop. Cut off any excess wire.

2 Cut the 18-gauge wire in half. Working with one piece, form small loops at both ends of it. Using the wooden dowel and your fingers, form the wire into a teardrop shape. Flatten the shape on an anvil with a mallet or hammer until it's work hardened.

3 To create the flat-pear dangles at the earring's center, cut a piece of 26-gauge wire, 3 inches (7.6 cm) long. Place a flat pear on it, leaving a tail 1 inch (2.5 cm) long on one side; wrap the shorter wire around the longer one several times. Trim the short end of the wire. Now use round-nose pliers to form a small wrapped loop from the remaining wire, making the loop as close as possible to the wrapping you just did and winding some of the excess wire on top of the existing wrapping. Trim the wire closely.

4 To assemble all the elements, cut a piece of 26-gauge wire 2½ feet (76.2 cm) long. Leaving a 1-inch-long (2.5 cm) tail to help you hold onto it, start at one of the loops on the teardrop shape and tightly coil the wire to one of the loops

for ¼ inch (0.6 cm); trim the tail. Slip a seed bead onto the working wire, making sure the bead is positioned at the outermost edge of the wire teardrop, and continue coiling another ⅜ inch (0.5 cm). Add another seed bead to the working wire and coil another ⅜ inch (0.5 cm). Now slip a seed bead and one of the dangles you made in step 1 onto the working wire. Continue to wrap the wire and add the seed beads and dangles in this way until you've attached them all. After you finish, if the beads aren't symmetrically spaced on the teardrop, spread out the coils a bit until they are.

5 Bring together the two loops of the teardrop element so that one is atop the other, then wrap them together twice tightly. Form a small cap by wrapping the shoulders of the teardrop, below the loops, six more times. On the last wrap, slip the flat pear dangle onto the working wire, then use round-nose pliers to twist a small wrapped loop that faces into the center of the teardrop shape. Finish by tightly coiling it around the teardrop wire, near the cap. Trim any excess wire.

6 Using a 3-inch (7.6 cm) length of 26-gauge wire and a 5-mm bead, make a wrapped bead loop link that connects one of its loop to the two joined loops above the cap, and the other one in an ear wire.