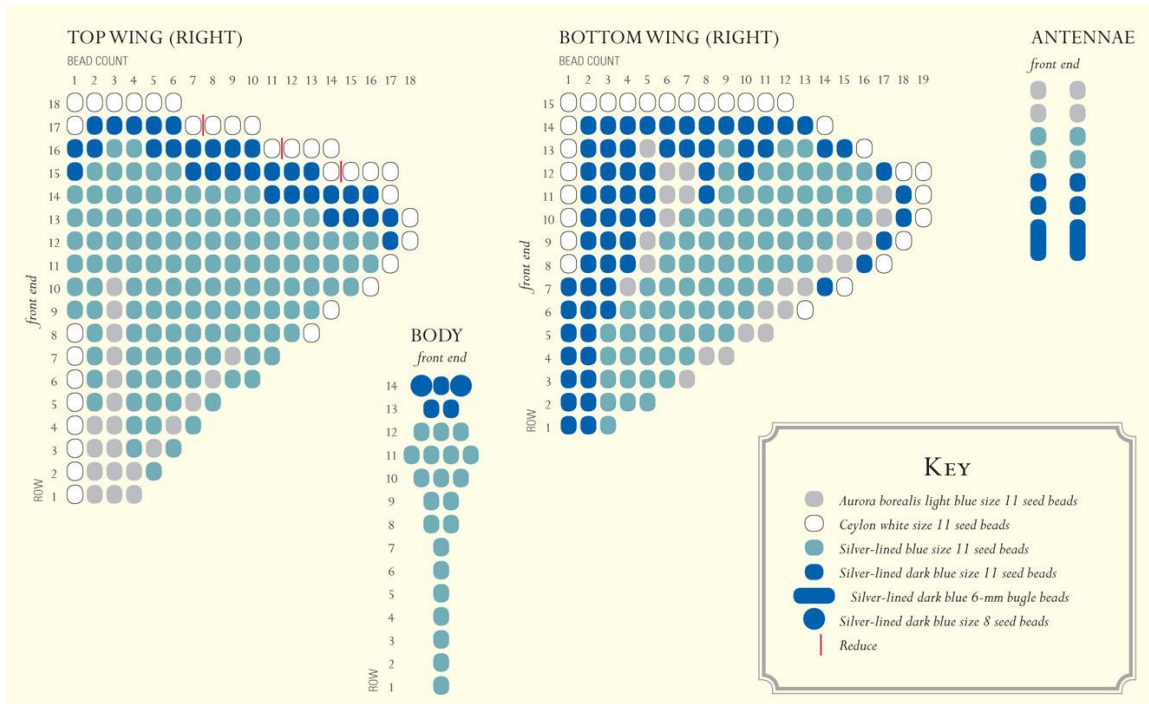




Eastern Tailed Blue Butterfly
Cupido comyntas

Habitat: North America Wingspan: $\frac{7}{8}$ to $1 \frac{1}{8}$ inches (22 to 29 mm)

A North American beauty, this butterfly is flat-beaded and fairly easy to create. It makes a great first project to introduce you to the basic techniques for making wire pieces, and the variations that follow will give you some ideas about experimenting with color, too.



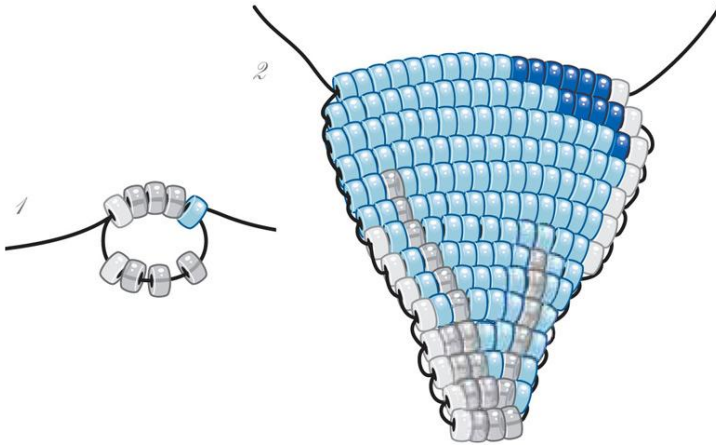
You Will Need

- 5 ½ yd/5 m of 32-gauge/0.2 mm wire
- 104 aurora borealis light blue size 11 seed beads (approx. 1.25 g)
- 126 ceylon white size 11 seed beads (approx. 1.25 g)
- 431 silver-lined blue size 11 seed beads (approx. 4.25 g)
- 201 silver-lined dark blue size 11 seed beads (approx. 2 g)
- 2 silver-lined dark blue size 8 seed beads
- 2 silver-lined dark blue 6-mm bugle beads
- Wire cutters
- Flat-nose pliers
- Bradawl

Making the top wings

1 Cut a 39-inch/1-m length of wire. Following the Top Wing chart on page 20, bead rows 1 and 2. Pull tight, keeping the beads flat and in the middle of the wire.

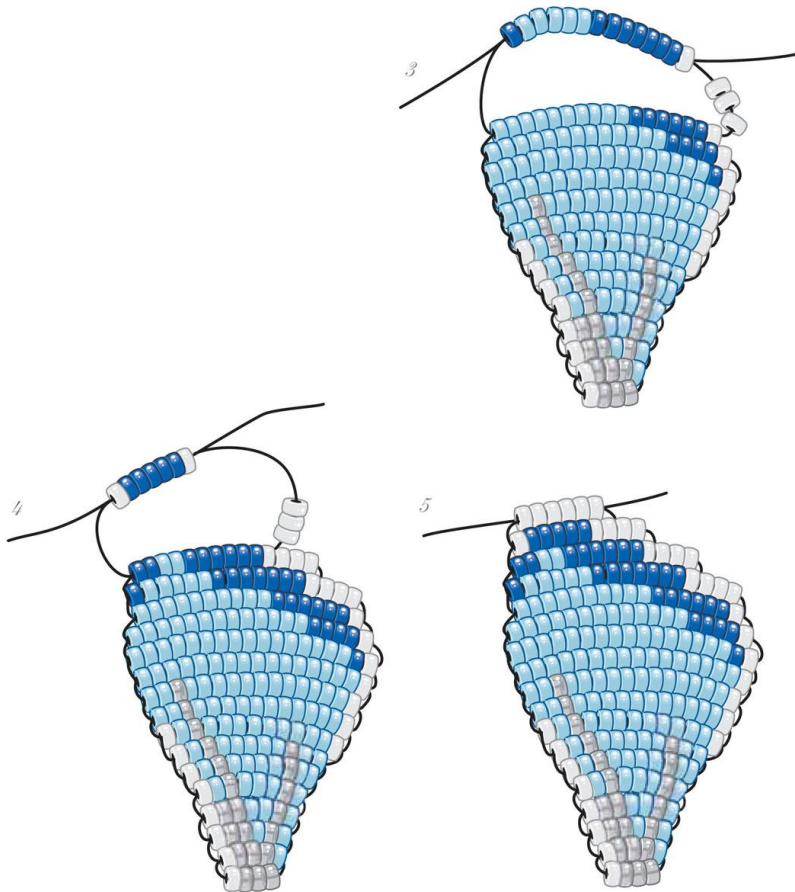
2 Continue following the chart to bead rows 3 through 14, being sure to keep your work the same side up all the time.



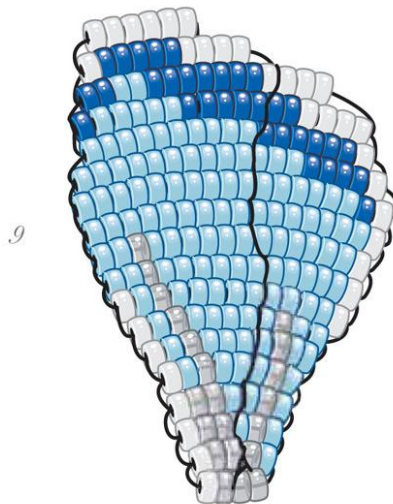
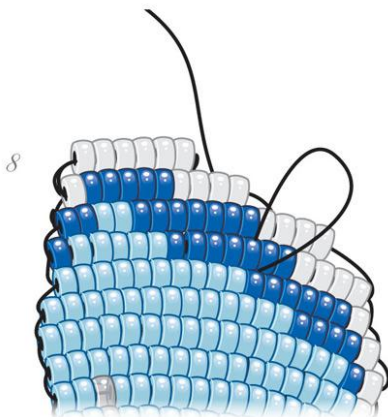
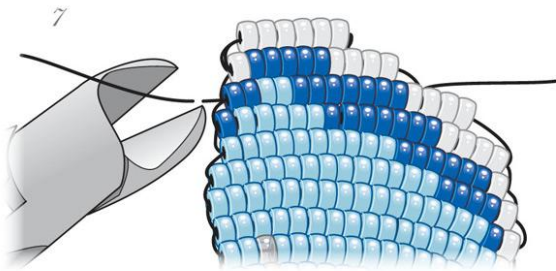
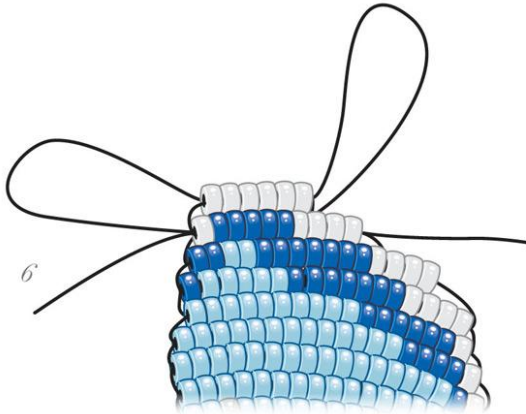
3 Follow the chart for row 15, but when passing the left wire reduce by bringing it out three beads before the end of the row, marked by a red line on the chart. Pull tight. This will reduce the side of the wing and give it its shape.

4 Repeat the reducing process for rows 16 and 17, exiting the rows of beads as marked on the chart for each.

5 Row 18 is the final row in the wing, and is worked the same way as rows 3 through 14. When row 18 is completed, straighten the top edge of the wing (the left side) by pressing it against your tabletop.



- 6 To finish the wire, thread both ends back into the beadwork; the left wire goes through all the beads in row 17, and the right wire enters the row between the third and fourth white beads and exits the left-hand end of the row.
- 7 Pass the wires back through row 16 in this same manner, then pull to tighten. Trim, bend, and hide the wires on the left. Use the right wire to start backstitching.
- 8 Pass the wire through between rows 14 and 15, then back through between rows 15 and 16. Pull the wire snug between the beads and around the two wires they're wrapping.
- 9 Continue backstitching down the center of the wing, finishing in the center of the first row, with two beads each side. Bend the wire back and thread it under one of the backstitches, then cut the end off. Your first top wing is complete; mirror repeat steps 1 through 9 to make a second top wing.

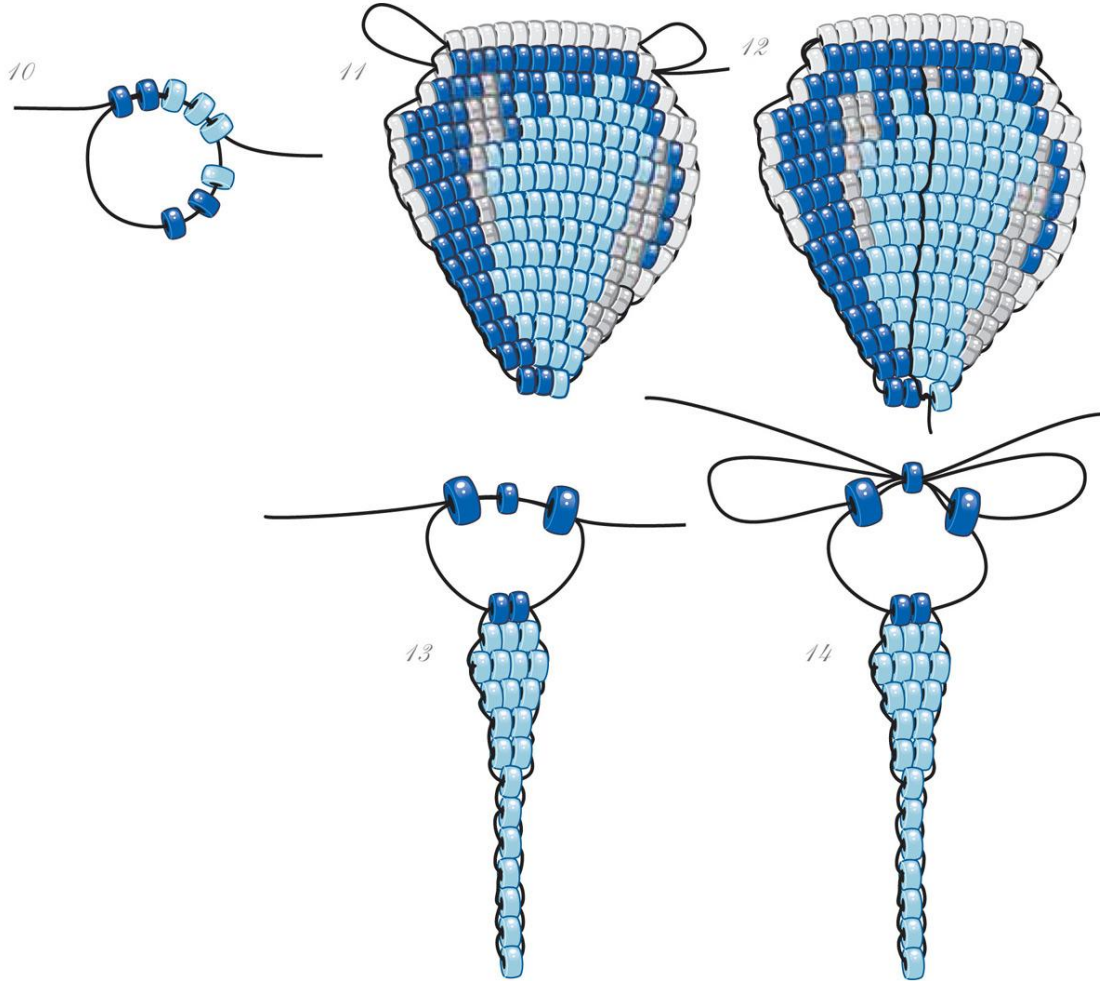


Making the bottom wings

10 Cut a 39-inch/1-m length of wire. Following the Bottom Wing chart on page 20, begin the first lower wing in exactly the same way you did the top one.

11 Continue through the rows until all are complete. Weave back through two rows, trim, bend, and hide the wires to finish.

12 Cut a 12-inch/30-cm length of wire and backstitch down the center of the wing, exactly as you did with the top wings. Mirror repeat steps 10 through 12 to make a second bottom wing.



Making the body

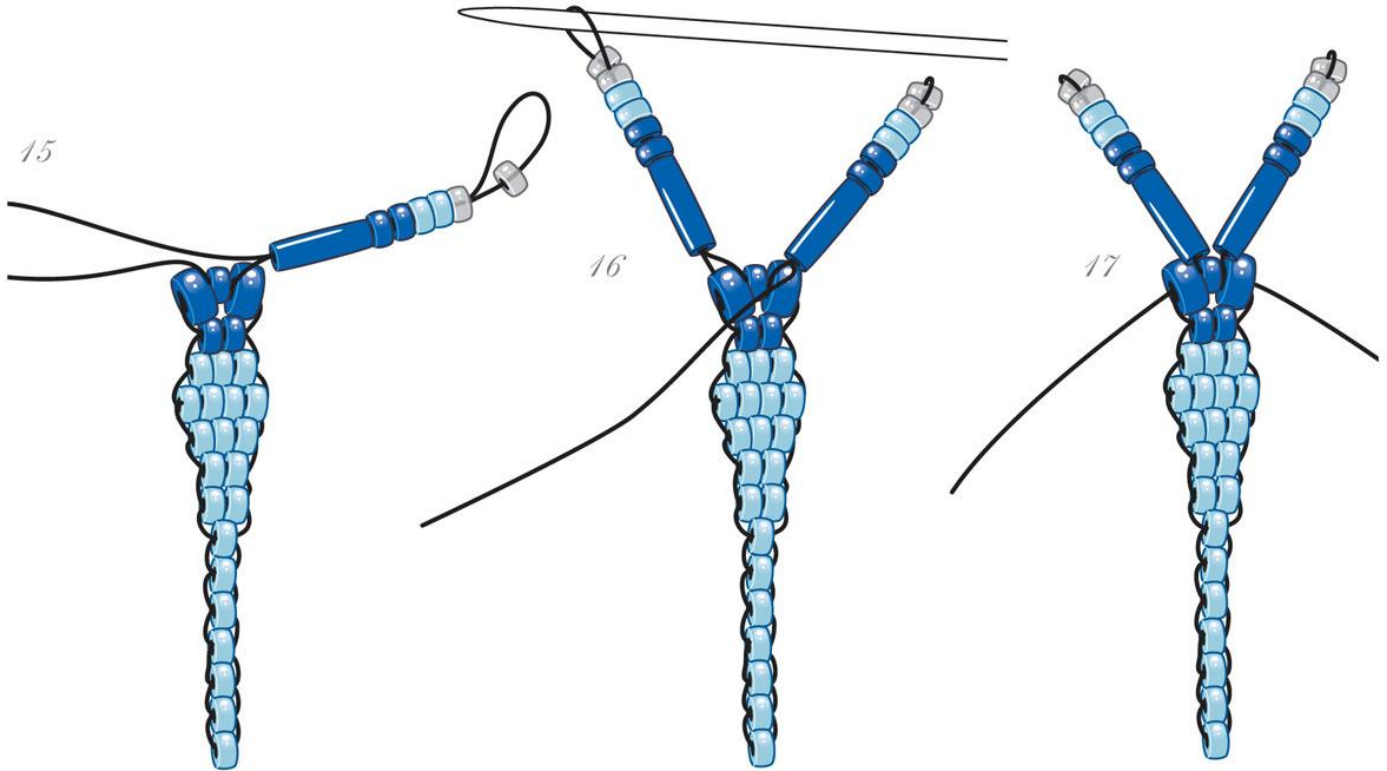
13 Cut a 16-inch/40-cm length of wire and follow the body chart on page 20 through row 14; the body begins with single-bead rows and increases on row 8.

14 Thread the wires around the outside of the large beads (the eyes) and back through the middle bead in opposite directions. Tighten the wires firmly.

15 To make the antennae, follow the chart on page 20 to thread beads onto the right wire, as shown. Thread the wire back down through all the beads except the last one. Repeat on the left wire.

16 To curve and tighten the antennae, put the point of a bradawl into the loop at the outer end of one antenna and pull the wire, pushing the beads tightly toward the head. Repeat on the other side.

17 Thread the wire from the left antenna back through the left eye bead from the center to the outer edge. Mirror repeat with the wire from the right antenna, feeding it back through the right eye bead. Pull both ends tight. Weave back into rows until row 12, trim, and bend the wires to finish.



Upper side

Assembling the butterfly

18 Cut a 12-inch/30-cm piece of wire, thread it through row 13 of the body, and center the body on the wire. Thread row 1 of a top wing onto each side, making sure that the longer edges of the wings face upward; pass each end of the wire through all four beads in row 11 on the body. Pull the wires tight.

19 Thread on the bottom wings, passing the wire through the three beads of row 1 of each wing and then back through row 9 of the body. Pull the wires tight, then weave one more row down, trim, and bend to finish.

