

RAG WREATH TUTORIAL

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please read through entire instructions before starting project

MATERIALS:

wreath, I used a 9" wicker wreath in the picture above
different coordinating fabrics, I used 8 fabrics for the wreath above, each piece measured about 9"x15"

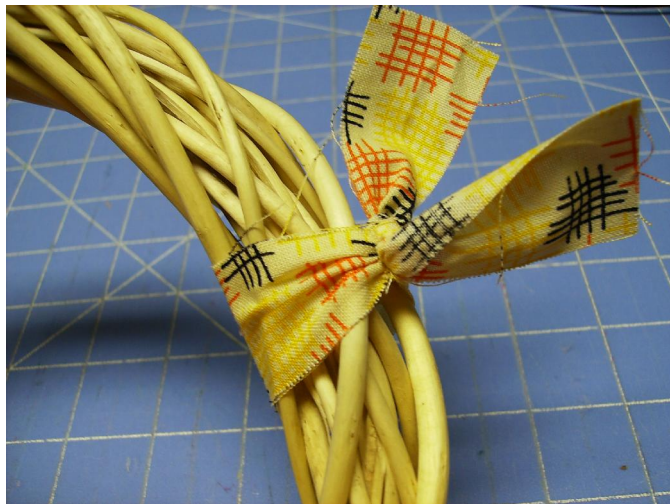
HOW TO:

You can use whatever kind of wreath you like or make your own as I show you below. The process is the same, but you may need to adjust the amount of fabric you use and also the size of your strips. Also, you can spray paint your wreath first if desired. You can use any shape of wreath too.

Cut or tear fabric strips from each different fabric. Just start with about 15 strips of each for now, you can always make more. Your wreath may be a different thickness than mine, so make a test strip about 9" or 10" long and tie it on for size. When satisfied with length, finish making your strips.



Start tying your strips tightly to your wreath in the desired ordered. I used a square knot for mine. For this wreath I used burlap as one of my fabrics. Burlap is easy to rip apart and frays easily, which adds to the charm of this wreath, so be careful if using it.



Continue tying strips on and pushing them very close together.



After tying on about 10 of them, push them very close together. Then continue tying and pushing together until the entire wreath is covered.

I used about 120 strips for this wreath.

Here is the back view.



This concludes the basic wreath. You can hang it with a fabric or ribbon hanger or use a wreath hanger.

Please see my other tutorials for ideas on embellishing your rag wreath.

This concludes my Rag Wreath Tutorial
I hope you have enjoyed making it!

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AUTUMN HARVEST RAG WREATH TUTORIAL

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please read through entire instructions before starting project

MATERIALS:

9" wicker wreath

different coordinating fabrics in fall colors, I used 8 different fabrics each piece measuring about 10"x10". One of my fabrics is burlap.

1 strip of fabric or ribbon to measure about 20"x1" to wrap around wreath

3 artificial flowers in fall colors, measuring about 3"-5" in diameter

2 small artificial botanical sprays

various ribbon in fall colors, I used 4 shades of 3/8" grosgrain

hot glue gun and glue

HOW TO:

Please refer to the main tutorial for basic instructions to make rag wreaths.

Cover half the wreath with strips. My strips measure 9"x1", yours may differ depending on your wreath. Please do a test strip. I used approximately 60 strips for half the

wreath.

Cut another strip of fabric (or you can use ribbon) to measure about 18"x1". Use hot glue to secure one end of this strip to the back of the wreath on the last fabric strip you tied on. Attach it at an angle as shown.



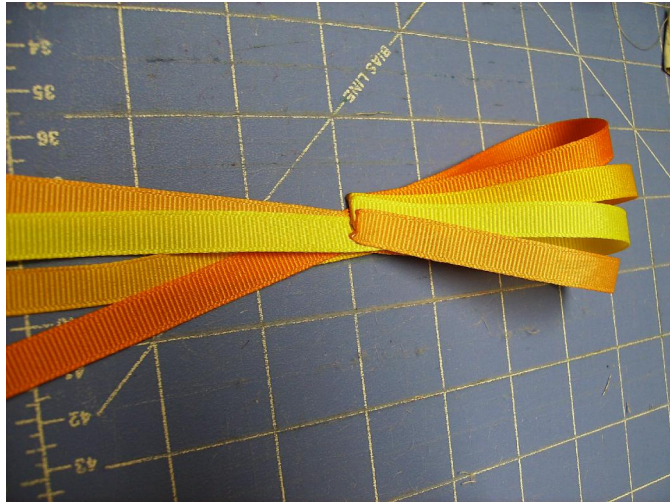
Wrap the strip around the wreath, securing with glue here and there, until you reach the end. Have the strip end on the back of the wreath and secure as before.



At this point you can decide which orientation you like best.



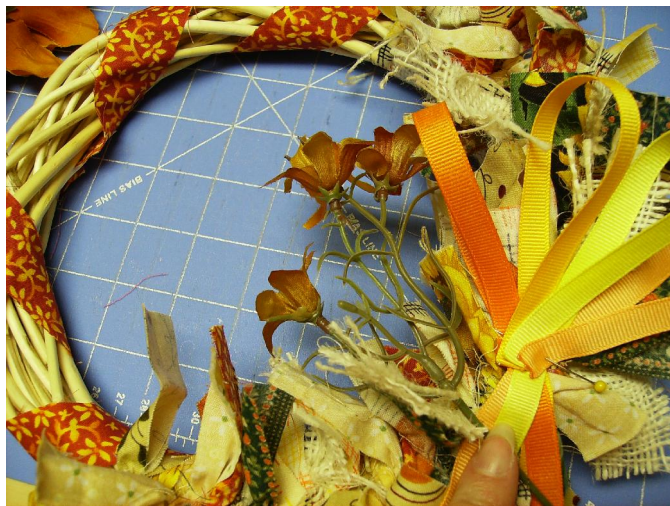
Cut 4 strips of ribbon or fabric that measure about 18" long. Make a 2" to 3" loop and secure it to itself.



Now it's time to arrange your ribbon loops and your flowers in a pleasing arrangement.

I used a couple small sprays on the inside. I used 3 different artificial flowers. Just dry fit them, maybe using a straight pin to hold them in place while you arrange them. As you arrange them, keep the length of the ribbon straight down. These will be streamers.

The ribbon and the small sprays will be applied first.



Then arrange the flowers on top.



When you are happy with the arrangement hot glue them in place. Remove any pins you used and see if everything is secure and hanging correctly. Add more glue if necessary.

Cut a hanger from ribbon or fabric to your desired length. Loop it around the top and tie a bow. Or you can use a wreath hanger. Hang your wreath and enjoy!



AUTUMN HARVEST RAG WREATH #2 TUTORIAL



MATERIALS:

9" wicker wreath

different coordinating fabrics in fall colors, I used 8 different fabrics each piece measuring about 18"x10". One of my fabrics is burlap

2 artificial flowers in fall colors, measuring about 3"-5" in diameter

2 small artificial botanical sprays

various fall colored ribbons, rickrack and other trim, optional

hot glue gun and glue

HOW TO:

Please refer to the main tutorial for basic instructions to make rag wreaths.

I used about 120 strips that measure 9"x1", yours may differ depending on your wreath. Please do a test strip.

Completely cover the wreath with fabric strips. Then if desired, add little accent

ribbons, rickrack and other trims here and there throughout the wreath. Just tie them on like the fabric strips.



On the bottom curve of the wreath arrange your 2 flower sprays as shown in the picture, with one going upwards and one down.

Arrange your 2 flowers on top of the sprays.

When you are happy with the placement, use hot glue to attach them.

Cut a hanger from ribbon or fabric to your desired length. Loop it around the top and tie a bow. Or you can use a wreath hanger. Hang your wreath and enjoy!



This concludes my Autumn Harvest Rag Wreath Tutorial
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BASIC DECORATOR BOW TUTORIAL

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MATERIALS:

1 ½ " wide ribbon, start with at least a 3 yard spool although you won't use it all
florist wire

HOW TO:

If you aren't using a 2 sided ribbon you will have to make sure to have the good side facing out while making this.

Cut a length of ribbon about 10-12" long. If you want long streamers then make this piece longer.

Pinch and hold in the middle.



With your length of ribbon line it up with 1 end of your first streamer. Pinch and hold it with the first streamer.



Now you will be creating loops with the length. .

Create a loop about 3-4" long. Pinch and hold at the end. Create another equally long loop, pinch and hold.



Now create 2 loops in the same manner, this time make them about 1" shorter.



Make another set of 2 longer loops, the same length as the original loops.

Make a set of shorter loops which should be about 2" shorter than the long loops.

Now make a small single loop by bringing the ribbon around your top holding finger and pinching and holding with the other loops. This single loop should go right on top of your smallest loops.



Make 2 more loops of the medium size.



You should have 3 different lengths of loops: 2 sets of 2 long loops, 2 sets of 2 medium loops and 1 set of small loops. You also have the single smallest loop in the center.

Now cut the length of ribbon off the same length as your original streamers.

While still holding everything together, thread florist wire through small single loop and twist together tightly in the back of bow.



Now rearrange the loops in a pleasing manner. Also you can trim your streamers at an angle and have them all the same length.



You can use the florist wire to attach the bow to a wreath or other object or cut it off and fold the ends over.

You can use different widths of ribbon for different bow looks.

This concludes my Basic Decorator Bow Tutorial
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Basic Decorator Bow Tutorial

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WIRE FRAME TUTORIAL

<http://asundaygirl.etsy.com>

MATERIALS:

wire hangers and/or other wire such as 18 gauge craft wire
florist wire
wire cutters
pliers
florist tape
forms: metal, wood, plastic in various shapes, optional



Depending on your project you may need longer pieces of wire which you can find at a hardware store.

HOW TO:

You can use plain or coated wire hangers although the coating will likely come off when you bend the hanger with the pliers.

The gauge of a wire hanger varies. A higher gauge number is a smaller gauge wire. So for instance 18 gauge wire is thinner than 12 gauge wire. And of course thicker wire is harder to manipulate so go for the thinnest wire that will do the job for your project.

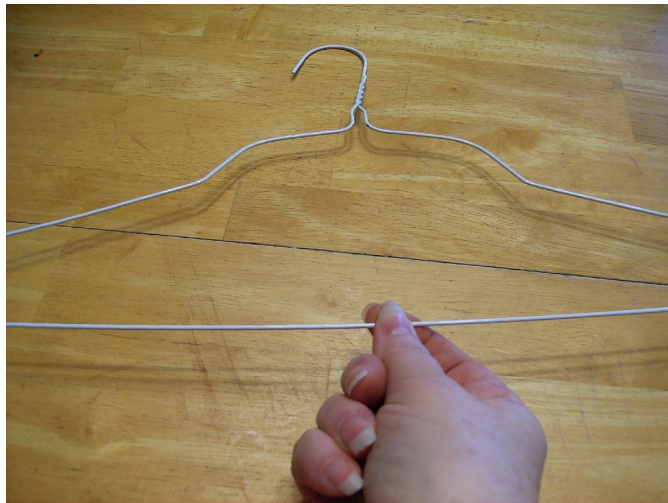
If you find you need a heavier duty wire but it is too difficult to bend or make the shape you want, you can use thinner wire and make 2 frames and tape them together.

Also, for smaller projects you can use 18 gauge or smaller craft wire.

WIRE HANGER HEART

I don't know the gauge of this hanger, but it isn't a real heavy duty thing, maybe about 12 gauge or so.

Start by finding the center of the bottom part of the hanger.

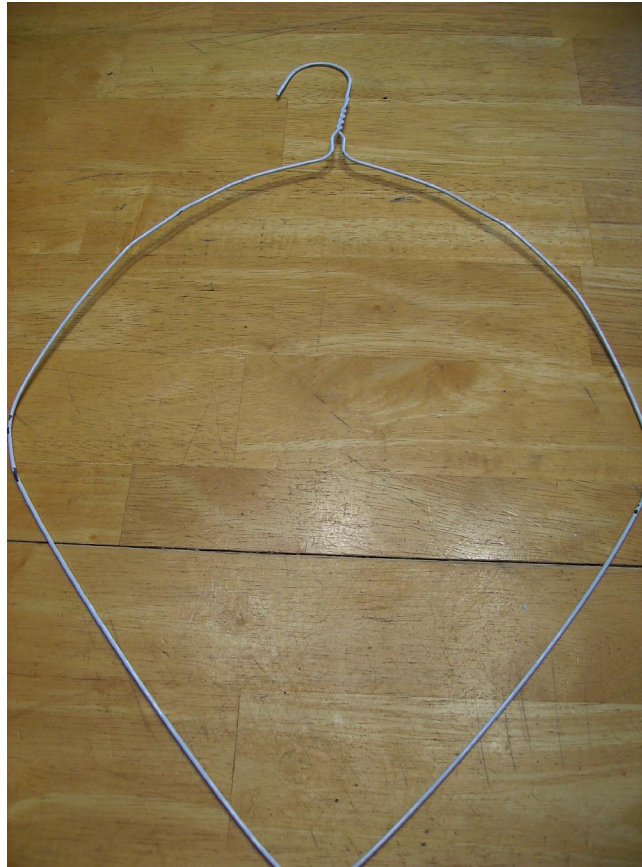


Keep hold of the center with one hand and the hook with the other hand and pull them apart to form a "V" at the bottom.

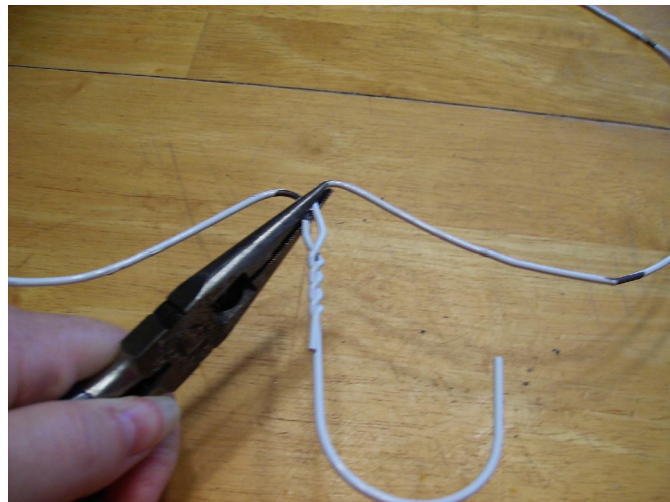
Use your pliers to straighten out the sides and the curves at the neck of the hanger.



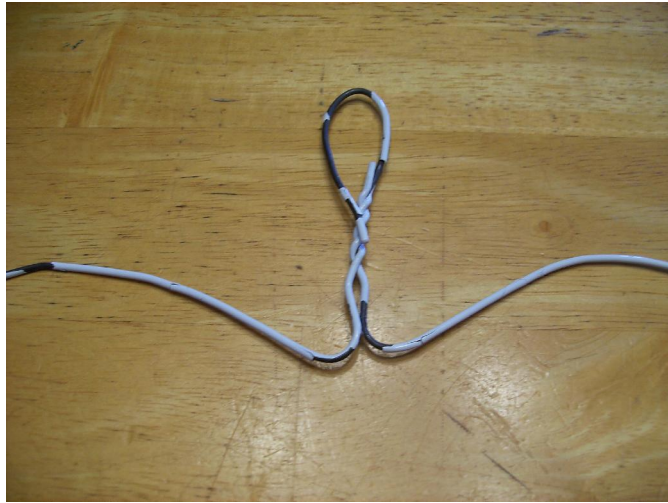
Shape the sides trying to make them as even as possible.



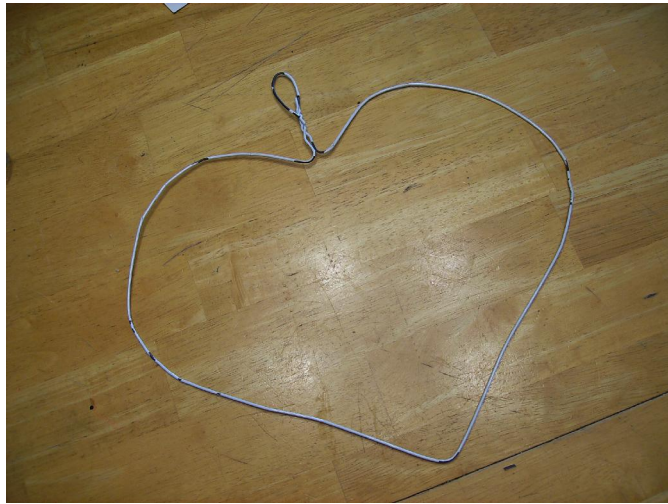
Pinch the top together with the pliers and start pushing it downward to form the top of the heart.



Now bend the hanger together to form a nice loop for hanging.



Make final adjustments to even things out as best you can. For most projects it probably doesn't have to be perfect. If you need perfect, better buy a frame.



You can wrap the loop with florist tape for a more finished look. Or wrap the whole frame if you want to.



It's now ready for your project.

WIRE HANGER CIRCLE

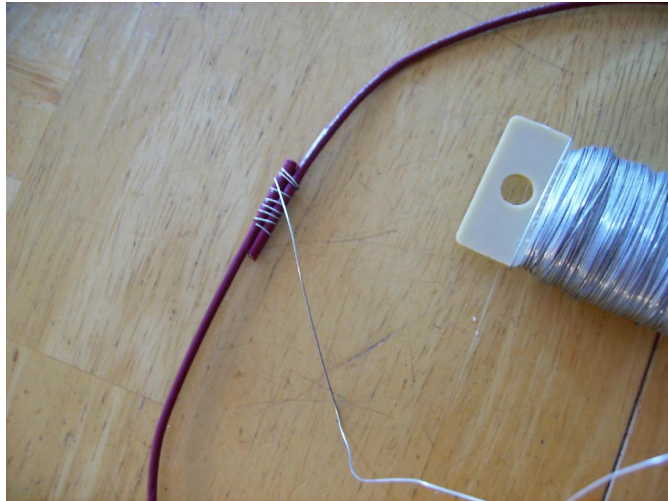
Start by spreading the hanger open slightly. Then use your pliers to straighten out the bends of the hanger.

Form your circle. Create the loop as with the heart frame.



WIRE HANGER OPTION

If you want to cut off the loop or otherwise need to bring 2 ends of the wire hanger together, then don't try to wind them around each other. That is too much work and unnecessary. Just lay the ends next to each other and wind florist wire very very tightly around them. Have them overlap about 1 inch. Test the hold. Re wrap if necessary.



Then cover very well with florist tape. Test the hold again.



This method is fine for most home decor projects.

18 GAUGE WIRE HEART

I used 18 gauge wire to make these hearts. It is much more malleable and is suitable for smaller projects.

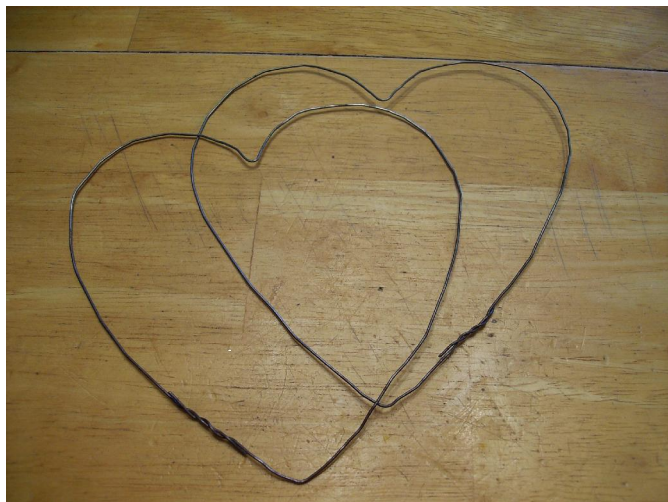
Start by cutting a length about 18" long. Bring the 2 ends together and wind the wire together for about 1".



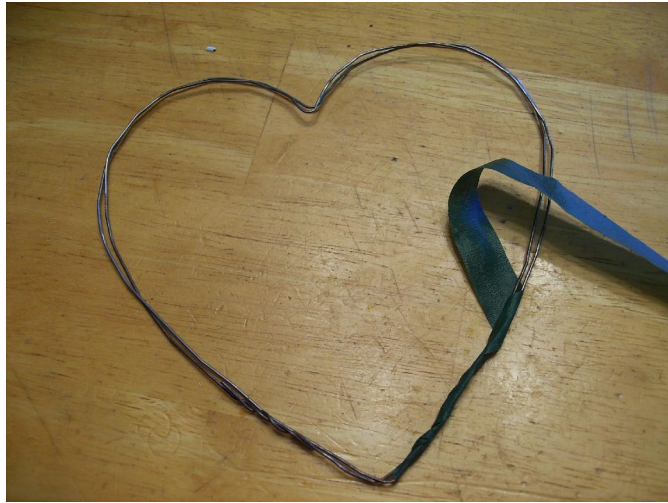
Put this seam on the side near the bottom. Pinch the area next to it to make a "V" shape.

Then continue forming the heart.

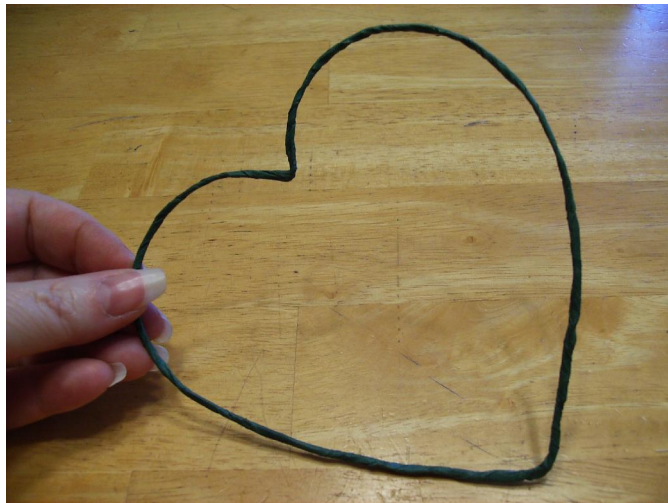
I made 2 exactly the same.



Put the 2 hearts together if you want to and wrap with florist tape. Keep the seams on opposite sides.



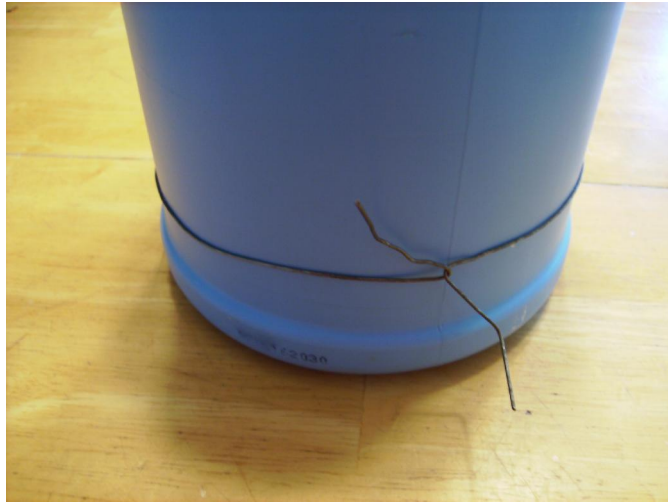
I used green tape on this heart but probably should have used white!



USING FORMS

If you want a really smooth and more perfect shape you can stretch your wire around a form.

I just used a plastic jug for this 18 gauge wire and it was fine. For heavier wire you may need to use a metal can or a wooden form and some added elbow grease. You may not get a nice smooth frame with a wire hanger.



Try to find a form that you can just slip the wire off of without having to take it apart.

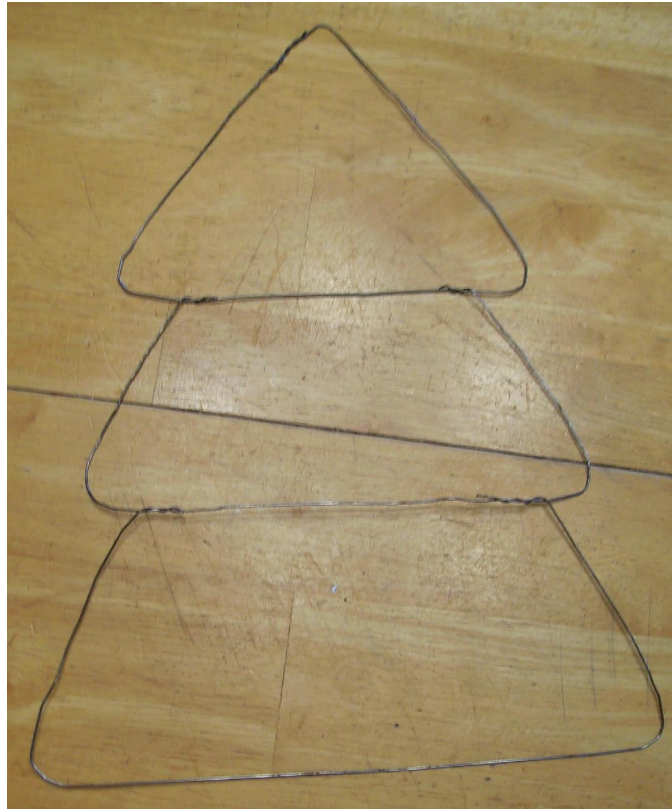
As you put the wire around the form, pull it tightly to make it as straight as possible. This obviously works better with the thinner wire.

Then wind the ends together and wrap with florist tape. For thicker wire use the method described above to secure the ends.



Again you can double these up to make a sturdier frame. And you can use different shaped forms as well, maybe square, rectangular, triangular, oval etc.

I hope I have sparked your imagination!



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