

Wire and Bead Kippah

Materials

5 yards of 26 gauge wire, cut in 1 yard lengths

Bugle Beads: 18 (1/4 inch), and 96 (1/2 inch)

Round or Faceted Beads: 42—5mm or 6mm

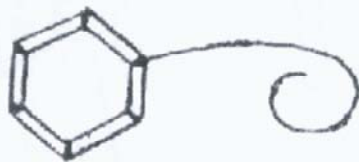
Small hair comb

Paper scissors to cut wire

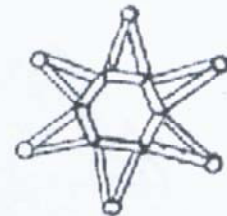
Needle-nosed pliers—optional

Directions

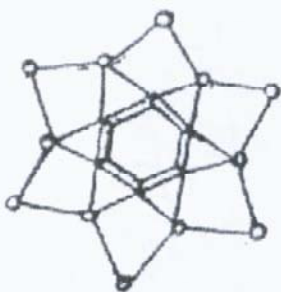
1. First Row: Bend wire 3 inches to 4 inches from one end. Place 6 (1/4 inch) bugle beads over long end of wire, so that they come to a stop at the bend. Bend the beaded part of the wire into a 6-sided figure, allowing just enough space for a wire to fit between each bead. Wrap the short end tightly around the long wire, going through the center 4 times. Cut short end.



2. Second row: Place on wire 1 (1/2 inch) bugle bead, then 1 round bead, then 1(1/2 inch) bugle bead. Slide beads down. By inserting the wire through the center of the hexagon, and around and through again, make one complete wrap around the wire, between the 2 nearest (1/4 inch) bugle beads. The round bead should be at the peak or point of the prong you just formed.

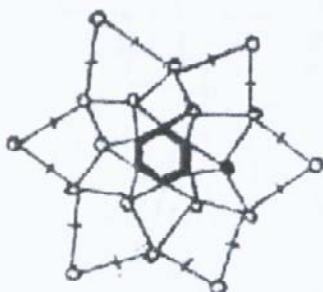


Repeat 5 more times, creating 6 prongs. To finish row, wrap wire tightly 4 times around wire of hexagon, between beads. Cut excess wire.

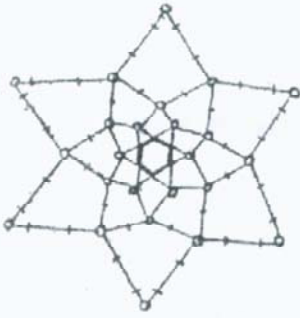


3. Third Row: With new strand of wire, use 3-4 inches to wrap tightly 4 times around peak of any prong, between the round bead and the bugle bead. Cut short end. Slide 1 (1/2 inch) bugle bead, 1 round bead and 1 (1/2 inch) bugle bead down the wire.

Thread the wire through the round bead at the point of the nearest prong. Continue around, creating 6 new prongs. Do not thread through the final round bead. Just wrap tightly 4 times around the wire before the last round bead. Cut wire.

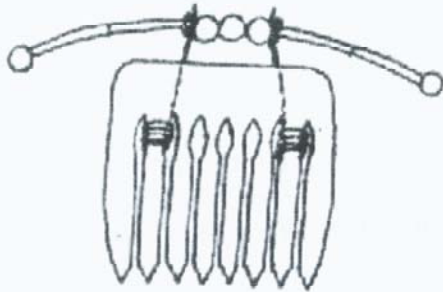
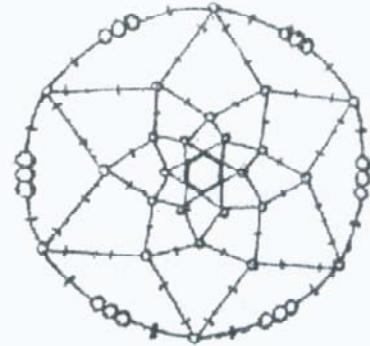


4. Fourth Row: With new strand of wire, repeat Step 3, but this time use 2 (1/2 inch) bugle beads, then 1 round bead, then 2 (1/2 inch) bugle beads. At end of row, wrap tightly four times and cut.



5. Fifth Row: Same as Rows 3 and 4, but this time use 2 (1/2 inch) bugles, 1(1/4 inch) bugle, 1 round bead, 1 (1/4 inch) bugle and 2 (1/2 inch) bugles.

6. Sixth Row: The round outer perimeter creates the concave shape. Start wire at peak of any prong. Use 2 (1/2 inch) bugle, 3 round beads, and 2 (1/2 inch) bugles. Thread wire through the peak of the nearest prong. Continue until last bead. Do not thread through. Wrap 4 times tightly and cut excess.



7. Attach hair comb with 2 strands of wire 8-9 inches (fingertip to wrist). With the comb's dome side facing up, slide about 4 inches of wire under and up through the second opening. Wrap it 4 times tightly around the 2nd tooth of the 8 tooth comb. Cut short end. Repeat with other wire through the 2nd opening on the other side of the comb.

Place the comb so that the top is at the perimeter, centered to a set of 3 round beads. Wrap one wire 4 times around the perimeter wire on one side of the set of 3 round beads. Wrap the other wire on the other side of the set of 3 round beads. Cut.

Note: Very slight variations in length of bugles will affect size and shape of kippah. If you are using 7/16 inch bugles (such as Blue Moon brand), instead of 1/2 inch, these adjustments should be made:

Fifth Row: 3 bugles, 1 round bead, 3 bugles. (No 1/4 inch bugle bead)

Sixth Row: 2 bugles, 4 round beads, 2 bugles.

Seventh Row: Center comb to 4 round beads on perimeter.

This design was created by Sharon Acorcey of Southern New Jersey Branch. Using this basic technique, have fun creating other designs of your own.

Some tips: Avoid kinks by carefully guiding wire with fingers. Most kinks can be straightened by pliers, or just by forcing a bead over it. Unfixable kinks should be cut off. Wrap wire and start again. Color coordinate wire with bugle beads. Pull tightly when wrapping wire.