

Wire Bobbin Lace Snowflake

Requirements: 5 pair sturdy bobbins (I used Spanish bobbins.) wound continuously in pairs with .2mm (#32) enameled copper wire as follows:

- #1: 2 feet (1' wire each bobbin)
- #2: 2 feet " " "
- #3: 3 feet (1½' wire each bobbin)
- #4: 3 feet (" " ")
- #5: 10 feet (5' wire each bobbin) – worker pair

Blue painter's tape. Small rubber bands.

Handling: Roll wire onto & off bobbins, no wrapping or twisting or half-hitches. To smooth small wrinkles or bends, press wire between thumb and finger. Keep bobbins on short leashes. Tension firmly; you may find it easiest to pull directly on wire. Avoid kinks. Work carefully; wire does not like to be redone.

Prepare bobbins: Place small rubber band (doubled or tripled) over end of wire. Wrap end of wire around base of neck on bobbin. Twist together. Take small piece of blue painter's tape, wrap tightly onto base on top of wire to hold. Roll wire onto bobbin toward head. Use small rubber band (doubled or tripled) to hold. [Blue painter's tape will not leave any residue on wire and is infinitely useful in keeping it under control!]

Start: Starting from center of snowflake, place bobbin pairs #1-3 on starting pins. Place bobbin pairs #4 & #5 side-by-side on last pin. Cloth stitch #5 through #4, twist 2x, twist again at pin, twist 2x on return.

Work Pricking: All is worked in cloth stitch. Twist 2x around any pin. The long loops need at least 5 twists: 2 going out, 1 at pin, 2 coming back. But it's your choice depending on the effect you want.

Wire breaks: Simply twist wire back together. You will trim join and tuck away discretely later.

Finish: Work all the way back to the start. From the center, taking each pair in turn, cut wires 3-4" long from bobbin. Poke wire through starting loop from underneath then twist the pair together. Cut to about ¼". When all are twisted and cut, tuck twists unobtrusively into lace.

Getting Fancy: Add beads, glitter, metallic cords, etc. Limited only by your imagination!

Sources of wire & Supplies: Both Parawire and Artistic wire are craft wires available from the manufacturer (parawire.com or artisticwire.com) or from various craft/jewelry/art suppliers. The wire used here was ordered from Lenka Suchanek's shop "WireLaceSupplies" on Etsy. I highly recommend her; she is super easy to deal with. She also sells wire lace bobbins, etc. Her bobbins use special elastics to hold the wire at the top of the bobbin – rubber bands aren't quite as nice but will do!