

Dream Catcher Earrings

The dream catcher is a gift from the spider and the willow tree. Dream catchers were often given to a child at birth for protection from bad dreams. It was hung above where one slept. The bad dreams would get caught in the web. The bad dreams become trapped in the beads and the good dreams flow through the center of the web, while the feathers into you as you sleep. In the morning, when the sun came up, the bad dreams were destroyed.

How to weave the dream catcher

You'll need:

Round hoops - these can be beading hoops of any kind. A convenient style to use are the ones shown below because they have a loop at the top for attaching your earring finding.

Thread - Traditionally sinewed cord was used. Colored silk or nylon is beautiful and gives you the freedom to select from a rainbow of colors. **Nymo** is also good, however, it comes in black and white only. You may want to choose metalized gold or silver thread from your local fabric store. All have a different and beautiful effect.

We'll make nine point webs, so you'll need about two feet of whatever thread you have decided to use. You will also need a pair of earwires, or ball post with drop earring finding.

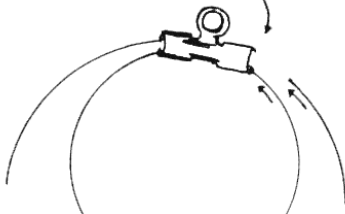


Here's a finished Dream Catcher earring and the double beading hoop finding that we used to make it.

For this project, we are using our double beading hoops (photo shown at right). No reason, we just had an idea to use the center circle for our dream catcher, and then add complimentary beads to the bottom loop.

Your first step will be to insert your wire into it's crimp area on the small loop. This will secure its size and shape as you begin to weave.

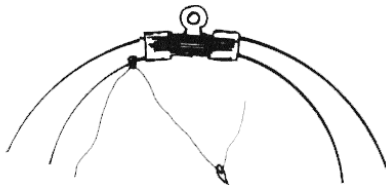
Insert here and crimp with flat or needle nose pliers.



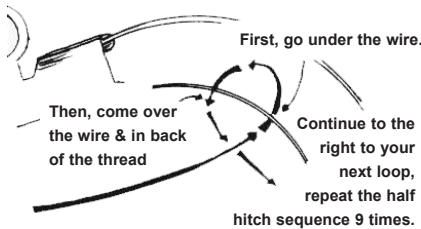
First, thread your beading needle. Using a needle will make weaving easier as you get to the center of your web (you can also use tweezers). To start your weave, you'll make a knot with one side of your thread at the top portion of your bead hoop.

Knot here, leave only a small tail portion. This will be glued and cut off later.

Now you'll begin your web. Working to the right you'll create a series of half hitches in even spacing increments around your beading hoop.

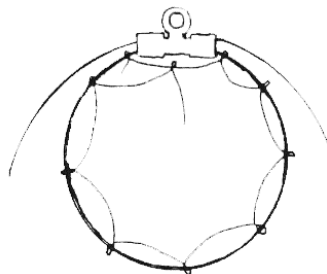


For future reference, keep in mind the smaller the spaces on the outside row, the more intricate your web will be. To make the half hitch you'll go under your bead hoop wire, come back



over your wire and across the first thread. Up close it will look like this.

When you do your half hitch this way the thread "locks" itself. After making the first half hitch, You'll place your fingers on top of it to hold it snug until you make a second one. Remember to make the distance between all half hitches (except the last one) equal if you want a symmetrical web. You'll continue the outside portion until you find yourself back at the top. The space between the last half hitch and starting point should be less than the other spaces to keep a gap from forming between the loops. It will look like this.



At this point, you'll continue your half hitches in the same fashion, but go to the center of each original length. Continue your weave in this fashion. Half hitch, place your fingers over it to hold it secure, go to the center of the next length, repeat the sequence always going to the center of the next length. You'll see you web taking shape as you work towards it's center.



As you proceed toward the center, your work area becomes smaller. The beading needle (or tweezer) helps you weave through these sections.

Once you have reached the center of your web, you'll knot the thread around itself. Glue both knots at this time. Leave a portion of the thread to attach a feather, bead or other personal item to the center of the web, then clip off the excess.

To Finish - we wrapped the outside of the webbed hoop with a contrasting colored thread. Then we added some matching beads to the outside hoop and secured it into its crimp at the top of the finding.

There are many variations on this theme. Once you have the weaving knowledge, you can experiment with other ideas. Have fun!