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facebook LIVE: 2.14.18

Freeform Wire Heart



Project by Kate Richbourg

With Kate Richbourg and Emily Miller on FB Live

Episode Notes by Drea Carbone

Photography by Baranduin Briggs and Karen Marshall

It was Valentine's Day here in the US and therefore a heart-filled day at the beadshop.com offices! From our amazing project to the gal's jewelry to the Conversation Heart candies! This was a fun episode, so grab your wire and your tools and get ready to explore Kate's signature wire style...freeform!

If you want, you can bypass the chit chat...
Skip to **Minute Marker 15:00** to get right to the learning.
Happy beading!

Minute Marker 15:00

Kate begins by going over our materials for this project. Small beads are what we're after, and we also want to add some texture. That's why Kate chose Miyuki Peanuts, a tiny bead with a great shape that will add interest to the design. She also chose Petite Rice Pearls, seed beads, Czech Fire Polish, spacers, and rondelles... really, use what you like! Figure out what you want to use, and go for it! To make it a little extra special, Kate added a gem briolette in a contrasting color.

Look at Kate's 20-year-old sample here at the right, made with gold iris pearls and a faceted garnet. Two decades later and her pendant is still pristine...that's Kate Richbourg Craftwomanship!



Kate also comments that you want wire that's not only skinny enough to fit through your bead holes, but also malleable enough to work with almost like a thread... we're looking for dead soft wire in about 24G-28G for this project. See one of her fan-fave necklaces (left), which she made with 22G wire...for the large beads she was using, this was the perfect gauge.

Minute Marker 26:30

To show the technique on a larger scale, Kate uses 24G wire with some larger beads to demonstrate.

Use Nylon Jaw Pliers ("a must have!" says Kate) to straighten the wire a bit. Note that Kate doesn't cut the wire off the spool...the spool gives her something to hold on to. If she does need to cut the wire Kate shows how she uses her Chain Nose Pliers to hold one end of the wire as she pulls her Nylon Jaws along the length of wire. Once she straightens right off the spool, she cuts the wire at about a foot long.

Kate has a variety of shapes, sizes, and colors of beads to work with for this demo: 8mm Picasso Green Aqua English Cuts, 5mm Rondelles in Lavender Mercury and Light Canary Mercury, and 6mm Red Ruby Melons.

Kate picks up some beads, slides them to the middle of her length of wire, forms a little circle and twists her wire to close the loop. She wraps one wire at random around the circle and through the middle. The space in the middle of her circle of beads is a good size for a 5mm Rondelle, so she selects one and wires it into place. Next she selects an English Cut and adds it to the side, and wraps the wire, pulling it tight. This is all random-with-a-purpose, going with her gut, and creating a shape organically.





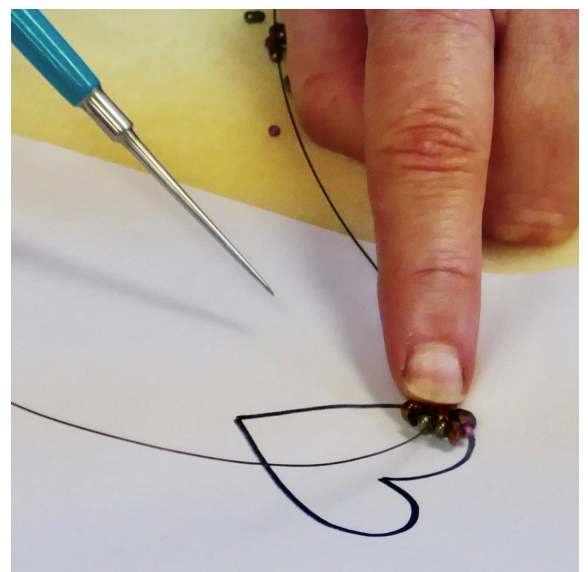
Minute Marker 37:00

Kate shows how to end a short piece of wire. She selects a little “bridge” of wire that’s already an established part of her form. She loops the free end right around, using her Bent Nose Pliers to make it easy to grip and pull the wire. Wrap around, much like when you’re making coils in your wire wraps loops, and snip your wire end. Bend your cut end in if needed so there’s not a sharp little piece sticking out.

To add more wire, Kate again prepares and cuts a new length of wire. She finds a place with a gap and slides the wire through a space right next to the gap, but not through the gap itself. This is because she will fill that space with a bead. Slide the form about halfway down the wire, add the bead, and keep wiring. Kate likes to work with two ends of wire, which is why we’re starting right in the middle of our cut length of wire.

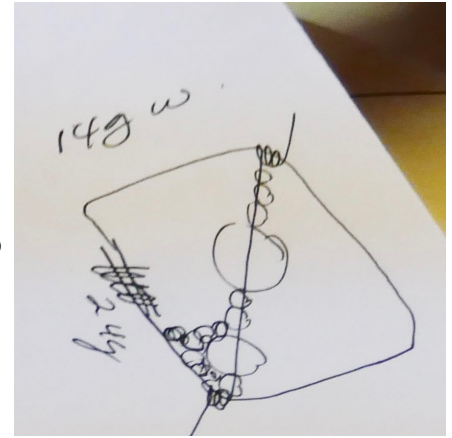
Minute Marker 41:15

We start our Morning Glory Heart. With a foot-long length of 26G wire and several beads strung on and brought to the middle, Kate again creates a little “bundle” of beads and starts working from there. She adds beads a few at a time now, because these are smaller than the beads she demoed with earlier. Watch as Kate wraps all around her form, adds beads, wraps through the form, and just goes for it. To create the heart shape, Kate compares her form to a drawn armature as she works.



Minute Marker 46:00

A viewer, Manie M., comments during the live feed to ask about using this technique within a frame. Kate diagrams how she created a piece like this. With 14G wire Kate created a frame with an overlapping side, hammered it, and then wrapped 24G wire around the overlap in coils to close it and then did her freeform wire with that same 24G Wire. We have already seen some of these pop up in our Private FB Group! Find the link to Kate's original tutorial [here](#).



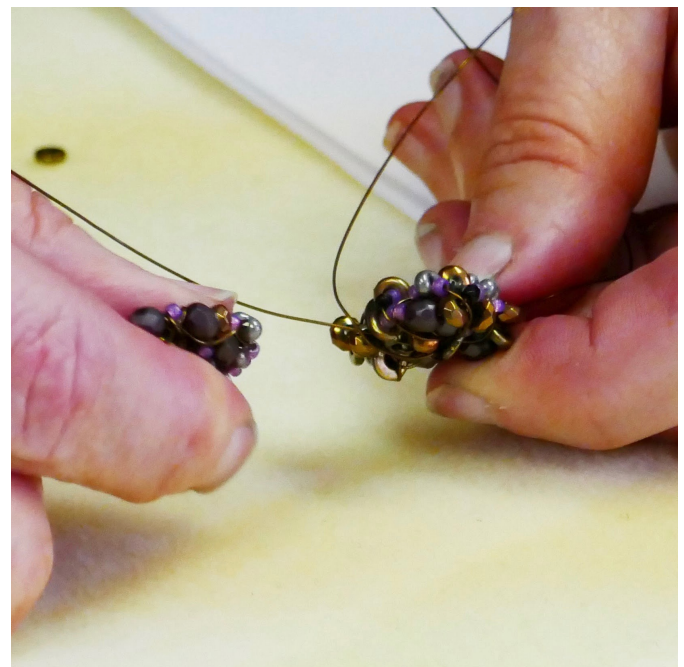
Minute Marker 48:20

Back to our Heart! Kate compares her wire form to her drawn heart template. Using this guide, she knows where she may need to add a bead or two to form the curved lobes of the heart, the straight edges, and the point. Kate points out that you can turn your form around within your template to see where it fits best and work out from there.



Emily finds that the form she is working on may be a little too freeform. The template is handy here!

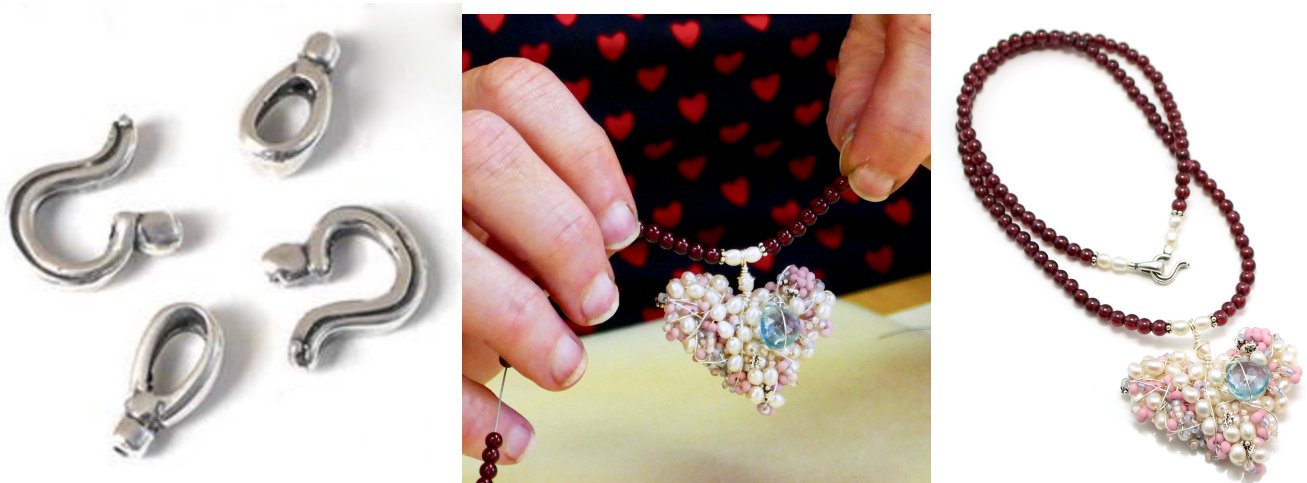
See the photo at the bottom right...Emily's form is on the left, Kate's on the right. Notice how much thinner Emily's is. Emily is focusing on her shape and adding beads, and really pinching down as she wires... Meanwhile, Kate is working not only outward into the heart shape but also creating some bulk, and pinching a bit less.



Kate shows how to help your wire end when it gets "wrinkly," just grab your Nylon Jaw Pliers and straighten!

Minute Marker 59:15

Let's talk stringing! While Emily works on the Morning Glory Heart, Kate wants to create something to hang these pendants from, of course! Switching to the Carnation sample, Kate works with beautiful garnet rounds and carries over some of the pearls and spacers used in the Carnation Freeform Heart. She strings a simple strand of beads to showcase this pendant. A clasp we haven't used on a FB Live before is getting the spotlight today: The Perfect Crimp. This is a hook and eye clasp that has a crimp built right in!



Minute Marker 1:09:00

The necklace has been strung, it's time to add the clasp. Kate adds the "eye" side first so she can adjust her tension with the hook side after. With this clasp, your Soft Flex feeds into the base of the clasp, which is a crimp! Your Soft Flex goes right through it and out the other end, through the loop and hook, just like a regular crimp tube. Kate crimps these flat rather than use a Crimping Tool, and she also demonstrates adding a teeny dab of Zap Glue with a toothpick directly onto the SoftFlex where the crimp will rest, in case you want some added security. Kate crimps down right on the crimp over the glue. Pull the Soft Flex taut and snip!



Minute Marker 1:18:45

Back to our Morning Glory sample! Kate shows how to create the bail on the heart. Switching to 24G wire for this, Kate cuts a 6" piece of wire and finds the spot on her wire form where she wants the bail to come out. Once again, she strings the form onto the wire in a spot just next to this place, so she can work her wire into the piece and over to the correct spot. Once there, she adds some beads, makes a wire-wrapped loop. Rather than make a single loop, Kate shows how to make a doubled loop. This is a little sturdier than a single loop and Kate likes the design aspect as well. She wire wraps these loops closed with neat coils, but rather than stop at the top of her beads like we usually would, she adds a decorative element by spiraling the wire down and around the beads of her bail and into her wire form to finish.



Minute Marker 1:23:00

Time to add the decorative briolette! With about 8" of 26G wire (because the briolette holes are tiny!) Kate strings her briolette, slides it to the middle of the length of wire, and pokes the wire ends right through the wire form right where she wants the briolette positioned. Wrap the wire back through the form, go over your briolette to create a "cage" to hold it in place, and finish your wire ends as before.

A last tip from Kate: if some bits of wire are loose, an easy way to tighten them up is to grasp the wire with your pliers and I've that wire a little quarter turn, creating an "elbow" or bend.





Well, gang...we hope you all had a wonderful Valentine's Day and loved this episode! Don't be afraid to let loose and bead organically...it's so much fun! Wrap away!

Don't eat too many Conversation Hearts...and happy beading!

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Links to This Project's Ingredients...

Freeform Wire Heart

Recipe

Carnation

- 1 Spool 26G Wire- Silver Tone
- 1 Spool 24G Wire- Silver Tone
- 1 Strand Petite Rice
- 1 Pkg Tierra Daisy Spacers- Ant Silver
- 1 Tube P4006-MA Peanuts-Matte Light Rose
- 1 Tube 11-215 Blush Lined Crystal
- 1 Tube 11-576 Dyed Smoky Opal S/L Alabaster
- 1 Aqua Quartz Briolette
- 1 Strand 4mm Garnet
- 1 Spool Soft Flex .014- Satin Silver
- 1 Pair Perfect Crimps- Antique Silver

Morning Glory

- 1 Spool 26G Wire- Vintage Bronze
- 1 Spool 24G Wire- Vintage Bronze
- 1 Strand Bronzed Hematite Faceted Rondelle
- 1 Pkg 2mm Czech Glass- Jet
- 1 Pkg Tierra Heishi- Antique Brass
- 1 Tube P4018 Peanuts-Pebble
- 1 Tube 11-4248 Duracoat S/L Dyed Dark Lilac
- 1 Carnelian Briolette
- 1 Strand 4mm Pastel Bronze Czech Glass Fire Polish
- 1 Strand 4mm Second Wind
- 1 Spool Soft Flex .014 Golden Bronze
- 1 Pair Perfect Crimps- Antique Brass

You will also want to have: Zap Glue, Xuron Maxi Shears, Round Nose Pliers, Chain Nose Pliers, and Bent Nose Pliers

Links to Learning, Products, & More...

[Kate's tutorial on her Wire Frame Pendant.](#)

[Class Handouts and Skill Builders](#)

[Main Project Page](#)

[Beadshop Recipes Page](#)

[FB Live 1.31.18: Wire 101 With Emily](#)

[FB Live 1.29.17: Wire Wrapping](#)

[FB Live 5.10.17: SoftFlex 101 Part 1](#)

[FB Live 5.17.17: SoftFlex 101 Part 2](#)

[Skill Builder: Using Crimps, Guardians, and Covers](#)

[Chain Nose Pliers](#)

[Round Nose Pliers](#)

[Bent Chain Nose Pliers](#)

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[Daisy Spacer Beads](#)

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[Peanut Beads](#)

[Pearls](#)

[Rice Pearls](#)

[True2 2mm Czech Glass Beads](#)

[4mm Fire Polish Czech Glass Beads](#)

[Hematite Rondelle Beads](#)

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[8mm English Cut Beads](#)

[Czech Glass Melons](#)

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[Craft Wire](#)

[Perfect Crimp Clasps](#)

[SoftFlex](#)



The first question asked each week
on Facebook Live...

"What are you wearing?"



Emily created a wire-wrapped beaded chain to hang this metal clay heart from. The heart is a piece she teaches, for more info you can email her at emily@beadshop.com Check out that interesting clasp, too!



Kate's collection of Hallmark heart pins, above, and her heart charm bracelet, below. Janice remembers this bracelet making an appearance each Valentine's Day going way back when!

