

1304-4

Mary Hettmansperger demonstrates how to creatively wire wrap large crystal pendants from John Bead.

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<http://www.johnbead.com>



Looping and Viking knit over large Crystals

Looping is also known as a half hitch in macramé, a blanket stitch in sewing and knotless netting in basketry and fiber arts. This versatile stitch is fabulous for adding dimension, detail and interest to the surface of these crystals.

Tools and Materials:

Wire cutters
26 gauge wire – craft, copper, silver or coated wires
Large or medium Presario Crystals
18 or 16 Gauge wire

Steps for looping over the surface of the crystals

When executing this stitch around a blanket you work on the edge of the cloth. When performing the technique in macramé, it is done around another string. When doing it with wire as a surface on the crystals, you need to set up the beginning in the same kind of way, basically creating a frame in which to build the looping on.

Create the “frame” over the crystal (basically a top rim for the looping to begin on)

1. Take about a 6-foot length of the 26-gauge wire.
2. Thread the end of the wire through the small hole at the smaller diameter end, leaving about a 3-4-inch tail.
3. Wrap the wire around the smaller diameter area of the crystal in a figure 8 through the hole again to secure.
4. Take the end tail and wrap it in a figure 8 pattern – following the 1st one. Make sure that this connection is not too tight.
5. Leave the long end of the wire coming out of the hole to begin the stitch.

Begin the Looping stitch-

1. Now that you have the frame set up, begin the stitch using the frame as the base.
2. If you are right handed, you want to do the stitch going to the right. If you are left handed then reverse the instructions to go to the left.
3. When I teach this I always say, “go over the fence” – the fence being the frame you have set up. So, stitch over the frame and bring the wire in front of the left side of the loop, pulling towards left at the 8 o’clock direction.
4. Pull till you create a small round loop about ¼ inch.
5. Anchor this loop by pulling the wire towards the 5 o’clock position and pull with pressure at that point to create a very small loop that secures the wire.
6. Do this stitch again, and if you have trouble getting the wire over the top of the frame and round the back side – loosen up the frame a little (this is why I said do not get it too tight)
7. Make as many stitches as will fit around the frame.
8. Continue with the second row by stitching into the row of large loops previously made.
9. If you have trouble stitching over the existing loops, you can loosen the loop and thread the wire over the loop. My favorite way to loop into an existing loop is to find the overlap of the wire in the existing loop and insert the wire through that small opening overlap. This overlap is also right at that 8 o’clock position, making this way very easy to make continuous rows of looping.

Viking stitch –

1. Begin the process by setting up the frame in the same manor as you did for the looping.
2. Begin the 1st row the same way also. Since the Viking stitch is a little more patterned looking be sure to make the loops on the beginning frame in a nice position.
3. No begin the second row. This stitch is similar to looping but you will not jump over the backside of the loops as with the

looping stitch. Instead, you stitch behind the small connecting loop inserting the wire from the right side out to the left – again going to the right in direction. The connection knots will all line up instead of being in the center of the existing loop.

Make a hanger –

1. Hammer 18 or 16 gauge wire on the ends to create paddles. Insert 26 gauge wire into the looping on the side of the crystal and attach the larger wire by wrapping.

Guest:



Mary Hettsmansperger