

Lacey Earring Drops ©2010 by Joyce Goodman

These earring drops are a light and lacey introduction to knitting with wire. The thin 32 or 34 gauge wire is knit doubled, so it is extra soft and pliable. The doubling of the wire also adds rich texture to easy garter stitch.

If knitting with wire is new to you practice until you get an even tension. You can visit Youtube and look for Knit Kit Jewelry's "How to Knit with Wire" videos.

Tools and Materials:

32g or 34g wire coated copper craft wire

Size 0 knitting needles (I prefer 7" double pointed)

2 Briolette Beads (teardrop shape, drilled across the point)

Hook Earwires, such as those to the right. Make sure they have a closeable loop to hang the drop from.

Small round-nose or needle-nose pliers (optional)



Gage:

9 stitches and 14 rows = 1"

Note: gauge is suggested, but not critical



Instructions:

- Measure and cut a 9' length of wire
- Thread one bead onto one end of the cut wire
- Evenly tie the cut ends of the wire together and slide the bead to the other end. You will have a length of wire folded in half with a bead at one end and a knot at the other end. You will be knitting the doubled wire together as one strand.
- CO 1 stitch as follows: At the bead end make a slipknot, carefully placing the knot so that its "tail" becomes a 1/4" loop (approximately) that holds the bead. (This is the hardest part of making the drop!)
- R1: KFB (2 sts)
- R2: K
- R3: K1, inc 1 (backward loop, here and all inc), K1 (3 sts)
- R4: K
- R5: K1, inc 1, K1, inc 1, K1 (5 sts)
- R6: K
- R7: K1, inc 1, K3, inc 1, K1 (7 sts)
- R8: K
- R9: Bind off 1 st, K to end of row (6 sts)
- R10: Bind off 1 st, K to end of row (5 sts)
- R11: K
- R12: K
- R13: SSK, K1, SSK (3 sts)
- R14-17: K
- R18: SSK, K1 (2 sts)
- R19: K
- R20: SSK (1 st)
- Finishing: Keep the stitch on the needle while you thread the wire tail through the loop of the stitch below as follows:
 - The working end of the wire will be at the far side of the knitting.
 - Bring it to the front and thread it through the same loop as holds the live stitch. You are threading from front to back, wrapping the working wire around the wire of the lower loop.
 - Pull the wire tight to lock the last stitch, thereby leaving the stitch as the loop to hang from the earring wire.
 - Wrap the tail 2 times to the left and 2 times to the right of that last stitch and cut the wire as close as possible.
- Hang the drop from the earwire. Be sure that you tightly close the loop from which it will hang so the drop can swing without bouncing out. (Use the small pair of pliers if you have them to make this easier and more precise.)

Repeat instructions for second drop.

ENJOY!