



WILLY'S BLUES HAT

Tutorial PDF

Skill Level Intermediate and up

I'm happy to share what I created with you but there are a few things to make clear first. The unloved disclaimer....

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As with all artists sharing their skills and designs with you, if you learned something from this tutorial, a simple thank you or letting people know where you learned it is a great ego booster and good karma.

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What you need to complete this project

- ✓ 1 Piece of 20-gauge copper wire cut about 10 inches in length (Frame)
- ✓ 1 Piece of 26-gauge copper wire, cut about 3-4 feet in length (wrapping/weaving wire)
- ✓ 1 piece of 28 gauge about 5 inches long, used for parts of tutorial. Optional
- ✓ Needle nose pliers
- ✓ Flat nose pliers
- ✓ About 30 tiny seed beads if you decide to add tiny little beads lol
- ✓ 1 8mm round bead or skull



So far easy enough, let's keep going

The first step is deciding how you want your hat to look. Coiled or weaved. The weaving is more difficult. I'll show you both ways in this tutorial, and an easy lazy-man's shortcut.

To start, using the tip of your round nose pliers, hold the tip of your frame wire and begin to make a loop



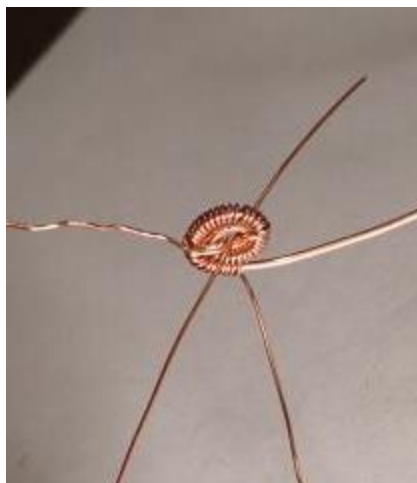
Use you weaving wire and begin to wrap the frame as seen in picture. Keep wrapping until you have 12 rotations



I know the wire is really long, however you need to anchor the swirl. Thread the weaving wire through the center hole, try not to pull. Feed it through, guiding it so you don't kink the wire. Before you do, make sure the anchor is lined up with the tip of the frame wire. This isn't important, but it keeps it symmetrical



proceed to coil the frame another 18 rotations, then begin to form the coiled end around. Continue to coil the frame until the coil lines up with your first anchor. Once it lines up. Thread the wire through the center again. As you did with the first one. The proceed to coil



of

Wrap the coil around about 10 times, begin to form around the rest of the weave and coil until you reach the center the last 2 anchors

When you visually reach the center point, thread the wire through again. Then proceed to coil until you reach the point where the start and coil line up, set one more anchor.

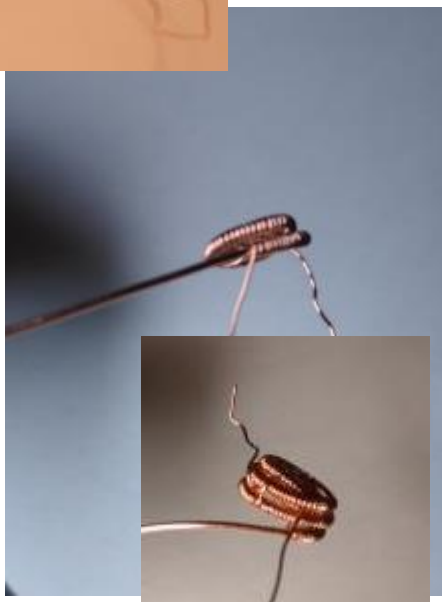


Proceed to coil

This part was to show you the weave technique of the hat. You would continue to coil and anchor throughout the rest of the steps. When you begin to make the pipe section of the hat, the anchor is more difficult. You need to thread the wire through coiled sections, so if you proceed with the weave, keep in mind you'll need to keep the weave a little loose so you can get the wrapping wire through. We'll complete it with coiling.



At the last anchor, give your frame wire a little bend downward, so it's angled slightly below the rest of the wrap. Reference the photo. Keep coiling about 20 rotations.

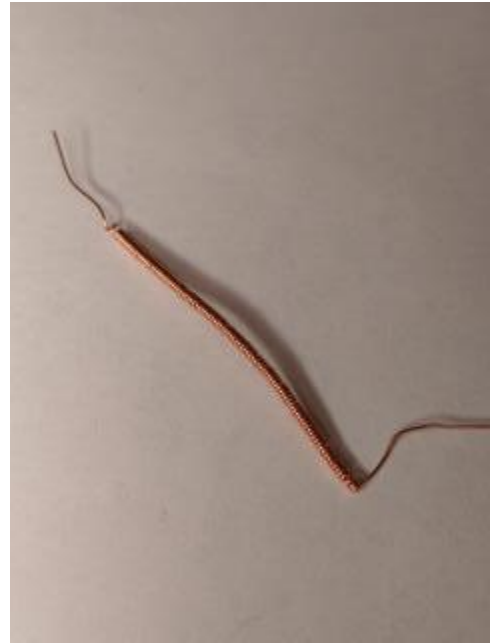


Start to shape the new coiled part to match the shape of the hat under. Gently squeezing it under the top as you form the shape. At this point your weaving wire should line up with an anchor. If you want to stay symmetrical. To do so, you need to work the weaving wire through the outside coiled top frame.

😊 Lazy man tip

This isn't what I did for this tutorial, however it's a fast little tip when you're done coiling lol

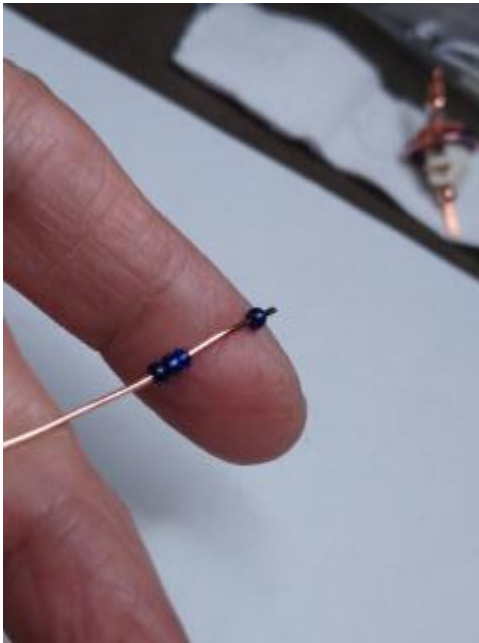
If you're anything like me, you might make some connectors, jump rings, clasps and such, in your spare time, I use up a lot of scrap doing this. I also do some pre-coiling with different gauges around different size bases. I'll use these for quick add-ons for rings or focal designs... or stretch them out to include in sun catcher designs...many uses. For a project like this, the pre-made coils come in handy. All you do is measure what you need and slide it on your frame. Use the tail ends to anchor.



Back to the lesson



Coil enough to shape around, under the top of the hat 2 times. Stop when you reach the spot where you bent the frame to begin the pipe section. You can make this part taller by coiling some more while shaping. Remember to anchor about every 20 coil rotations, or you can wait to do this in another step I'll show.



If you are happy with 2 layers for your stack, you can begin to add beads. Start with 15 and begin to shape the wire around the outside of the last stack wire. This builds the hat rim. The beads will probably separate, so hold them in place with your finger. Keep adding and forming until you go completely around the hat.



Once you have the beads you want, use your wrapping wire and wrap 2 time around the beaded frame. Thread the weaving wire through the bottom stack frame wire. Pull all the way through and wrap 2 times around the beaded frame again. You can wrap the frame wire around the beaded wire one more time if you want to. Then use the weaving wire to wrap 3 times. Cut the weaving wire and squeeze the end firmly against the frame to flatten it down.



Now cut the frame wire leaving about an inch, so you can curl and fold over the top or underneath. Don't forget, a bead or tassel, or a focal of sorts gets added. It is a hat after all. Decorate it 😊



Small anchors can be placed around the hat using the 28-gauge wire. To do so, thread the wire through the front of one frame wire, pulling it through the back. Then thread it back through the frame wire one step up, to the front and back through the same frame wire, to the back. Take both ends and twist together 3 times. Cut the wire and firmly press it against the inside of the hat. No one will see the anchor or feel the wire ends because they're hidden under the hat.





If you have a charm or something you've made that will fit the hat, add it! It'll be fun to experiment with the different things we can decorate the hat with.

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