

Bead & Blossom

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LEARN FRENCH BEADING: ADVANCED COURSE

LESSON FOUR: Y-FRAME



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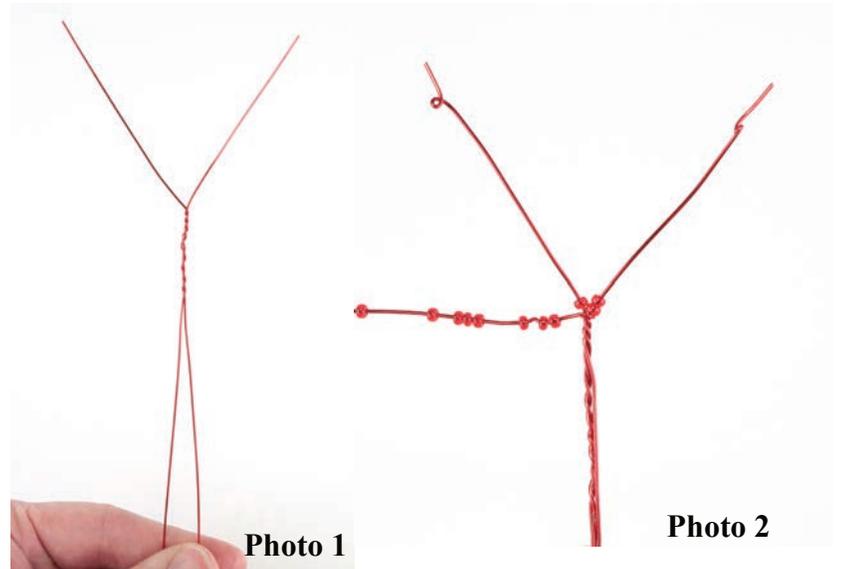
The Y-Frame technique is a little-known combination of the Spoke Frame and Basic Frame techniques that creates petals and leaves with multiple basic rows.

There are two standard types that will be taught in this tutorial - double and triple - though you can add more spokes for other designs if needed. This is a Base Technique, which means you can use it in conjunction with most of the Add-On Techniques.

1. Before stringing any beads onto the wire spool, cut all of the wire lengths needed for the spokes. So if you need three 5 inch lengths of wire per petal and you are making six petals, cut eighteen 5 inch lengths of wire. Set them aside in bags so you don't get them mixed up or mistake them for scrap wires.
2. After all the wires are cut string the petal colored beads onto the spool.

3. To construct a Y-Frame with two spokes, take two of the matching spoke wires and twist the bottom 2/3 of the wires together. **(Photo 1)** Note the anatomy. There is one twisted bottom wire and two top wires, or spokes, which makes the frame look like a Y. *Note: You can also twist the working wire in with the bottom wires while constructing the frame if you want, I just personally find it easier to add it on later.*

4. Add the beads required for the Basic Rows to each top wire, then make a little loop in the end of each spoke to prevent the beads from falling off. Then attach the working wire by leaving a small tail and wrapping twice directly below the basic rows **(Photo 2)**. The beginning tail in the working wire will join the two bottom wires. So a Y Frame will begin with 3 bottom wires twisted together, with the potential to have four total bottom wires after the ending working wire is twisted in. You may or may not need all four, depending on the pattern. You can remove the bottom wires you don't need for support just as you would with Basic Frame.



TIP: Most Y-frame petals that I've seen call for a 1 bead Basic Row on each spoke. However, I like to use 2 beads for the second spoke. This helps even out the height of the two basic rows and helps make a petal with a nicer shape. This may or may not be necessary for you, depending on your personal wrapping technique.

5. Wrap the rows around, wrapping at each spoke wire, and then the bottom wire. (**Photos 3 & 4**)

Like Spoke Frame, rows on a Y-Frame are counted as rounds. A complete circuit beginning at the bottom wire, wrapping at each spoke, then back to the bottom wire counts as one round.

6. Once the specified number of rounds is complete, trim both top wires and fold them back as you would with Basic Frame. The petal shown in **Photo 5** is a Y-Frame with seven rounds.



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5

—Triple Y-Frame—

Making a triple Y-Frame is very similar to a regular Y-Frame. Just twist three spoke wires together to make the frame (**Photo 6**). Add the beads for the Basic Rows. (*I use 1 bead for the first two spokes, then two beads for the last spoke. I also make sure that the bead on the center spoke is up higher than the basic rows on either side of it. See **Photo 7**.*) Then attach the working wire just like before, and wrap rows around each spoke. **Photo 8** shows a Triple Y-Frame with seven rounds.



Photo 6

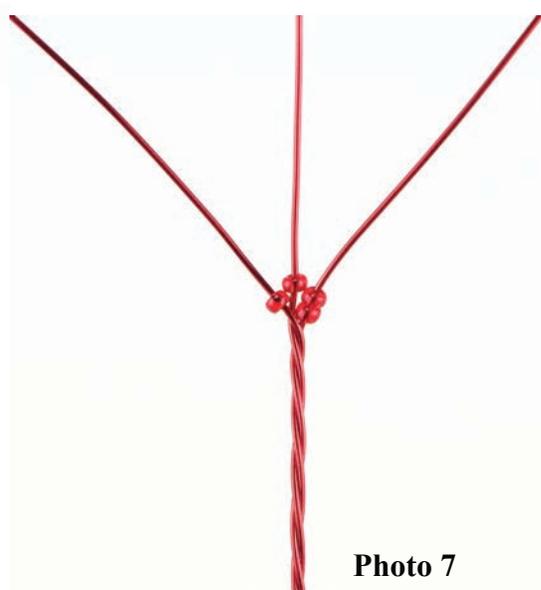


Photo 7



Photo 8