

Holy Communion or Flower Girl Beaded Tiara and Veil



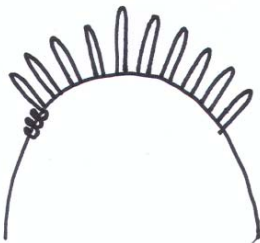
Supplies

1/4 inch plastic headband
26, 28 or 30 mm gauge wire (very thin)
Tiny white or colored silk flowers
white floral tape
Glue gun
wire cutters or old scissors
1 yard tulle
4 inch barrette (optional)
100 iridescent beads (10 mm or 8 mm)

This veil is designed to sit on the head with the crown facing forward and the veil is attached to the back. This is a great design as it can accommodate almost any type of hairstyle. For younger girls, the headband can be worn as a headband and the beads can be directed upwards and the veil attached right behind the tiara.

TO BEGIN: Unravel about 3 yards of thin wire. Begin winding the wire around the head band about 1/3 of the way from one end.

SAFETY ISSUE: IF YOU ARE MAKING VEILS AS A MOTHER-DAUGHTER PROJECT OR WITH MORE THAN ONE CHILD, HELP THEM AND WATCH THEM AS THEY ARE WINDING THE WIRE. THEIR ATTENTION WILL BE DRAWN TO THE HEADBAND SECTION WHERE THE WINDING IS WRAPPING DOWN, AND THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SEE THE END OF THE WIRE AND IT COULD HIT THEM IN THE EYE OR SCRATCH THEM IF NOT CAREFUL. YOU CAN USE THREE SHORTER PIECES OF WIRE WITH CHILDREN, BUT THEY MUST BE SUPERVISED WHILE WINDING THE WIRE EVEN IF THE SHORTER WIRES ARE USED.



Wrap the wire a few times to make sure it is secure on the headband. Then extend loops as shown in the illustration. After each loop, wrap the wire 3 or 4 times in between loops to make sure you have enough room for the beads to sit side-by-side. I used 10 mm beads and wrapped 23 loops. If you are using smaller beads, you might want to add about a few more loops. The center loop will be the tallest one and the center of your beaded tiara.

Once you have your loops all done, grab the top of each loop and twist it very tightly all the way down to the headband. Tightly wrap all of your loops. It might be easier to do them a few at a time while making them.



Once you have all of your loops made and wrapped tightly, insert 6 beads onto your center twisted-loop (spoke). Bend the remainder of spoke to mark the top of the bead. Remove your beads and snip your wire just a tiny bit below the top of the bead. Put on one bead onto the last spoke to measure.

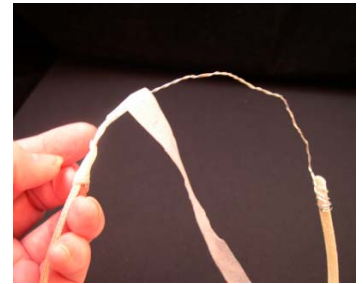
Trim the spoke down so it will fit only one bead. Snip your spoke. Remove the beads and we will move onto the rest of the headpiece before the actual beading.

WRAPPING YOUR HEADBAND IN WHITE FLORAL TAPE:

Once your headband is fully spoked, try the headband onto your little girl and measure how much wire you will need to have the headband sit comfortably and securely on top of her head. Be sure to leave enough room if there will be elaborate hairstyling. Using two 12 inch pieces of wire, twist them together. If you are using very, very thin wire, use about 4 pieces of wire for more security.



Twist one end to the twisted wire end to your headband end. Fit the headband to the girl's head for size again. Wrap the other end of the twisted wire around the other end of the headband making sure it fits securely onto the crown of the head.



Beginning at the back of the headband, wrap the entire headband in floral tape, covering the back wire, the headband itself as well as all of the wire wrapping in the front of the headband. Do not cover the spokes.



MAKING THE VEIL:

Using a piece of tulle 1 yard by 54 or 60 inches wide, fold the tulle in "almost half", making sure there is one layer of tulle longer than the upper layer. Gather the tulle together about 3 inches from the fold and insert it into a barrette. With a needle and thread, first stitch a line along the top of the barrette. The barrette is only used to hold the tulle and to create a straight line in case the kids are sewing.

Once the tulle is gathered and sewn securely, then stitch it onto the back of the headband, right onto the tape-covered wire.

BEADING THE CROWN:

Snip the last spoke down to 1/4 inch. Then cut all of your wires according to how many beads you will be putting on each spoke. See the second illustration above and notice the dashed lines. The sizes will start in the center at 6 beads and then go down to one. While you are sizing your spokes, plug in your glue gun. When the glue is ready, begin adding your beads and dip the end of the tip of the spoke into the tip of your glue gun and insert your last bead onto the wire. The glued bead will hold the other beads. You can glue the last two beads for added security.

FINISHING TOUCHES:

Depending upon what your event is, glue either white flowers or pastel flowers to the front of the beaded crown as well as the back. For younger flower girls, you can add a satin bow with long tails onto the back of the veil. You can add as much glitz as you want, depending upon how fancy the wedding is.

OTHER EMBELLISHMENTS:

The First Holy Communion veils are usually somewhat plain and the beaded tiara with a few small flowers would be sufficient. However, if you wish to embellish it further, the veils sometimes have lace sewn around the bottoms of the veil layers. You can also stitch a row of matching beads along the back instead of the flowers.

For Flower Girls, you can add a few rhinestones to the veil itself as well as glueing rhinestones to the sides of the headband. The flowers you add can match the colors of the wedding party.

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