

Wire Ribbon Wraps

Enhance a wire necklace with embroidered beads and fringe

by **Diane Hyde**

A plain metal neckwire comes alive when it is covered with a fiber braid and embellished with glass flowers and leaves. Wrapping the wire provides a base for stitching, so enjoy the freedom of adding colorful beads to any sturdy shape that you can wrap.

stepbystep

Necklace base

[1] Put a dab of glue at the midpoint (approximately) on one side of the wire base. Attach the end of the braid to the wire, so the cut end points toward the V at the center (**photo a**). Let the glue dry.

[2] Wrap the braid around the wire in a tight spiral, keeping the tension even and tight. Cover about half the previous wrap with each new wrap to create a firm,

padded base for the embroidery (**photo b**). Make the wraps closer together near the V to provide extra padding for the embellishment. Never allow the wire to show through the wraps. If you need to stop wrapping before you're finished, use an alligator-style clip to hold your work in place.

[3] Continue wrapping until the sides are symmetrical. Before you trim the end, hold the wraps in place by stitching the braid to itself on the back of the wire with

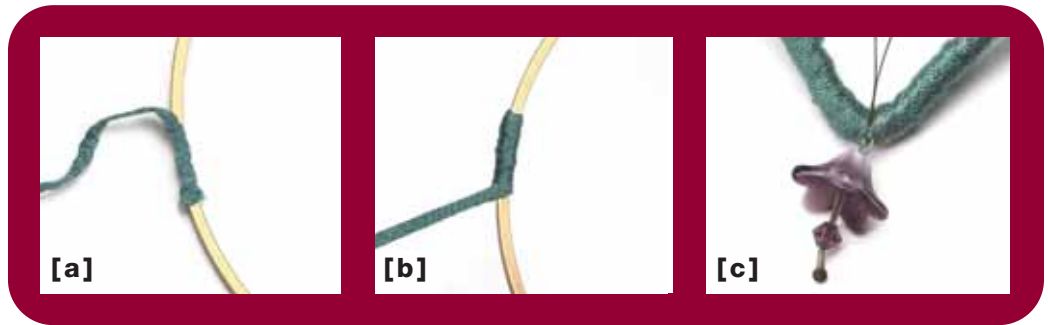
thread that closely matches the fiber color. Cut off the excess braid and tack down the cut end as invisibly as you can, sewing on the back. Trim the thread close to the wraps when you're done.

Floral embellishment

[1] Anchor a new thread at the back of the V and work with it doubled. Use a series of tiny, nearly invisible (I call them “traveling”) stitches to maneuver the thread to the front.

[2] Pick up a flower, a 4mm





crystal, and a seed bead. Turn and go back through the crystal, flower, and braid (photo c). Go through the beads and braid again at least one more time to secure the embellishment. Attach one flower on each side of the central flower (photo d). [3] Attach one large leaf bead on each side of the flowers (photo e). Make your traveling stitches on the back of the neckpiece.

Fringe cluster

To make a cluster of fringe below the flowers, maneuver your needle to the V using tiny stitches as before. String each strand of fringe in a slightly different length, ranging from about 2½–3 in. (6.4–7.6cm). Keep the longer strands toward the center.

[1] For each fringe, blend the seed beads so they appear to change colors gradually from the neckpiece to the leaves and drops.

[2] As you reach the bottom of each strand, string a 4mm crystal, four seed beads, a leaf or crystal drop, and four seed beads. Go back through

the 4mm crystal and the rest of the beads to the neckpiece (photo f). Tighten the thread, but don't let the strand kink. Sew through the braid and start the next fringe.

[3] Make each fringe with a slightly different bead arrangement so the crystals complement each other when they hang together. When you make the last fringe (the amount is up to you), anchor the thread in the braid, but don't cut it if it is more than 2 ft. (61cm) long.

Cube picots

[1] If your working thread is less than 2 ft. long, start a new thread in the braid on the back of the neckpiece. Exit about 1 in. (2.5cm) up from the tip of the V.

[2] Pick up a cube, a 4mm crystal, and an 11°. Go back through the crystal, the cube, and the braid (photo g). Straighten out the picot, if necessary, so it hangs pointing downward.

[3] Add picots at ¼-in. (3mm) intervals or as desired. Secure the thread on the back of the neckwire.

[4] Start a new thread at the V and add picots on the unfinished section. Make sure the picots line up evenly on both sides. ●

You can reach Diane at diane.hdesigns@execpc.com.

MATERIALS

necklace 18 in. (46cm)

- 3 14mm flower beads
- 2 20mm leaf beads
- 3 or more 12mm leaf beads
- 5 11 x 5.5mm crystal drops
- 22 or more 4mm crystal bicones
- 14 cube beads
- 5g seed beads, size 11°, each of two colors
- wire necklace base (Designers' Findings, diane.hdesigns@execpc.com)
- ¼ in. (6mm) rayon fiber braid (Designers' Findings)
- Nymo B or D to match braid color
- beading needles, #10 or 12
- E-6000 glue
- small alligator clip (optional)

EDITOR'S NOTE:

If your flowers droop or fall forward, brace them by stitching a short row of 11° beads behind or under them.

