FRENCH BEADED GLOBE AMARANTH
by Lauren Harpster

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: BEGINNER

TECHNIQUES REQUIRED:
• Fringe
• Basic Frame

Both of these Techniques are taught in the Free Tutorials section on my website. (BeadandBlossom.com)

This pattern will teach you about Top Wire Extensions.

This PDF was made as a companion for my Globe Amaranth YouTube video tutorial, found here: https://youtu.be/nHwgzxxYMjw

MATERIALS FOR 1 FLOWER:

BEADS:
• 6 grams size 11/0 seed beads in Color A
• 3 grams size 11/0 seed beads in Color B
• ~ 6 grams size 11/0 green seed beads

WIRE:
• At least 14 ft (4.5 M) 28 gauge (0.315 mm) copper core wire in “bract” color
• Approximately 5 ft (1.5 m) 26 or 24 gauge (0.4 - 0.5 mm) green copper core wire
• 16 gauge florist stem wire

OTHER:
• Floral tape

TOOLS:
• Wire Cutters
• Measuring Tape/ Ruler
• Bead Spinner (optional, but recommended)
• Scissors

NOTE: Whenever you see wire measurements in a pattern, always cut a little extra. It’s common for techniques to vary a little from one person to the next, so you may use more or less wire than the pattern calls for.

Globe Amaranth comes in many colors! They occur naturally in every color except blue. Some are even multi-colored.

When selecting beads, Color B should be a darker version of Color A as we will be using Color B to create a shadow in the middle of the flower. The bead colors that I am using for mine are Transparent Fuchsia by Miyuki (Color A), Opaque Cerise Luster by Miyuki (Color B), and Transparent Green Rainbow by Preciosa.

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Unit A: (Picture 2, top)
Make 1: 7x 5 bead Fringes
- Cut approximately 9 inches (22.9 cm) of wire.
- Leave a 1 1/2” (3.8 cm) tail of wire at the beginning.
- Use 1 or 2 of the Color B beads at the bottom of each fringe, filling in the rest of the fringe with 3 or 4 beads in Color A (total 5 beads each)

Unit B: (Picture 2, middle)
Make 1: 9x 6 bead Fringes
- Cut approximately 12” (30.5 cm) of wire.
- Leave a 1 1/2” (3.8 cm) tail of wire at the beginning.
- Use 1 or 2 of the Color B beads at the bottom of each fringe, filling in the rest of the fringe with 4 or 5 beads in Color A (total 6 beads each)

Unit C: (Picture 2, bottom)
Make 1: 11x 7 bead Fringes
- Cut approximately 15” (38 cm) of wire.
- Leave a 1 1/2” (3.8 cm) tail of wire at the beginning.
- Use 2 or 3 of the Color B beads at the bottom of each fringe, filling in the rest of the fringe with 4 or 5 beads in Color A (total 7 beads each)

Unit D: (Picture 3, top)
Make 1: 11x 8 bead Fringes
- Cut approximately 17” (43.2 cm) of wire.
- Leave a 1 1/2” (3.8 cm) tail of wire at the beginning.
- Use 2 or 3 of the Color B beads at the bottom of each fringe, filling in the rest of the fringe with 5 or 6 beads in Color A (total 8 beads each)

Unit E: (Picture 3, middle)
Make 2: 11x 9 bead Fringes
- Cut approximately 19” (48.3 cm) of wire.
- Leave a 1 1/2” (3.8 cm) tail of wire at the beginning.
- Use 3 or 4 of the Color B beads at the bottom of each fringe, filling in the rest of the fringe with 5 or 6 beads in Color A (total 9 beads each)

Unit F: (Picture 3, bottom)
Make 3: 11x 10 bead Fringes
- Cut approximately 20” (50.8 cm) of wire.
- Leave a 1 1/2” (3.8 cm) tail of wire at the beginning.
- Use 3 or 4 of the Color B beads at the bottom of each fringe, filling in the rest of the fringe with 6 or 7 beads in Color A (total 10 beads each)

**NOTE:** Some Globe Amaranth have taller flower heads than the standard version of this pattern. If you would like to include some of the taller variety in your arrangement, make 2-3 extra Unit F, adding them into the flower head in the same spot as the original 3x Unit F. Some also have shorter flower heads. To make this variety, reduce the number of Unit F to 1.
LEAVES:
*Use 26-24 gauge green wire and green beads.*

The leaves use a technique that I call a *Top Wire Extension*, or adding beads to the Top Wire on a Basic Frame between rows. This creates an elongated, sharper point at the tip of the leaf. To do this, simply add the number of beads designated in the pattern to the Top Wire after the rows specified (Picture 4) then wrap the next rows around this bead (Picture 5). Some leaves may have multiple extensions.

Make 1, 2 or 3 leaves of any size(s) per flower head. If you are making multiples of these flowers for an arrangement, vary the number and size of the leaves for a more natural look.

**Leaf A: (Picture 6, left)**
7 row Basic Frame, 7 bead Basic Row, Round Bottom - Pointed Top
- Add 1 bead to the Top Wire after rows 3 and 5. (2 beads total).
- Reduce to 1 Bottom Wire.

**Leaf B: (Picture 6, right)**
5 row Basic Frame, 5 bead Basic Row, Round Bottom - Pointed Top
- Add 1 bead to the Top Wire after row 3.
- Reduce to 1 Bottom Wire.

ASSEMBLY

1. Prepare the surface of the 16 gauge stem wire by wrapping it with a layer of green floral tape. This gives the stem wire a little more grip so the wires don’t slip around.

2. Cut a length of floral tape in half lengthwise to make a half-width tape. Use this tape to wrap the stem wires on each leaf. Set more half-width floral tape aside for later.

3. Unit A: Position the first fringe in the center of the others. Cross one tail wire over the unit, bring it down between the second and third fringes and fold it to the bottom of the unit. This secures the seventh fringe in place in the center of the unit. (Picture 7) Wrap the other tail wire around the sixth fringe to form the unit into a circle. (Picture 8) Twist the two tail wires together below.
4. For the rest of your Bract Units, form them into a circle by wrapping the tail wire around the last fringe on the opposite end of the unit. (Picture 9). The stem wire underneath the unit should be closer to the center of the unit, not so far off to the side where it is now (Photo 10). To center the stem, cross one of the wires over the top of the unit, wrapping around a fringe on the opposite side of the circle, then folding the tail wire to the bottom (Picture 11). Bring the two wires together slightly off-center underneath the unit (because the flower stem wire needs to be directly centered) and twist them together. (Picture 12).

5. Combine Bract Units A, B, and C by inserting the stem wires into the holes in the center of the next largest unit (Photo 13). Make sure all wires are going through the same hole. Push all the units together. Arrange the Fringes on individual units so they fall between the fringes in the lower unit(s), not directly in line above them. Twist the stem wires below (Photo 14). This first piece will be the top of the flower head.

6. Combine Bract Units D, E, and F the same way (Photos 15 & 16). This is the second piece that will be the midsection of our flower head.
7. Combine Bract Units F, F, and E by inserting the stem wire for the first two into the center of the smaller Unit E. Squish the units all together and twist the stems below. (Photos 17 & 18) This is the third piece which will make the bottom of the flower head.

8. Trim all of the individual unit stem wires to varying lengths, then cover each section’s stem wire with a half-width of floral tape. Also wrap the leaf stem wires with half-width tape.

9. Insert the tip of the prepared 16 gauge stem wire into the underside of the first section of the flower head. Push it up as far as it will go. Insert the bottom of the flower stem wire into the center of the second section of the flower head and slide it all the way up the stem, making sure the stem wire for the first section goes through the same hole as the flower stem. Follow that with the third section, making sure all stem wires pass through the same hole in the center. (Picture 19)

10. Push all the sections up to the top and lightly cover the stem wires with a half-width of floral tape.

11. With a separate piece of half-width tape, attach the leaves just below the flower head. If using more than one leaf, arrange the leaves so they are all on different sides of the flower, but at the same level. Cover the stem wire below completely with floral tape. (Photo 20)

Make sure to give the leaves some shape! Curl and bend them until they look more alive. Also go back through the bract fringes and straighten or reshape them as needed.

I hope you’ve enjoyed making your very own French Beaded Globe Amaranth! You can find more of my tutorials and patterns on my website. Please feel free to email me with any questions >>
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