



www.beadsbaublesandjewels.com

1207-2

Beading Lesson – Wire and Bead Branches

By Katie Hacker

Sponsor: Beadalon

For tools and supplies visit:



www.beadalon.com



Wire and bead branches are a unique twist on wire-wrapped hair accessories and jewelry. They look complicated, but they're actually really easy to make.

To get started, you'll need thin Artistic Wire, such as 24-28 gauge. Choose a color that works well with your purposes: white, gold or silver is nice for bridal designs or you can use other bright colors for everyday jewelry. You'll also want a selection of beads. Small glass leaves and flowers are fun, or you can use crystals or gemstones.

Fold a piece of wire in half and twist the wires together. String a bead onto one wire, fold the wire back over the bead and twist it together below the bead to form a branch. Twist the center wires together, and then make another branch. You can also add beads onto the stem between the branches.

The branches will look more natural if they aren't perfectly symmetrical or evenly spaced. In some places, you may want to add two small branches to one side. You can balance this by adding one larger bead to the other side. This adds to the natural effect.

Once the wire and bead branch is as long as you want it to be, you can use bobby pins through the end loops to attach it to the hair. It would also be very easy to attach the piece to a wire headband or hair comb.

Long wire and bead branches make delicate chokers and sections of wire and bead branches can be used as pretty pendants.

Links:

Artistic Wire <http://www.beadalon.com/artisticwire.asp>

Tools <http://www.beadalon.com/tools.asp>

Beadalon <http://www.beadalon.com>

Katie Hacker <http://www.katiehacker.com>

Guest:



Katie Hacker