

Holiday Poinsettia Pendant

by Robyn Wilson

A festive flower with fiery crystals.



All photos courtesy of the author.

This poinsettia assumes knowledge of basic wireworking techniques, as well as twisting wire and coiling wire around a mandrel, and is constructed in three sections. First is the inner row of petals, using 20g wire. The middle row uses two lengths of 24g wire twisted together. The outermost layer of leaves, using coiled wire, is 28g wire coiled over the 20g wire. The center is made by adding the crystals using freeform wirework. Finish it by stringing on a length of ribbon and a waxed cord. This flower is from a challenge conducted by beadingforum.com.au.

MATERIALS:

- 20-gauge soft round copper wire
- 24-gauge soft round copper wire
- 28-gauge soft round copper wire
- 4mm Crystallized™ Swarovski Elements Fire Opal bicones, 20
- Waxed cord
- Ribbon
- Clasp

TOOLS:

- Stepped mandrel
- Chain nose pliers
- Round nose pliers
- Flat nose pliers
- Flush cutters
- Pin vise
- Pencil or small dowel

TECHNIQUES:

Wirework, coiling, beads and wire.

TIPS:

Do not cut any tails of wire prior to the completion of the flower. They will be used in later steps. If they are getting in the way, just form each tail into a loose bundle. If you need to attach more 28g wire, do it at the base of the leaves, where it will be hidden.

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Step 1: Flush cut and straighten approximately 20" of 20g wire. Using the tips of the round nose pliers, turn a P-shaped loop on one end. Using the 6mm step on the mandrel, form the top curve of the petal. Use the tips of the round nose pliers to form a curve at the base. Create seven petals. Tuck the tail through the P-shaped loop. Using your fingers, manipulate it into a circle to form the basic shape, and close the loop tightly over the tail. Leave the tail uncut.



Step 1

Step 2: Hold the shape in your non-dominant hand with your thumb over the center. Use round nose pliers to create a little tip at the tops of the petals by pressing down with the outer jaw. Reinsert the pliers on the other side of the petal, and repeat. Use the mandrel or pliers to reshape the petals if necessary. Leave a circle open in the center, and gently curve the petals forward.



Step 2

Step 3: Cut approximately 28" of 24g wire, fold in half, and twist using a pin vise. Trim off the hardened end on one side of the wire, leaving the loop at the other end. Starting from the looped end, and using the next step on the mandrel, repeat Steps 1-2 with the twisted wire to form the second flower. Trim the tail, secure it, and tuck it in neatly.



Step 3

Step 4: Place the first flower on top of the twisted one, and using 28g wire, weave the two rows together, again leaving a center circle. Reshape the petals if necessary, and tilt them up slightly.



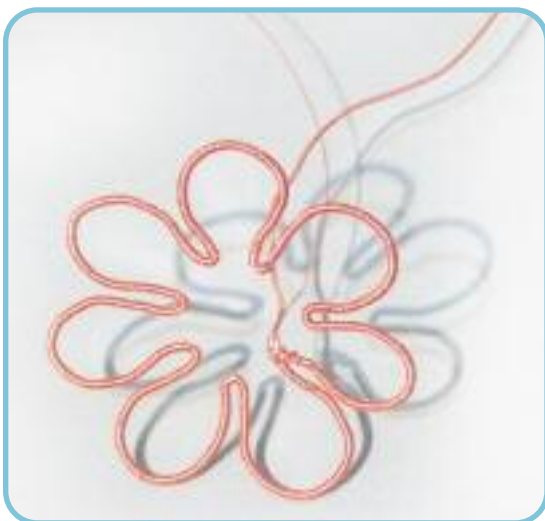
Step 4

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Step 5: Cut approximately 24" of 20g wire, and make a P-shaped loop on one end. Use your fingers to shape leaves gently around a pencil or small dowel. Form the leaves more loosely and in a rounder shape than the petals. Coil the 28g wire over this shape. You may need to reshape the leaves as you go. Slide the tail of the core wire through the P-shaped loop, and secure it using the tail of the coiling wire. There should be a tail of at least 6".



Step 5



Step 6: Nestle the petals in front of the leaves and, using your fingers, form them into a flower shape with all three elements nested together. While holding the layers together in your non-dominant hand, using your thumb to keep the layers in place, use the tail of the 28g coiling wire to secure the leaves in place. Trim the tail and tuck the end in neatly.



Step 6

Step 7: Cut a 24" length of 28g wire, fold it in half, and slip it through center edge of the flower. Pull firmly to anchor it, and wrap around the center circle of the flower. Repeat, going in the opposite direction. Make sure that all the layers are wrapped securely.



Step 7

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Step 8: Using the tails of the 28g wire, add the 4mm crystals to fill in the center of the flower in a freeform manner. Add more 28g wire as needed to fill in the center.



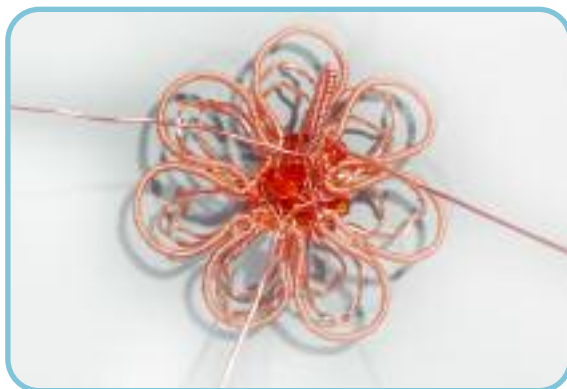
Step 8

Step 10: Using the tail of 20g wire from Step 1, form a spiral to neaten the back of the flower. Spiral the end of the 24g, and the other 20g to cover the base of the bail. Attach the pendant to a ribbon-and-cord necklace, and attach a clasp on the ends.



Step 10

Step 9: Turn the pendant over. Using the tail of the 20g wire from Step 1, straighten and coil it with the 24g wire. Do not trim this wire. Using your fingers or round nose pliers, shape the coiled wire into a bail, and secure it by twisting the 20g wire around the base of the bail. Do not trim the wire. You should have two tails of 20g wire, and one of 24g wire.



Step 9

ROBYN WILSON

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