

1407-1

Debbie Simon creates one-of-a-kind components by manipulating filigree stampings.

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Fil-i-gree ,—*described as a* delicate ornamental work of fine silver, gold, or other metal wires, esp. lacy jewelers' work of scrolls and arabesques, has had a strong showing in jewelry design over the last couple of years. There is an amazing selection of filigree stampings available. You can find a great assortment of vintage or contemporary designs. Also available, reproductions made from original metal stamps. What makes filigree so fun to design with is that these metal forms can be bent, wrapped, cut or altered. That's just the start...now add crystals!



**Tips:**

- Start with thinner filigree forms (Some are thicker/heavier gauge metal that can be hard to bend especially starting out. Start with thinner gauges while getting familiar with working with forms.). The heavier more expensive and harder to bend.
- To manipulate, start slowly messaging the curve as oppose to committing to hard bend. Once bend is in metal it is harder to straighten back out and re-bend. Also re-working can be taxing on the metal.
- If you are bending two sides that need to be even, make sure you go back and forth bending to make sure you are bringing in both sides equally even and will be centered.
- Don't use your good wire cutters to trim or cut filigree. The metal could be too hard and wreck your cutters. Use basic flush or heavy duty wire cutters and reserve you good cutters for finer wire...you'll be thankful you did (take it from someone who ruined an expensive pair).
- Sand rough cut edges with a file.

**Materials needed**

- 3 - 50x28mm Deco Diamond Filigree (Vintaj Natural Brass Co. Vintaj.com)
- 2 - 20mm Square Dapt (Vintaj Natural Brass Co. Vintaj.com)
- 2 - 27x9mm Full Droplet (Vintaj Natural Brass Co. Vintaj.com)
- 16 - 2mm jump rings (Vintaj Natural Brass Co. Vintaj.com)
- 2 - 4mm jump rings (Vintaj Natural Brass Co. Vintaj.com)
- 3 - 8mm jump rings (Vintaj Natural Brass Co. Vintaj.com)
- Two types of chain - total 48 inches each (Vintaj Natural Brass Co. Vintaj.com)
- 1 - 24x7mm Bead Pod Creative Bar (Vintaj Natural Brass Co. Vintaj.com)
- 1 - 22mm Hammered Ring (Vintaj Natural Brass Co. Vintaj.com)
- 2 - 30x22mm SWAROVSKI ELEMENTS Fancy Stones; Article No. 4127, Amethyst
- 1 - 30x22mm SWAROVSKI ELEMENTS Fancy Stones; Article No. 4127, Light Colorado Topaz
- 2 - 12mm SWAROVSKI ELEMENTS Fancy Stones; Article No. 4470, Indicolite
- Renaissance Wax

**Tools:**

- Bail pliers (different sizes)
- Chain nose pliers
- Ring mandrel/mandrel
- Roundnose pliers

**Making forms:****Form I:**

- With the backside of filigree form facing you, lay fancy stone in the center pretty side up. Take flat nose or bail pliers and bend form, where the tip of one side stones seats, slightly up towards you at a slight angle. Repeat on adjacent edge. Slowly start bending the form, bringing each side together. Going back and forth, from side to side slowly bend the edges up to form a bezel for the stone. It is harder to go back and correct a fast sharp bend. Take your time.
- Add two 2mm jump rings at the bend where stone sets in. Repeat on adjacent side. Tip: it is easier to do this now as oppose to later when stone is clamped in.
- Set fancy stone pretty side up facing you in the cradle you made.
- Carefully and slowly start bending sides into clamp around stone. Go back and forth, side to side slowly adjusting and making sure you are evenly bringing in sides. Remember it is harder to go back into and re-bend. Taking caution to make sure the stone is center and points line up. Continue to tweak until both sides meet up.
- Using flat nose pliers, clamp down the edges to secure the stone.

**Form II:**

- Open up filigree bead shape completely. Flatten out and trim off loop with flush cutters. Sand the rough edge with file. Set to the side.

- Take the flattened shaped filigree, with the backside of filigree form facing you, center and lay fancy stone in place pretty side down.
- Take other filigree piece (xxxx), lay on top of the stone with backside of filigree form facing you.
- With fingers or chain nose pliers, gently start bending bead form legs around stone and form sandwich making sure stone and form stay center. Clamp down when satisfied with position.
- Add 2mm jump ring on one side. Repeat on other side.

#### Attaching forms together:

1. Use an 8 mm jump ring to attach the completed components to each other. Start with amethyst, small, crystal copper, small, amethyst.
2. Cut chain (a) into four pieces measuring 12inches. (You can shorten or lengthen chain based on how you want the necklace to lay.)
3. Cut chain (b) into four pieces measuring 12inches. (You can shorten or lengthen chain based on how you want the necklace to lay.)
4. On one side of the linked components open one jump ring, with out letting jump ring come off the form, add on one length of chain (a) and one length of chain (b) and close back up jump ring. Repeat with 2nd jump ring.
5. Repeat step 4 on other side of linked forms.

#### Finishing necklace:

1. On left side, gather the 4 lengths of chain and add toggle using a 4mm jump
2. Repeat on right side adding the other side of toggle.

#### Guest:



**Debbie Simon**