

Filigree

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Before you can work the Filigree technique, you will need to know Basic Frame, which is taught for free in the Learn French Beading section of my website.

Filigree is a modern adaptation of French Beading techniques that creates decorative, open, lace-like petals and leaves. There is little information on Filigree as it is not widely known. To create a Filigree petal, layers of “loops” are stacked upon each other, building outward.

Use 24 gauge (.5 mm) wire and size 11/0 seed beads.

Sample Pattern: Make 1

Layer 1 (Blue): 15 bead Basic Row, broken into 3x 5-bead segments using 10 beads per loop. RB RT.

1. Construct a Basic Frame using 15 beads for the Basic Row.
2. On your Working Wire, count out 10 beads and wrap around the Basic Row at a 90 degree angle 5 beads up. **(Photo 1)**
3. On the opposite side of your Basic Row, count out 10 more beads on the Working Wire and wrap around the Basic Row at a 90 degree angle 5 more beads up. **(Photo 2)**
4. On the first side of your Basic Row, count out 10 more beads on the Working wire and wrap around the Top Wire at a 90 degree angle. **(Photo 3)**
5. To make the second half of the First Layer, wrap back down the Basic Row, wrapping at a 90 degree angle at 5 bead intervals, using 10 beads per loop. You will end Layer 1 at the Bottom Wire. **(Photos 4 & 5)**

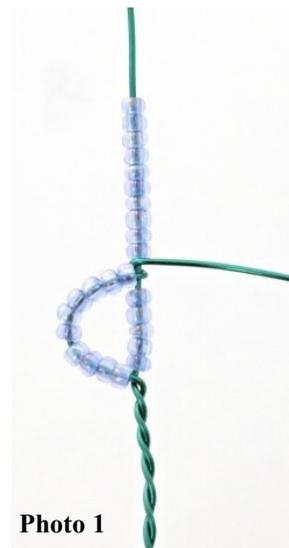


Photo 1

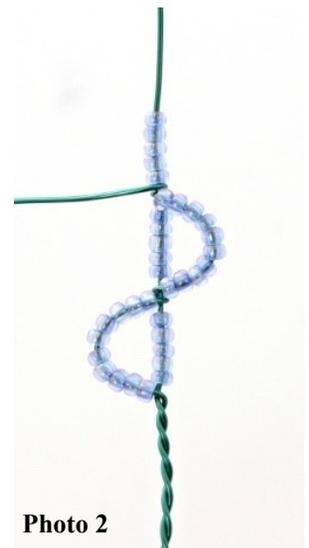


Photo 2

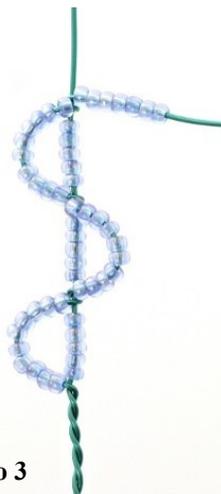


Photo 3

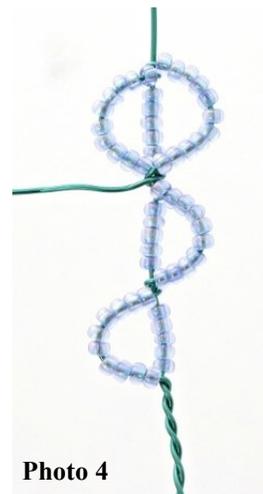


Photo 4

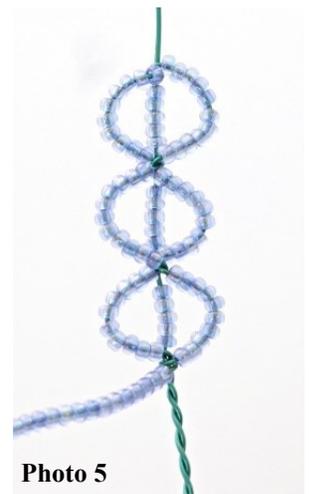


Photo 5

Layer 2 (Orange):

Add 2 beads to the Top Wire

Loop 1: 10 beads, skipping 5 beads up on Layer 1

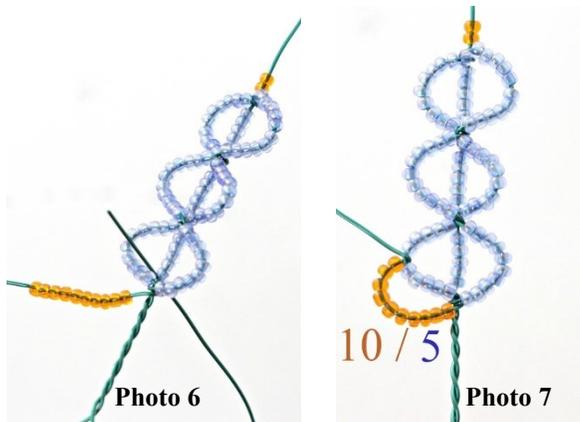
Loop 2: 10 beads, skipping 11 beads up on Layer 1

Loop 3: 8 beads, skipping 10 beads up on Layer 1

Loop 4: 8 beads, wrapping RT at Top Wire

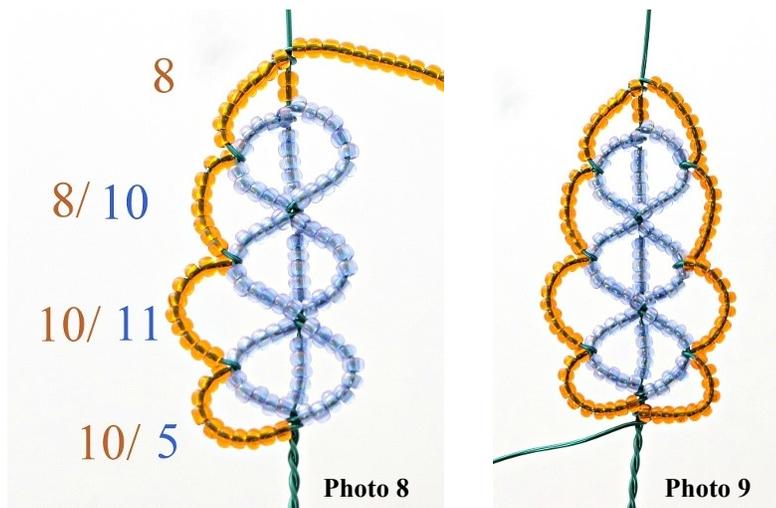
- Make the second half a mirror image.

NOTE: My diagrams use color coding for bead counts. The first number is the bead count for the new loops, the second is the number of beads to skip on the previous Layer.



1. Add 2 beads to the Top Wire.
2. Count 10 beads on your Working Wire and remove any excess beads. Measure out 2 feet (60.9 cm) of wire and clip from your spool.
3. Insert the tip of your Working Wire into the back of the petal, inside the first loop on the first side of Layer 1. **(Photo 6)**
4. Pull the wire all the way through, securing it 5 beads up from the bottom of the first loop in Layer 1. **(Photo 7)**

5. Add 10 beads to your Working Wire and insert the tip of your working wire into the back of the petal, inside the second loop in Layer 1. Count 11 beads up (5 beads on the first loop + 6 beads on the second loop) and secure your working wire to make the second loop on Layer 2.
6. Follow the diagram in **Photo 8** to complete the first half of Layer 2.
7. On the second half of your petal, make a mirror image of the first half. **(Photo 9)**



NOTE: When Loops on the previous layer are large enough, it is possible to work the new loops while leaving all beads on the working wire, instead of removing the excess beads. But I find it a little easier to work if I remove them to pass the wire through. .

NOTE: The top loop on the second half may require more beads than the top loop on the first half in order to produce a mirror image. I generally need to add 1 bead to the bead count to make them evenly sized. The other loops should remain the same.

Layer 3 (Purple):

Add 2 beads to the Top Wire

Loop 1: 15 beads, skipping 15 beads on Layer 2

Loop 2: 8 beads, skipping 8 beads on Layer 2

Loop 3: 13 beads, wrap RT at Top Wire

- Make the second half a mirror image.
- Reduce to 2 Bottom Wires.

1. Follow **Photo 10** to complete Layer 3.

