

Beaded Wire Flower Charm

This wirework square-stitch charm is a good way to make a dent in the “bead soup” left over from projects.

Materials (per flower)

- Five 6/o (E) seed beads
- About 15 inches of 30-gauge craft wire
- About 1.25 - 1.75 inches of beads per petal
 - In this case, more is more; a variety of colors and bead types make the flowers more interesting.
 - Suitable beads include: 1/8” bugle beads; 11/o, 10/o, 8/o, and 6/o seed beads; 3-4mm crystals – basically, any beads smaller than 4mm.
 - Larger beads (4mm and 6/o) are best used singly as accents on the tips of petals.
 - Beads smaller than 11/o (such as Charlottes or 15/o) may be problematic, depending on placement in the petals. The easiest place to bury the tail of the wire is in a petal, and very small beads may not accommodate a second pass of the wire.
- 9mm jump ring

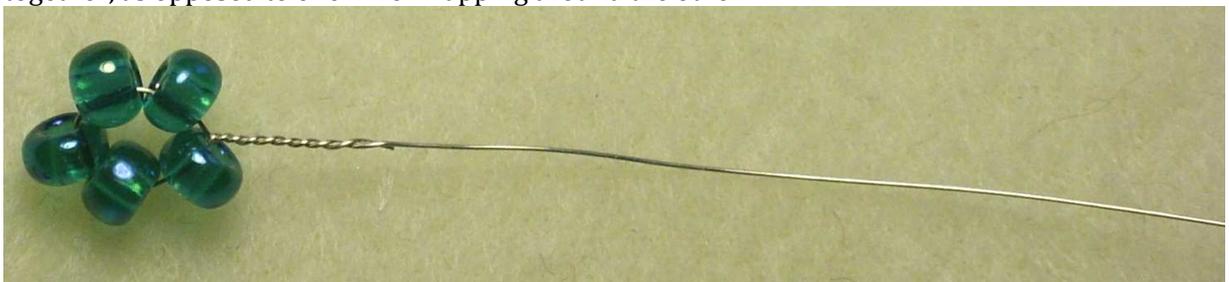


Tools

- Wire cutters
- Bead mat

Instructions

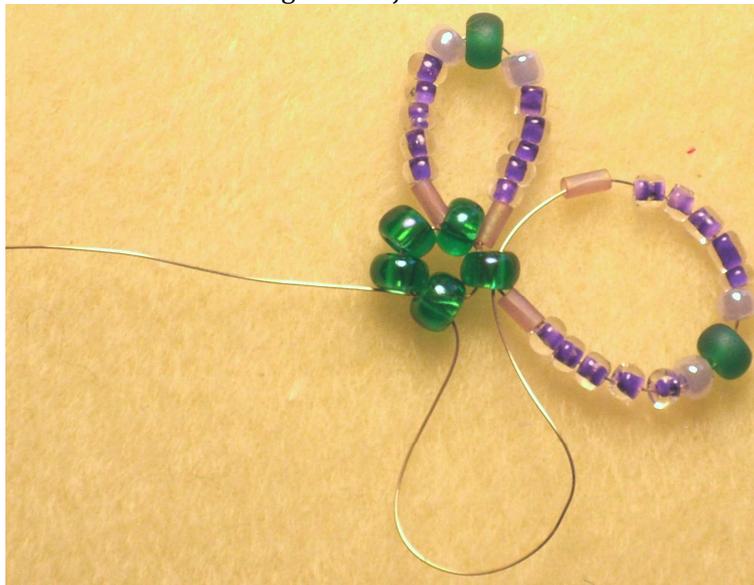
1. String five 6/o beads on the wire. Using as little of the wire as you can manage, form a tight loop with the five beads and twist the wire to secure. Make sure that the wires are twisted together, as opposed to one wire wrapping around the other.



2. String the beads for the first petal onto the wire.
 - a. One possible 1.25-inch sequence: bugle bead, five 10/o, 8/o, 6/o, 8/o, five 10/o, bugle.



- b. The instructions that I used as a springboard called for 4 Delicas in color A, 8 Delicas in color B, then 4 Delicas in color A. This combination is boring, not well proportioned (in my opinion), and an inappropriate use of Delicas. Cylinder beads tend to form gaps when used in a tight curve, such as that at the tip of the petals; round beads cover the wire better.
3. Thread the wire through one of the beads at the base of the petal and then the adjacent bead.
 - a. This usually has to be done in two passes:
 - i. Thread the wire through the bead at the base
 - ii. Thread the wire through the adjacent bead



- b. Ease the wire around curves carefully. Do not allow tiny loops to form; these cause kinks that almost guarantee that the wire will break.
4. String the beads for a petal, thread the wire back around and through the bead at the base of the petal, and thread the wire through the next bead in the center of the flower.
5. Repeat Step 4 until you have completed 5 petals.
6. Pass the wire around the ring of beads around the center a few times. In a couple of places, wrap the wire around the ring a couple of times by passing it through the center and bringing it

back to the outside. Make sure the wire isn't getting snagged on any beads, and make sure the loop stays as round as possible until you finally draw it tight between adjacent beads in the ring. (This is similar to tying knots in a beadweaving piece, only the wire is being wrapped, not knotted.)

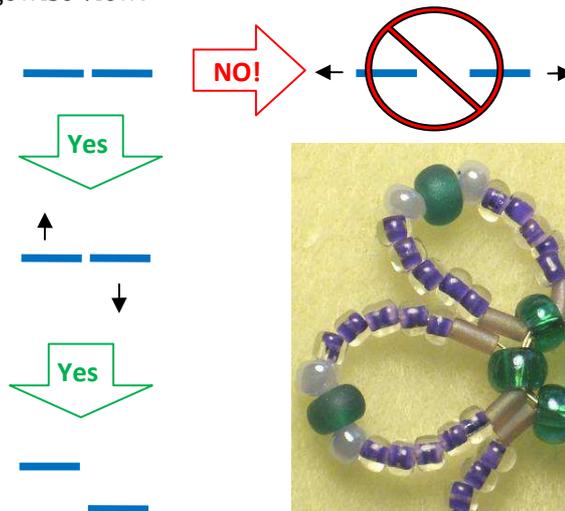


7. When you think the wire is secure, or you have only a few inches left, or you're bored and want to move on to the next flower, thread the wire up through a petal. Pull the wire tight, and cut it as close as possible (taking care not to cut the petal!).





8. Add the jump ring to a petal.ⁱ
 - a. Open a jump ring by sliding one end past the other so that they are no longer aligned. Do NOT pull the cut ends apart!
 - i. Edgewise view:



- b. Close the jump ring. *You're done!*

ⁱ After I presented this project, a member of my guild pointed out that if you remember to string the jumpring on a petal before bringing the wire back to the center and closing the loop, you don't have to fuss with opening and closing a jumpring.