

Filigrees and Chandeliers



There are lots of readymade filigree findings available to create fantastic earrings and necklace centres.



With a little practice you can make your own simple filigree frames or scrolls from wire



You can also use spacer bars and bead filigree cups



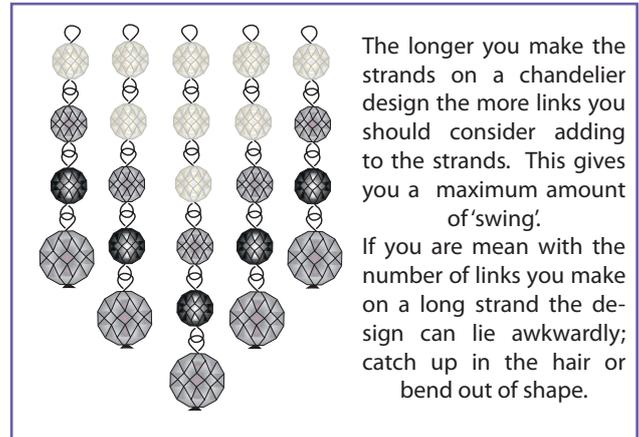
To make successful filigree and chandelier designs you need to make neat, secure, round loops at the tops of your headpins, eyepins and wire lengths. Take a look at the 'Loops and Linking' and the 'Loops - a Professional Touch' free downloads under the Techniques tab

Readymade Filigree Components

FN101



Some readymade components are self-explanatory. FN101 (left) has three holes along the bottom edge to take three dangles and a top hole ready to take the earfitting or a jump ring to make a pendant piece. If you want to add a centre dangle (like the image top left) you will need to link onto the top loop between the two sides of the diamond - this is a bit of a squeeze so add a jump ring to make the connection.



The longer you make the strands on a chandelier design the more links you should consider adding to the strands. This gives you a maximum amount of 'swing'.

If you are mean with the number of links you make on a long strand the design can lie awkwardly; catch up in the hair or bend out of shape.



This is the same filigree used in two different ways

from the Cymbelline Simple Kit



Twilight Earrings Kit

On the right - these earrings are made with a collection of large plain links and a few simple beads



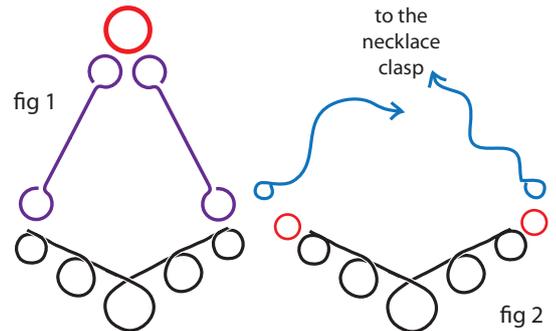
All of these earring designs are Spellbound Kits or are explained, in full, on our free project downloads - click on the Projects Tab

If your filigrees have an odd number of loops around a circle you have to think a little more creatively about how to make them hang straight for earrings. Here the five petal filigrees are double linked to give a central top hole for the earfitting and a central bottom hole for the dangle



Don't be afraid to mix and match filigree components and links.

Right - two different sorts of hoops and a few dangly flower filigrees all used together



To make symmetrical earrings from wide filigrees you will need to bring the two far ends together with links of equal length (fig 1) - use a jump ring or a figure of eight (see next sheet) to bring them together at the top.

Think about adding a central dangle like the Twilight Earrings (left of this page).

For a necklace you can just link onto the loops at either end with a jump ring (fig 2) - always use a jump ring for flexibility and strength.

Use a jump ring of a suitable size - the components need to swing freely but the jump ring should not overwhelm the design.

Wired & Wire Tassels

If you want to link several longer strands of beads together to create a tassel you need to use the correct materials to get a professional finish that will last. Necklaces get a lot more 'wear and tear' than earrings so, in general, necklaces will require a heavier gauge of wire.



0.8mm half-hard wire used for a long, straight earring stem

Earrings - If the tassel strands are completely covered with beads or you keep the unbeaded length of the tassel strands quite short you can stick to headpins and eyepins for the dangles

If you want long, straight rods with a few beads at the bottom think about using 0.8mm half-hard wire instead for that part of the design.



Necklaces - always use 0.8mm half-hard wire (or thicker) for long dangles. You will still need to use headpins at the bottom of the strand, then make a link to the 0.8mm wire to make up the remainder of the length.

Right - at the centre of a linked necklace these tassel strands are made from 0.8mm half-hard wire



Right - Tassel strands with un-centred loops make an interesting shape when stacked up in a staircase arrangement.

Further right - here the tassel strands on the hoop are just made from a tapered fan of 0.8mm half-hard wire

If you are making earrings cut the wire lengths for both earrings at the same time - BEFORE YOU MAKE ANY LOOPS - then they will make up into a matching pair

Making Hoop & Drop Shaped Dangles

These shapes can be made easily from wire. If you make your own you can make them whatever size you want or stack them one inside the other. You will need to refer to the **'Loops-a Professional Touch'** download if you are not sure about making loops in the correct plane.

Use 0.8mm half-hard wire for earring shapes.

For necklace pendants use 0.8mm or 1.0mm for extra strength - you will need the thicker wire diameter for hoops and drops over 3cm in diameter.

You will need a mould - find a circular mould (like a bead pot or marker pen) a little smaller than the final size you want for your hoop or drop shaped frame (the wire springs out to be a little larger when you wrap it around the mould).

For a drop shape - cut a 10-15cm length of wire (depending on the size of the mould). Hold the middle of the wire against the mould and bend both sides of the wire around the mould until they cross over on the far side (fig 5).

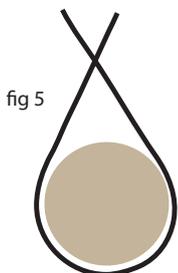


fig 5

Trim the wires so they cross over by 3-4mm only and thread on your design.

Make a loop at each end of the wire in the OPPOSITE PLANE to the drop shape of the hoop (like fig 3). There should be a 1-2mm gap between the two loops.

Twist open a 6mm jump ring to link the two loops together.

Using a Figure Of Eight

Left - here the loops are brought together onto a large loop made at the end of a length of 0.8mm wire. The wire is then beaded with a fire polished facet before being finished off with a loop for the earfitting.

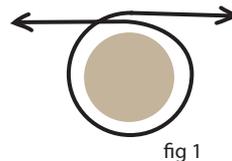


fig 1

For a hoop - wrap the wire around the mould 1½ times (fig 3).

Trim the wire so the ends of the circle overlap by 6-7mm (fig 2).

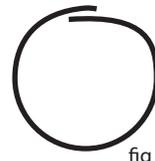


fig 2

Thread your design onto the wire circle.

Make a loop at each end of the wire in the OPPOSITE PLANE to the circle shape of the hoop (fig 3) - there should be a 1-2mm gap between the loops.



fig 3

Twist open a 6mm jump ring to link the two loops together (fig 4)

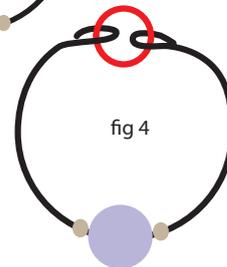


fig 4



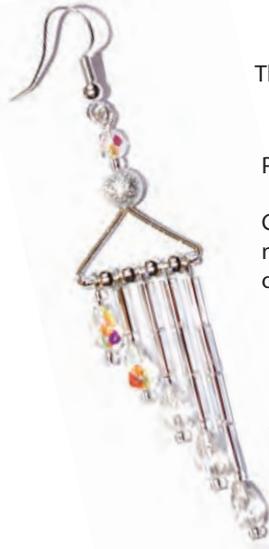
Left - Adding a dangle to the centre of the shape when you link the two sides of the hoop together with the jump ring or figure of eight

Right - One hoop inside another plus a dangle plus a figure of eight beaded top!



Triangles or Coat Hangers

This is a simple method of making wide earrings - you will need to use 0.8mm half-hard wire



Prepare your dangles on headpins or eyepins or wire. Cut 15cm of 0.8mm wire and make a 45° bend with the tips of your round pliers 3cm from the end (fig 1).

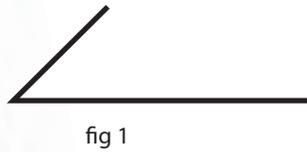


fig 1

Starting with a small bead (like a seed bead) thread your dangles onto the long end of the wire separating them out with small beads so they can swing freely.

With your round pliers make a 45° bend at the end of the dangle sequence so the wires cross over above the dangles (fig 2).

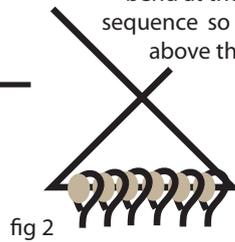


fig 2

At the crossover position bend both ends of the wire up vertically (fig 3). Trim the short end back to 3mm. Thread a larger holed bead onto the long wire to trap the trimmed 3mm of wire (fig 4). Finish off the design with a few beads before the final loop

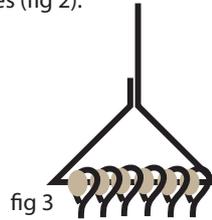


fig 3

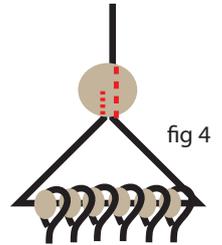


fig 4

All of these earring designs are Spellbound Kits or are explained, in full, on our free project downloads - click on the Projects Tab

Try making this style with the dangles making a tapered staircase shape (as seen), a V shaped profile or all of the strands the same length

Simple Filigrees

With a little practice you can create scrolls and looped filigrees to make your earring and necklace designs really individual - again use 0.8mm half-hard wire for earrings and 0.8mm or 1.0mm half-hard wire for necklaces.

Scroll Ends

At the end of your length of wire make a small un-centred loop with the tips of your round nosed pliers (fig 5).

Hold the straight wire immediately above the loop with the thickest part of the pliers (fig 6).

Roll the pliers in the opposite direction than the un-centred loop until the back of the un-centred loop touches back on the straight wire (fig 7)



fig 5

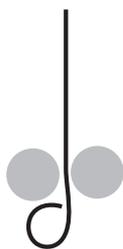
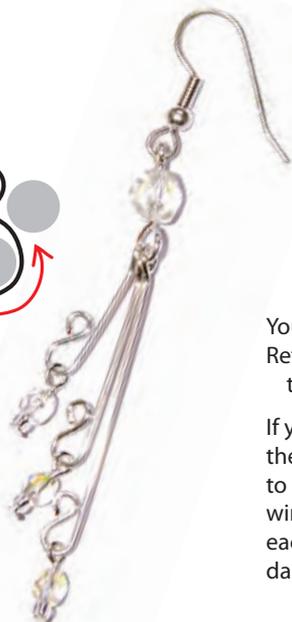


fig 6



fig 7



Looped Filigrees

Cut 15cm of 0.8mm wire. Hold the middle of the wire with the thickest part of your round nosed pliers. Wrap both sides of the wire over the top jaw of the pliers to make a shallow V shape (fig 8).

Grip one side of the wire 6mm to one side of the V shape - wrap that end of the wire around the lower jaw of the pliers until the wire touches the top jaw and stop (fig 9). Repeat at the other side of the first loop.

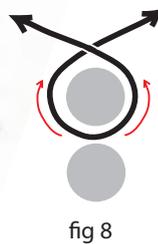


fig 8

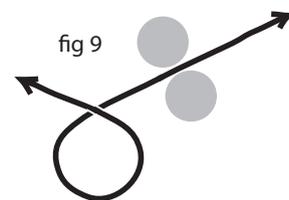


fig 9

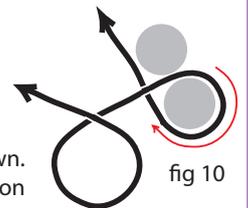


fig 10

You now have the filigree to make the earrings shown. Refer to the 'Making Hoops & Drop Shaped Danglers' on the previous sheet to see how to finish off the top.

If you reposition the pliers with the top jaw in the last loop you can keep on winding the wire to complete a more rounded shape (fig 10). The wire can then go onto make a further loop on each side of the filigree to give you five holes to dangle from.

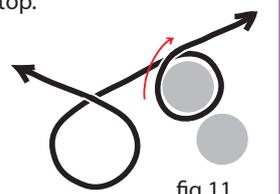


fig 11



If you are making earrings cut the wire lengths for both earrings at the same time - BEFORE YOU MAKE ANY LOOPS - then they will make up into a matching pair