

Antiquities

Designs & Techniques by Stephanie J Eddy

Wired Bead Clusters

Wired Bead Cluster (WCB) Basics: This wire weaving technique does not use bobbins or weights. No Pre-loading. Each bead is added and dropped one bead at a time.

What are Wired Bead Clusters? These beaded beads are created using wire and a variety of beads and metals that are worked in spiral rounds (or rows).

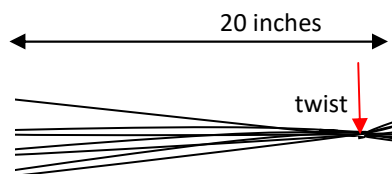
WCB's can be any length. For example, an entire bracelet or necklace could be created as one long WCB or as a series of short clusters linked together with end caps and jump rings.

SETUP for Wire Bead Clusters — Add the label to the foam disk. Remove the center foam circle but **DO NOT DISCARD**.

1. Prepare the 7-cord wire bundle following the diagram below.

Preparing the 7-cord wires

Using the 28 ga. wire, cut 7 lengths at 20" each. Bring the ends together and twist one side about 1/2" from the end to secure.



2. Label side up, wire knot down— insert one wire into each slot on the foam disk. **No wire in slot 8.**

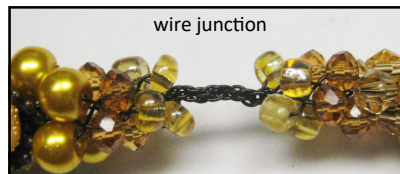
3. Refer to the "7-cord Wire Weaving Process" on the right. Weave about 3/8" with wire only. End with slot 8 open.

Note: Several Wired Bead Clusters will be made on the same bundle of wires.

Make a second bundle when needed.

After each WCB is completed, weave an additional 3/8" wire junction— no beads.

DO NOT CUT the junctions until completed.



Basic Weaving Instructions

7-Cord Wire Weaving Process — Move each wire in order, 1-7. Each wire moves into the only empty slot.

Note: When beads are used, anchor the bead under a connecting wire.

- A:** The Wire in slot 1 moves to slot 8 **E:** The Wire in slot 5 moves to slot 4
B: The Wire in slot 2 moves to slot 1 **F:** The Wire in slot 6 moves to slot 5
C: The Wire in slot 3 moves to slot 2 **G:** The Wire in slot 7 moves to slot 6
D: The Wire in slot 4 moves to slot 3 **H:** The Wire in slot 8 moves to slot 7

Add/Drop Technique: Working in numerical order (1-7) add one bead to the first wire. Lift the wire from the first slot over to the only empty slot, dropping the bead into the center hole. Keep the wire tight and place the bead so that it is held by a connecting wire. Place the wire in the new empty slot. Repeat.

Creating Wired Bead Cluster (WBC): Add/Drop one bead at a time, per wire, following the WBC charts. **Work from left to right across the chart.**

WBC CHART A				MAKE 3 BEADS			
H	H	H	D	D	D	D	D
G	G	G	G	G	A	A	A
A	A	B	B	B	B	B	E
E	E	E	E	D	D	D	D
D	F	F	F	F	F	H	H
H							



WBC CHART B				MAKE 2			
H	H	H	D	D	D	D	D
G	G	G	G	G	B	B	B
B	B	E	E	E	E	E	F
F	F	F	F	H	H	H	

WBC CHART C				MAKE 2 BEADS			
H	H	H	C	C	C	C	C
D	D	D	D	D	G	G	G
G	G	A	A	A	A	A	G
G	G	G	G	E	E	E	E
E	F	F	F	F	F	H	H
H							

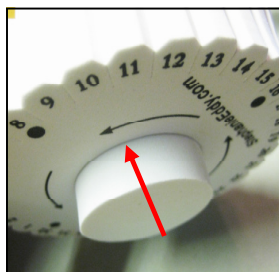


See page 3 for finishing techniques.

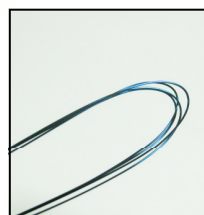
SETUP for Wired Bead Cluster Bracelet—

The Wired Bead Cluster is constructed using a sizing rod worked in the center of the braid to hold the diameter at 3.25mm. This will allow the finished cluster to slide over the bracelet base, which is 3mm in diameter.

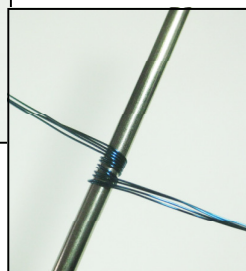
Reinsert the center foam core into the bottom of the disk about one-quarter of the way inside.



Using the 28 gauge wire, cut four lengths at 36 inches each. Bring the ends together and fold in half. At the fold, wrap the wires two times around the sizing rod to form the Starter Coil.



Starter Coil



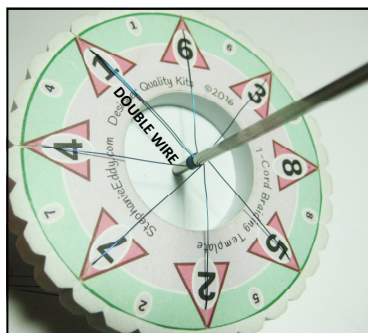
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Insert one end of the sizing rod into the center of the foam core about 3/8". Slide the wires down even with the disk surface. Arrange two wires in slot 1 and one wire each in the remaining slots 2-7. Slot 8 is open.

Begin the 7-cord braiding technique, keeping both wires in slot 1 together. Keep the wires on the right side of the rod as you work around the rod clockwise.

When both wires are back in slot 1, cut one of the double wires so that only singles wires remain in slots 1-7. Slot 8 is open.

Gently twist and remove the foam core leaving the sizing rod in place. Complete the bracelet chart. Do not remove the cluster from the rod.

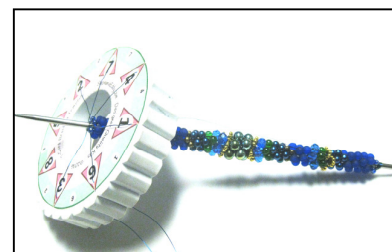


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WCB CHART - BRACELET

H	H	H	H	H	C	C	C
C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
C	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
E	E	E	G	G	G	G	G
D	D	D	D	D	B	B	B
B	B	C	C	C	C	C	C
C	C	C	C	F	F	F	F
F	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
E	E	E	D	D	D	D	D
B	B	B	B	B	G	G	G
G	G	A	A	A	A	A	A
A	A	A	A	G	G	G	G
G	B	B	B	B	B	D	D
D	D	D	E	E	E	E	E
E	E	E	E	E	F	F	F
F	F	C	C	C	C	C	C
C	C	C	C	B	B	B	B
B	D	D	D	D	D	G	G
G	G	G	E	E	E	E	E
E	E	E	E	E	C	C	C
C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
C	H	H	H	H			



When the cluster is completed, work one more round ending with slot 8 open. Remove the wires from the disk, LEAVING THE ROD INTACT.



Gather all of the wires together and wrap two times around the rod to form the Finish Coil. Trim the wires.



Finish Coil

Bracelet assembly: Check the fit and shape of the base to make sure it fits comfortably on your wrist—allow for the thickness of the bead cluster.

Unscrew the ball ends from the bracelet base.



Gently remove the bead cluster from the rod with a clockwise twisting motion, taking care not to stretch it more than is necessary.

Slide the cluster along the bracelet base using the same gentle twist motion.



Add an end cap to each side then screw the ball ends back in to place.

Finishing techniques necklace: When the wire weaving process is completed, **hand twist each junction clockwise to tighten the wires.** Then cut each WCB at the center of each junction.



A



B



C

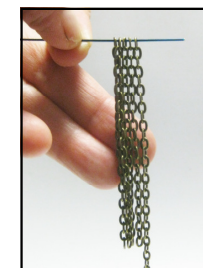
Bead assembly: Using 20 gauge wire, measure a length 1 1/2" longer than the cluster. Cut one end blunt. Cut the other end at a sharp angle. Make a simple loop at the blunt end. Add an end cap. Insert the sharp angle into the center of the cluster and work (by twisting) to the opposite end. Add an end cap. Snug up any slack in the cluster. Make another blunt cut about 3/8" from the end cap and make a simple loop.



Necklace assembly: Using 20 gauge wire, measure a length 1 1/2" longer than the filigree bead. Make a simple loop and insert the wire into the filigree bead. Trim the remaining wire to 3/8" inch and make a simple loop. Repeat for all filigree beads.



Center Tassels: Cut nine lengths of chain at 2 3/4" each.



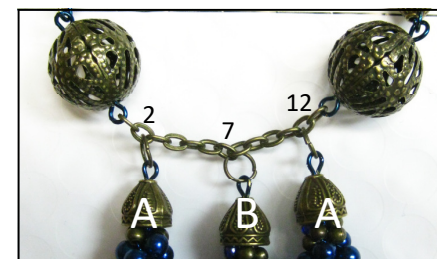
Add 3 lengths of this chain to a jump ring. Repeat two more times for a total of 3 tassels.

Center chain: Cut one piece of chain that has 13 full links.



Add the 13-link chain in between two small filigree beads.

Use jump rings to add three bead clusters (A, B, A) to chain links 2, 7 and 12 as shown.



Add a tassel to the bottom of each bead cluster A.

Add the remaining tassel to the large filigree bead, then attach it to the bottom of bead cluster B.

Side assembly: See page 4.

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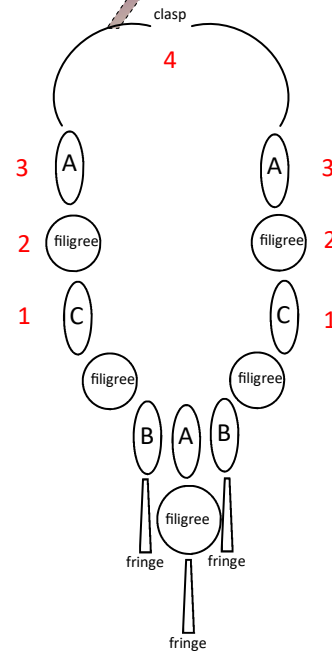
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Mountainscape—
blue, green,
antique bronze



1. Side assembly: Add a C cluster bead to the center filigree beads.
2. Add one filigree bead to the C cluster bead.
3. Add one A cluster bead to each filigree bead.
4. Add half of the remaining chain and half of the clasp to each side. Refer to the graphic above.



Gardenscape—
purple, wine,
antique silver