



Crochet Free-Form Frills Bracelet

Crocheting with wire creates many opportunities for the jewelry artist. This bracelet is a free-form project, which means that you make your own decisions as to when and where to use different crochet techniques, beads and other findings. My example was crocheted in the round, but you can work from side to side or lengthwise. Crochet is a very adaptive medium and you can use that to your advantage here.

Finished Size: approx. 7" (17.8cm) long with clasp



materials list

100 yds. (91.4m) of 30 gauge round wire

4" (10.2cm) of 16 gauge round wire

Size 11/0 seed beads in the amount you desire

8mm glass pearl beads in the amount you desire

$\frac{3}{8}$ " (1cm), 16 gauge jump rings in the amount you desire (see pages 23–24 of *The Art of Wire* to make your own)

Hook clasp (see page 26 of *The Art of Wire* to make your own)

Size 7 crochet hook

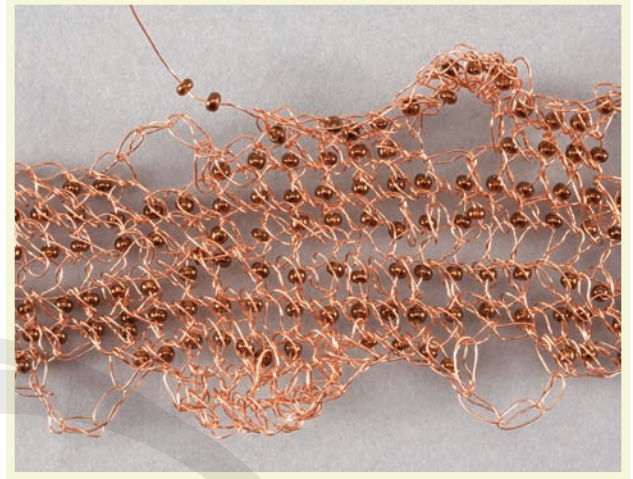
Sewing needle with eye large enough to fit 30 gauge wire

$\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3cm) dowel



- 1 String seed beads onto the 30 gauge wire. If your beads are on a strand, you can tie one end of the strand onto the end of the wire, then run the beads onto the wire. Keep the wire uncut and work off the spool for this step and the following steps.

If you'd like to crochet your bracelet in the round as I did, using a size 7 crochet hook and 30 gauge wire, chain for 4" (10.1cm) (see Chain Stitch on page 105 of *The Art of Wire*). Turn the work, chain 1, then work a single crochet stitch into each chain stitch (see Single Crochet on page 105 of *The Art of Wire*). Here and throughout the bracelet, add beads into stitches randomly, or into every stitch, or into every other stitch, as desired (see Beaded Crochet on page 105 of *The Art of Wire*). At the end of the row, work 3 single crochet stitches into the end of the chain. Do not turn the work—instead, work in single crochet along the opposite side of the chain. Work 3 single crochet stitches in the other end of the chain. Continue to work in the round and continue to work 3 single crochet stitches at each end of each round.



- 2 As you continue to work in the round you can add beads and other elements to the bracelet as you desire. I included the following techniques in my bracelet: holes, backtracking and edge ruffles.

To make a hole, work 3 chain stitches, skip 1 stitch, then work a single crochet stitch in the next stitch. On the following row or round, work 4 single crochet stitches (or more if you desire) into the chain. To keep the piece flat, decrease 3 stitches over the following stitches. (To decrease a stitch, simply skip a stitch as you work in single crochet.) If you'd like your piece ruffled rather than flat, do not decrease—the extra stitches will make a ruffle.

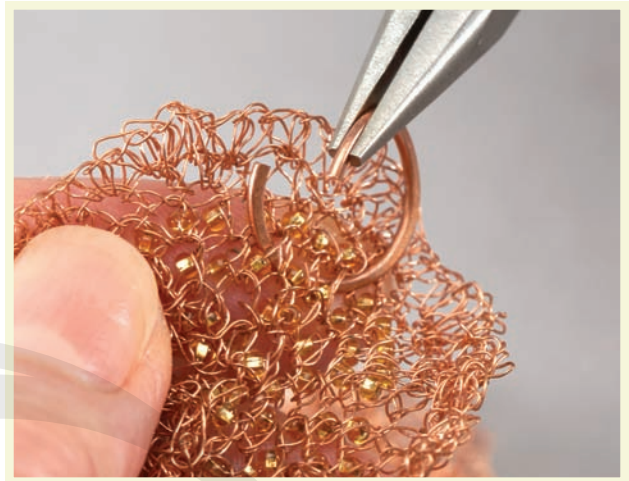
Backtracking is done by building up stitches in the middle of a row. To do this, turn the work and work several stitches in the opposite direction. Turn the work again and finish the row or round, working over the extra stitches again. This will create unevenness within the piece.

If you'd like for your bracelet to have a ruffled edge, make the final row or round by working 2 single crochet stitches into each stitch. For a greater ruffle effect, repeat for a second round.

- 3 After the original crochet piece is done, you can add more to it with icing. To do this, fasten onto the surface of the piece anywhere, then crochet on top of a previous row, or meander stitches across the fabric in any direction. The easiest way to do this is by folding the crochet and working into the fold.



4 Once you've finished crocheting, you can decorate your bracelet. I used large pearl beads and jump rings on my bracelet. To attach the beads, thread approximately 24" (61cm) of 30 gauge wire into the sewing needle. Sew the beads onto the surface of the bracelet. If the needle won't fit through the bead, remove the needle, run the wire through the bead, then rethread the needle. Secure each bead to the bracelet with at least 2 stitches. To attach jump rings to the bracelet, link several jump rings together, then hook the end jump rings through the crocheted piece.



5 To put the finishing touch on this bracelet, attach the clasp. Start by making 2 jump rings using 16 gauge wire formed around a 1/2" (1.3cm) dowel (see Jump Rings on pages 23–24 of *The Art of Wire*). Hammer each jump ring. Fasten a jump ring to each end of the crochet piece, approximately 1/2" (1.3cm) in from the end. Fasten the hook clasp onto one of the 1/2" (1.3cm) jump rings. Weave any 30 gauge wire ends into the crocheted mesh.

