

FRENCH BEADED BILLY BALLS (AKA CRASPEDIA)



Difficulty Level: Advanced

Techniques Required: [Spoke Frame](#)

Finished Size: ~ 1 inch wide

This pattern could also be altered to make a larger Billy Ball, but you may want to stuff your ball with yarn or felt, or make the ball around a foam ball to keep it from being smushed.

Materials:

Makes 1 billy ball

- 9/0 3-cut seed beads* (I used transparent luster yellow for the ones in the tutorial. I prefer the opaque luster yellow that I used for the ones shown at the end of the tutorial.)
- 24 gauge (0.5 mm) copper core wire matching beads
- 28 gauge (0.3 mm) copper core wire matching beads
- 1x 18 or 16 gauge stem wire
- Green floral tape

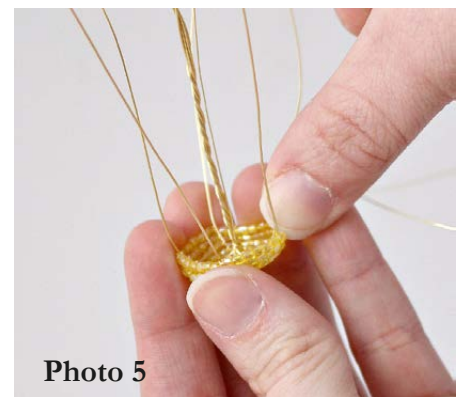
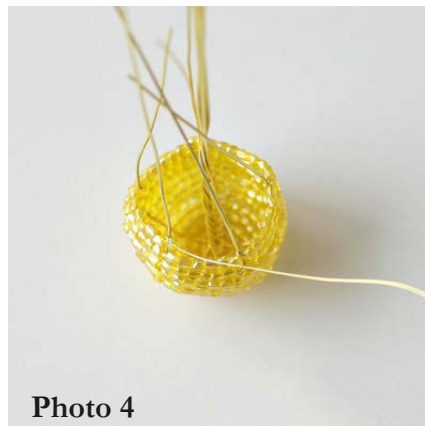
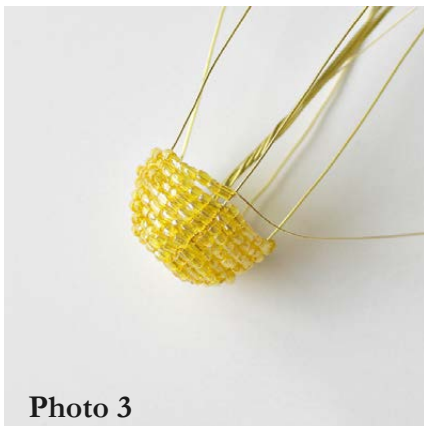
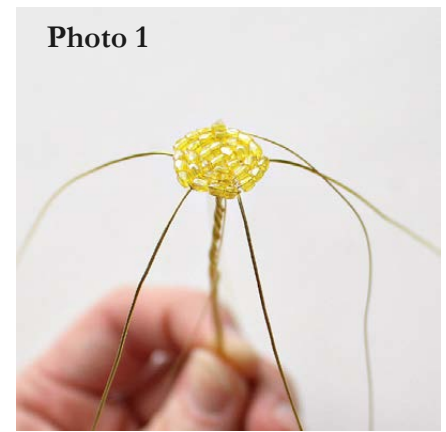
* You can substitute 11/0 round seed beads, but you will need to add extra rows to get the same sizing.

If you are in the USA, check with [ShipwreckBeads.com](#), [BeadedEdgeSupply.com](#), and [PowWowSupply.com](#) for the 9/0 3-cut beads.

© 2021 Lauren Harpster. All rights reserved. This copy of the pattern is a re-write from the original published in 2015 under my old "Lauren's Creations" name. This pattern has been published for personal use only. It may not be shared, sold, or re-distributed in any way. It may not be used for teaching classes. Items made from the pattern may be sold, but please be respectful and acknowledge me as the designer. This copy was provided only for the "Learn how to make French Beaded Flowers" Facebook group.

Billy Ball Instructions: Ball shapes are very tricky to make correctly. Don't give up if it doesn't come easily! I give counts for rows but they may not be exactly the same every time due to differences in personal technique, and the variation of the beads themselves.

1. Cut 5x 6 inch lengths of 24 gauge gold wire and Construct a Spoke Frame. Bend the Spokes back 90 degrees, then Spread them out so they are equal distance apart. String the Size 9/0 3-cut seed beads onto your 28 gauge gold wire and leave it attached to the spool. Attach the 28g wire to the stem wire below your Spokes.
2. Wrap Round 1 = 1 bead per row, Round 2 = 2 beads per row. After Round 2, bend your Spoke wires back just barely. Then complete Round 3 using 3 beads per row. **(Photo 1)**
3. Bend your wires back again, just a very little. Then complete Round 4 using 4 beads per row. Wrap Round 5 = 5 beads per row, Round 6 = 6 beads per row. Gently curve your wires as you move down. **(Photo 2)**
4. Wrap Round 7 with 7 beads per row, and Round 8 with 8 beads per row. After Round 8 your Spokes should be pointing straight down. Add Rounds 9-11 using 9 beads per row for all 3 Rounds. **(Photo 3)**
5. Now comes another tricky part. We will start curving our Spoke wires inwards and decreasing the number of beads per row. Round 12 = 8 beads per row, Round 13 = 7, Round 14 = 6... **(Photo 4)** Once the central stem wire starts getting in the way, clip it off, making sure to leave a stub of twisted wire in the center of your ball.



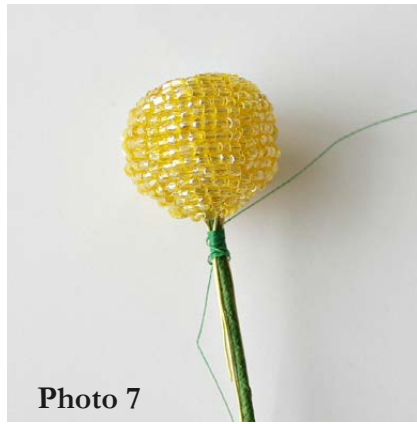
TIP: If you are having trouble wrapping the rows and getting them tight, try this: Place the thumbnail of your dominant hand on the wire right where it is going to wrap around the Spoke. Then, instead of wrapping your free hand around the Spoke, spin your work around 360 degrees, keeping your thumbnail firmly planted to guide the wire into the correct place while you spin around the Spoke. **Photo 5.**

6. Continue making Rounds, curving the Spoke wires inward just a little with each row. Round 15 = 5, Round 16 = 4, Round 17 = 3, and Round 18 = 1. **(Photo 6)** Once you complete your rows, you should have your 5 Spoke wires pointing straight downward to form a new stem wire. Do not twist them. If your rows try to slip down on you, push them back up with your fingernails before wrapping the next row.



French Beaded Billy Balls (Craspedia)

7. Wrap an 18 or 16 gauge florist stem wire with floral tape. There should be a tiny hole in the bottom of your Billy Ball, just large enough to slide your stem wire *inside* it. Use floss or wire to wrap the Billy Ball's Spoke wires onto the stem wire. **(Photo 7)**
8. Cover the exposed wires/thread with floral tape. **(Photo 8)** Tada! Billy Ball. :)



The Billy Balls I made to go with the Chamomile shown here were made with a different bead finish - opaque yellow luster, rather than a transparent. I think this finish is more realistic.

