Step-By-Step Funky Wired Beads

Beads are one of the popular items around in the crafting world at the moment and combining them with wire to create funky embellishments for some of your off-the-page-projects is quite simple to do!

Take for example this cute Christmas Bauble –

The actual Funky Wired Bead top has been created using a combination of larger white beads, pearl seed beads and silver wire with silver ribbon & trim used as a finishing touch! Here's how you can achieve a similar result with my step-by-step guide to creating my Funky Wired Beads!

Firstly take a 30cm length of silver wire (approximately) and using some rounded needle nose pliers, curl one end of the wire around to prevent the beads from falling off.

If you don't have this type of pliers (and depending on your wire thickness) you might be able to use a wool or knitting needle to actually wrap the wire around and achieve similar results. Like most things, there really isn't a wrong or a right way to do this – just play around with it! The more you practice twirling the wire around and creating loops here and there, the more confident you will

become AND if you really don't like what you've done, just cut the beads off and start it again – wire is relatively inexpensive – so just enjoy playing around with it!

As you wrap the wire around the pliers, try making some circles bigger than others, so that you create a little more dimension along the bead length. Just vary exactly what end of the pliers you wrap the wire around – ie. the narrow end will give you small coils and the wider end of the pliers will give you larger coils of wire. (Note: adding smaller coils either side of seeds beads will aid in keeping the small seed beads in their rightful place!)

I've added both a large white bead AND some smaller pearl seed beads in clusters along the length of the wire, to just add a little interest AND alter the overall dimension of the funky wired beads!

Once complete, make sure you secure the last bead off thoroughly – I curl the wire around on itself a couple of times just to be sure it isn't going to pull through that last bead, or slowly work loose over time.

For this particular project, I have made 3 bead lengths but of course you can make as many as you like to suit the current project that you're working on or for your own personal preference!

To attach the bead lengths to the top of my Christmas Bauble, I simply threaded some thin silver cord through one of the wire loops I created on each bead length – find the approximate centre of each length but it won't matter if they are slightly off centre.

It's then just a simple matter of tying a half knot to bring all the bead lengths together and then attaching it to the top of your bauble!

You can then play around with the placement of your Funky Wired Beads and even squash or stretch the length to create the desired effect you are after!

A little silver bow, a Scrap FX 'Merry Christmas' acrylic charm and some star stickers on the outside AND inside present & star sequins and a selection of silver beads too! What I loved best about the decorating inside of the bauble was that the small star sequins stuck to the inside of the bauble with static electricity!

Of course there are lots of things you can base your Christmas bauble theme around – various colours, Santa, reindeer, presents, etc – once again, you are only limited by your imagination!

Here's hoping you enjoy working with beads and wire as much as I do . . .

Enjoy!

Shirley