

Follies Chandeliers

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Beaded tendrils dangle from a larger bead that's framed by an unusual herringbone weave. The result is an airy design—daringly long yet light as a feather.



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INSTRUCTIONS

1 Make the central dangles. Cut two pieces of 26-gauge wire 3 inches (7.6 cm) long each. Slip a ½-inch (1.3 cm) flat pear on each of them and use a 1-inch (2.5 cm) tail to make wrapped bead loops, trimming the tails' excess.

2 With the remaining wire and round-nose pliers, form small wrapped loops as close as possible to the ones you just made. Wind the wire on top of the previous wrapping; this gives the fine wire a more substantial appearance. Trim the wires closely.

3 Cut two pieces of 26-gauge wire 3 inches (7.6 cm) long. Make two wrapped loop bead links with a 9-mm rondelle on each, catching a ½-inch (1.3 cm) flat pear dangle at one end of each of the links. Trim off any extra wire.

4 Make the four side dangles, as you did in steps 1 and 2, using ½-inch (1.3 cm) flat pears instead.

5 Fabricate four smaller dangles from 4-inch (10.2 cm) lengths of 26-gauge wire. Make four wrapped bead loop links with two 5-mm beads each, catching a dangle from step 4 in one end of each. Trim away any extra wire.

6 Cut a piece of 24-gauge wire 4 inches (10.2 cm) long. Make a wrapped loop near one end of it, wrapping as many times as it takes to create a shank ¼ inch (0.6 cm) long. (Counting the number of times you wrap will help you replicate the shank on the opposite side of the bead.)

7 Slip a 10-mm rondelle onto the working end of the wire and make another ¼-inch (0.6 cm) shank with a wrapped loop on the other end of the wire, attaching the dangle you made in step 1 into the loop before you wrap it

closed (see figure 1). Trim the ends of the wires with a flush cutter.

8 To craft a herringbone weave around the 10-mm rondelle, cut a piece of 26-gauge wire 2½ feet (76.2 cm) long. Secure the wire by wrapping it twice around one of the shanks, near the bead. Trim the tail. Bring the working wire down one side of the bead, and clockwise around the shank, from front to back, positioning the wire as close to the bead as possible; do the same on the other side of the bead. This completes one entire herringbone weave around the bead.

9 Repeat to complete five full weaves around the bead. As you progress, snug the wire against the bead's sides.

10 Weave the top of a sixth herringbone, but before wrapping the wire on the lower shank, slip one of the smaller-bead dangles onto the wire. Twist a small loop at the 4 o'clock position. After weaving the wire around the lower shank, make another small loop at the 8 o'clock position for another dangle. Bring the wire to the top shank, wrap it tightly twice around it, and trim any extra wire.

11 Repeat steps 5 through 9 for the other earring.

12 Attach the ear wires to the empty loops at the ends of the shanks.

MATERIALS

2 deep-red faceted flat pears,* ½ inch (1.3 cm) diameter

2 deep-red faceted rondelles, 9 mm diameter

4 deep-red flat pears,* ⅜ inch () diameter

8 deep-red round beads, 5 mm diameter

2 deep-red faceted rondelles, 10 mm diameter

26-gauge sterling dead-soft silver wire, 6 feet (1.8 m) long

24-gauge sterling dead-soft silver wire, 8 inches (20.3 cm) long

2 sterling silver lever-back ear wires

* Flat pears are sometimes called briolettes.

FIGURE 1

