

The Perfect Finish

by Kathleen Pierce

Tips and tricks to finish Viking Knit.

Photo of finished piece by Jim Lawson; all other photos courtesy of the author.



Now that you've mastered the Viking Knit loop stitch in the Winter 2009 issue, how do you finish off those ends? I'm going to show you several things you can do. Plus, we'll experiment with other uses for the Viking Knit chain.

With a little creativity, you can increase the stitches to make your tube piece wider, or decrease to make your piece thinner. You can beads, make earrings from the leftover pieces, and so much more.

Editor's note: This is the second part of Kathleen's tutorial on Trichinopoly Chainwork.



MATERIALS:

- Masking tape
- Wire odds and ends
- Miscellaneous beads and end cones
- Tiny brads, 1/2mm x 19mm



TOOLS:

- Round nose pliers
- Chain nose pliers
- Flush cutters
- Wire smoother (optional)
- Caliper, mandrels, or wooden dowel rods



TECHNIQUES:

- Wirework, Viking knit, wire stitching, wire weaving.



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Adding Cone Ends

Step 1: One of the easiest ways to finish the ends is by adding a bead that has a large enough hole to hide the end of the weave. You can also use cone ends.

Cones come in a variety of sizes and shapes. Simply tie up the ends with a piece of 20g wire, slip a cone on the end of the wire, and pull it down as far as it will go. Make a wrapped loop at the end to secure it.



Step 1

Making coiled end caps

Step 2: Use a caliper to measure the Viking Knit weave to get the precise size of the outside diameter of the weave. Use this measurement to make the coiled end.



Step 2

Step 3: Using a mandrel or a wooden dowel rod, in a size a little larger than what you just measured, wrap the wire around it about 10 times. Leave a 2" length at the end.



Step 3

Step 4: Start a spiral by leaving a slight hole in the middle, so that your Viking Knit wire end will fit through it.



Step 4

Step 5: Once you have completely spiraled the top, coil it down and over the coiled tube, to form the top on the end cap. The bottom wire end can be crimped underneath the tube, so there is no sharp end sticking out.



Step 5

Make the piece longer.

Step 6: Sometimes it's difficult to judge how long your Viking Knit tube is going to be before you pull it through the drawplate. Should you end up short, lengthen your piece by adding a chain, or doing some simple chain maille.



Step 6

Adding Beads

Step 7: Add beads, stones, or crystals to the Viking Knit weave to add a focal point. In this example, tiger eye chips were added to every other loop. When using the drawplate, draw each side separately.



Step 7

Increasing the size - making a cage

Step 8: Easily add a dramatic Viking Knit cover to a teardrop focal. Weave about three or four rows of Viking Knit with the good wire to get the weave started.



Step 8

Step 9: Remove the weave from the starter tube, and secure it to the teardrop with a scrap piece of wire. Make sure the loops are evenly spaced. If there isn't a hole at the top of your bead, tape the weave to the bead.



Step 9

Step 10: Continue the weave as normal, but increase the amount of space in between the weaves. The wire swags will get longer with each round.



Step 10

Step 11: When the weave is at the desired length, cut the wire to about 1/4". Remove the tube from the teardrop and fold the wire end under so there isn't a sharp edge.



Step 11

Step 12: Depending on how the weave fits the top of the teardrop, you may have to remove a round or two of loops. At this point, you can add a good piece of wire through the teardrop hole, and create the bail.



Step 12

Step 13: Finish the bail by weaving the two wires together. Bring the wire ends to the front, and add a spiral to each end for an added decoration.



Step 13

Step 14: You can make an entire cage for the bead, if you choose. This technique makes a beautiful pendant, and can also be used for earrings.



Step 14

Decreasing the size – making a dream catcher.

Step 15: Using 16g wire, make a circle in the size you want, leaving 2" of wire extending at the top. Hammer the circle only so that it keeps its shape.



Step 15

Step 16: Wrap the entire circle with 26g wire. During this process, make a woven bail, which will be finished later.



Step 16

Step 17: Start the web by simply looping the 26g wire evenly around the circle frame.



Step 17

Step 18: Continue the Viking knit in the usual manner, until you get to the center.



Step 18

Step 19: Add beads or a focal, and finish off the bail.



Step 19

Keeping the loops straight

Step 20: This example uses a 16mm dowel rod. Make eight loops around this rod, or make however many you want, just make even marks around the dowel rod.



Step 20

Step 21: After making even marks on the top of the dowel rod, take your ruler and draw the lines down the rod. Make sure each line is spaced evenly, and matches the marks at the top of the rod.



Step 21

Step 22: Pick up some wire brads, and hammer one on each line - about 1/4" from the top of the dowel rod. You don't have to hammer them in very far for them to stay. Or, you can use a staple gun to add one staple to each line, instead of using brads. The staple should be going in the same direction as the line.



Step 22

Step 23: Make a loop around each brad, leaving a slight loop in between. When you get all the way around, begin the Viking Knit as you normally would. The brads serve as a guide to keep the chain loops straight. Keep weaving down the dowel rod until you're finished. When you get to the length you want, simply remove the brads to slide the tube off, or cut the top loop, and slide the tube downward.



Step 23

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is a graphic artist and a self-taught jewelry designer. She lives in Appleton, Wisc. with her son, daughter-in-law, and grandson. Kathy has been into arts and crafts her entire life, and although she's only been working with wire jewelry for two years, she became addicted as soon as she put the wire in her hands. Kathy loves to use a variety of techniques in her work, which she sells on her Web site at enchantedwire.com.

