

Rowena's Floral Hair Comb



Ingredients

- 26 MB650 5mm filigree coil beads (D)
- 126 GP401 4mm white glass pearls (E)
- 12 MB060 6mm silver sparkle beads (A)
- 3 MB651 small filigree flowers (F)
- 8 FG431 4mm crystal AB facets (B)
- 21 RC044 size 8 pearl seed beads (C)
- one FN082 plastic hair comb
- 5m JW319 0.315mm soft silver wire

When making flowers and leaves from beads in this way it is useful to first read the [Wirework - Flowers and Leaves](#) download from the [Techniques page](#)

To Make

The decoration on the comb is made in four phases - first the stamens that sit at the back, secondly the pearl flower and the central sparkle decoration. Finally it is all wired onto the comb and the bead decoration added to the top of the comb.

Stamens - On the stamen branches little circles of beads come together to resemble a spray of small flowers. Cut 1m of wire. Thread on 5A into the centre of the wire. Pass the end of the wire back through the first bead threaded to bring the beads into a circle. Bring the ends of the wire together and twist together for about 1cm to make a stem. Now you will make a branch off the main stem. Thread on 3B onto the longer wire end. Bring the 3B into a tight circle about 2cm from where the last twist ended. Twist this wire back on itself to meet the bottom of the previous twist. Bring the two sides of the wire parallel and twist together again for a further 15mm. You will now make a simple leaf out of the C beads on this wire following the instructions on page 2 of the [Wirework - Flowers and Leaves](#) download. Thread 8C onto the longest wire end. Position the first bead threaded 1cm from the main stem. Fold the wire about the last bead threaded and pass the end back through the previous bead threaded to pull the last bead up into an anchor. Now thread on 7C to make the other side of the leaf. Bring the two rows of 7C parallel to one another. Twist the exposed wire below the 7C beads together until you meet the main stem again. Twist the two main wires together again for a further 1cm. You now need to make a branch from the stem to the other side of the two branches just made. Onto the longest end of the wire thread 1D, 1E, 1A. Pull them up to about 2cm from the main strand. Form into a circle and twist the wire back on itself until it meets the main stem. Bring the two main wires together again and twist together for 1cm, then make another side branch 2cm long with 1F on the end of it. Bring the two ends of the wire together and set aside for now.

Make the second stamen in a similar way to the first, following this pattern. Cut 1m of wire. Thread on 5E, cross the wire through the first bead threaded to bring them into a circle and twist down for 1cm. Make a side branch 15mm long with 1A at the end. When you return to the main stem twist the wires for 1cm then make another branch on the same side as the last, this time 1cm long with 5C on the end. Return to the main stem for 15mm then branch off to the opposite side for a 15mm branch with 1A on the end. Return to the main stem for 1cm, branch off to the opposite side for 1cm with 1F on the end. Return to the main stem for 1cm, then branch off on the opposite side for 1cm with 3E on the end. Return to the main stem for 1cm and now make a branch on each side. On one side make a 15mm branch with 5B on the end, on the other side a 1cm branch with 5C on the end. Bring both sides back to the main stem and twist for 1cm and set aside.

Pearly Flower - Now make the set of five white pearl petals. Cut 1m of wire and thread 1E onto the centre. Pass both ends of the wire through 1E, keeping the first 1E threaded in the centre of the wire to form the tip of the leaf. Now thread 8E on each wire end and bring them together with a twist at the bottom. Leave about 2mm at the base of the leaf and then form two further leaves on each side of the first leaf made. Bring the two sides of the wire together, slightly overlay the leaves so that they form an attractive spray, and twist the wires together so that they hold their shape. Make a 10mm twist to finish.

Sparkle Centre - One end of the wire used to form the leaves will make the next layer of the decoration.

Take one end of this wire and thread on 5A. Bring these beads into a circle 10mm from the bottom of the pearl petals, taking the wire back through the first bead threaded again. Twist the wire back as before to make a stem.

Using the other end of the wire thread on 1F. Position this bead in the centre of the circle of sparkle beads just made. Bring the end of this wire back down to the base of the pearly petals and twist together with the other end of the wire.

When you first make stamens you may find that your twists are uneven - take the time to make them even, it may feel like hard work at first but you will be rewarded with a lovely finish you will be proud of.

Now layer up the stamens and leaves until you are happy with the arrangement. Separate out the stamen branch that will lie at the back of the arrangement. Wind the excess stem length onto one end of the comb between the end two tines. Wrap the tail along the length of the comb for two or three tines to secure.

Attach the second stamen between the second two tines so that it sits above the first stamen added.

Now sit the set of pearl leaves above the stamens and wire onto the comb between the third and fourth tines.

Now lay all but the longest wire strand from all the decorations attached along the back of the top of the comb, make sure they are secure and trim the ends. This will now be covered by the final part of the decoration.

Bring the wire strand that you have retained up to the front of the comb between the second and third tines. Thread on 3E, wrap the wire around the back of the comb and bring it up between the next pair of tines. Thread on 3D. Wrap the wire around the back of the comb, bringing it up between the next pair of tines and thread on 3E. Repeat this sequence down the length of the comb making sure that the wiring on the back of the comb is very neat so that there are no sharp ends that may catch on your head. Finish by tucking the ends in neatly and re-arrange the stamens a little if you wish

Variations

Use any variation of beads and coloured wire for the decoration - hair combs are not just for weddings!

When making the stamens make them as long or as short, as elaborate or simple as you like. Vary the spacings, vary the bead combinations to make the piece uniquely yours.

Take the time to work through the **Wirework - Flowers and Leaves** technique sheet - there are six design basics there that can be built into a whole host of designs for combs, tiaras, necklaces, bracelets, rings and brooches

