

1309-4

Basket Weave Bracelet

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Materials needed

24-26" 16-gauge dead soft wire
10-12' 26-gauge dead soft wire

Tools

Flush cutters
Round nose pliers
Chain nose pliers
Nylon jaw wire straightening pliers
Ruler
Bracelet mandrel or nylon jaw bracelet forming pliers

Instructions

HOW MUCH 16-GAUGE WIRE TO CUT

Three frame wires are used for this project, two of which are the same length. This will determine those two wire lengths:

1. Pick a hook.
2. Determine the length of your bracelet without the hook.
3. Determine how much wire is used to make a spiraled end.
 - a. Flush cut 3" of 16-gauge copper wire and mark the wire at 1", 1 1/8", 1 1/4" and 1 1/2".
 - b. With the small end of your round nose pliers, make a loop on the end nearest the 1" mark.
 - c. Grasp the wire with the small loop facing towards you with the large end of your round nose pliers.

- d. Roll the pliers until the small loop is touching the wire, forming a spiraled end.
- e. The mark at the top of the arch of the loop is how much wire needs to be added into the length of the bracelet.

This example is for 7" bracelet using a 1" hook:

1. Bracelet length = 6" (the hook is 1")
2. The amount for a spiraled end needs to be doubled. I use $1 \frac{1}{8}$ " to make one spiraled end, $1 \frac{1}{8} \times 2 = 2 \frac{1}{4}$ "
3. Bracelet length 6" + two spiraled ends $2 \frac{1}{4} = 8 \frac{1}{4}$ ". I need to flush cut two pieces of 16-gauge wire for my frames. These are the outer two frame wires, #1 and #3.

Next, calculate how much wire is used to make simple loops on both ends of the third frame wire. To make two simple loops, I use $1 \frac{1}{4}$ " of wire. $6" + 1 \frac{1}{4} = 7 \frac{1}{4}$ ". I need to flush cut one piece of 16-gauge wire for my third frame. This is the middle frame wire, #2.

Step 1: Straighten and flush cut three pieces of 16-gauge wire as determined above. These are the frame wires.

Step 2: Make spiraled ends on the two long pieces of 16-gauge wire and simple loops on each end of the shortest frame wire.

Step 3: Cut 3-5' of 26-gauge wire, whatever length you are comfortable working with. This is the weaving wire.

Step 4: Leaving a 1" tail, coil frame wire #1 two to three times. Hold frame wire #2 parallel to frame wire #1, then coil the weaving wire around both frame wires three times. On the third coil, bring the weaving wire up in between frame wires #1 and #2.

Step 5: Hold frame wire #3 parallel to frame wire #2. Coil the weaving wire around frame wires #2 and #3 three times. On the third coil, bring the weaving wire behind all three frame wires, then coil the weaving wire around the frame wires #1 and #2 three times. On the third coil, bring the weaving wire up in between the frame wires #1 and #2.

Step 6: Weave the length of the bracelet, gently pushing the weave back until the frame wires are about half full of weave. At this point, it becomes difficult to move the weave. Push the weave back or pull the frame wires through the weave until the beginning of the weave is at the base of the spiral arches.

Step 7: Adding additional wire: After coiling around two frame wires three times, cut the weaving wire tail on the backside of the frame wire. Using a fingernail, press the weaving wire against the frame wire. Chain nose pliers will not work. Cut desired length of 26-gauge wire. Thread the weaving wire between the two frame wires where the last basket weave was made. Following the weave pattern, coil the next set of two frame wires, then coil the next set of two frame wires. Cut the beginning weaving wire tail and with a fingernail, press the weaving wire against the frame wire.

Step 8: To weave within the spiraled ends of the bracelet, the spiraled

ends can be opened like jump rings, weave the remainder of the bracelet, then move the spiraled ends back into their original position.

Step 9: Cut the wire after coiling around two frame wires three times, pressing the tail against the frame with.

Step 10: Remove the beginning two to three coils done in Step 4, then cut the wire tail.

Step 11: Attach your hook.

Step 12: Shape on a bracelet mandrel or with nylon jaw bracelet forming pliers.

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Guest:



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