

Making Wire Rosaries

by The Rosary Shop

To make a 5-Decade rosary you will need:

- 59 Beads (53 Hail Mary and 6 Our Father)
- 1 Center
- 1 Crucifix
- 59 Eyepins (or raw wire to make them)
- 8 or more inches of Chain
- 4 Jumprings
- Roundnose pliers (or rosary pliers)
- Flatnose pliers (highly recommended)
- Side or endcutters (recommended, included in the rosary pliers)
- 1 1/2 to 5 hours, depending on your experience and dexterity

Other chaplets and rosaries may have different parts or quantities, but usually use the same techniques. There are different methods for making a wire rosary. One of the easiest is using pre-made eyepins and jumprings.

That is the method that will be described here.

1. Place a bead on an eyepin.
2. Using the wire cutters built into the side of your rosary pliers, snip the wire so that about 3/8 of an inch of wire extends past the bead. Some wire is already to length. With practice you will be able to judge the length of wire needed by sight.
3. As close to the bead as you can, bend the wire back to make a 90 degree angle. Bend the wire in such a way that the second loop will be perpendicular to the first one on the other side of the bead. This will limit kinking in your completed rosary.
4. Move pliers down to the end of the wire so that the wire ends just a hair past the tips of your pliers. Grip the wire firmly with the pliers. Rotating your wrist, roll the wire in toward the bead to make an nice even loop, leaving a small gap in the loop so that the next eyepin will be able to fit through it.
5. Place the eye of the next eyepin through the gap you just made.
6. Finish the loop with your pliers and gently squeeze the first eyepin closed. Try to tuck the end of the wire



slightly into the hole of the bead. Leave no extra space between the wire loop and the bead (the bead should not be able to slide on the wire). This will make the rosary less likely to come apart with much use.



7. Place the next bead on the attached eyepin and proceed through these steps again.
8. String ten beads to form a decade. On the last bead, close the loop completely (or leave it slightly open in anticipation of a later step).
9. String five decades of ten beads each, and one set of three beads. These are your Hail Mary beads.
10. Choose a decade and open the eye on one of the ends by twisting the free end of the wire sideways, not by unrolling the eye. (This will make it easier to close completely.)
11. Cut a small piece of chain, 3 or more links in length (you may adjust this number of links to your preference and depending on the size of your beads). Some people like to use an eyepin and a small bead instead of chain to separate the decades.



12. Insert the last link of the piece of chain into the open eye. Close the eyepin by twisting the the free end back into its loop. Squeeze it tight if necessary.
13. Open the eye on the other end of the same decade as in Step 10.
14. Cut another small piece of chain and put it on the open eyepin.
15. Close the eyepin as in step 12.
16. Take a single loose eyepin and open the eye by twisting the free end of the loop sideways, not by unrolling the eye.

17. Place the eyepin on the other end of the chain that you just attached to the decade.
18. Close the eyepin.
19. String an Our Father bead on the loose eyepin and make a loop on the other end of it, as in Steps 2-3.
20. Cut another small piece of chain and insert it in the gap in the eye you have just made.
21. Close the eyepin as in Step 6.
22. Attach another decade to the end of the chain that extends from the Our Father bead.
23. Continue assembling your rosary in this order: chain, Our Father bead, chain, Hail Mary decade, etc. until you have strung all five decades with four Our Father beads between them. You should also attach a short piece of chain on either end of your rosary thus far. You will have a set of three Hail Mary beads left over.
24. Find your center and orient it so that two holes are at the top and one hole is at the bottom.
25. Choose a jumpring and find its opening. (Split rings and bows are stronger alternatives to jumprings. The method for making bows is described in our catalog, free online.)
26. Gripping it on either side of the opening with rosary pliers and flat nose pliers, bend the metal sideways in opposite directions to open it. Again, you do not want to unroll the jump ring or it will be nearly impossible to close.
27. Hold one of the ends of the jumpring with your flat nose pliers and run your last chain link and one top opening of the center over the other end.
28. Grip one end of the jumpring with your rosary pliers and the other with your flat nose pliers, and twist the metal back to close the jumpring.
29. Follow Steps 25-28, attaching the other end of your rosary chain to the other top hole of the center. Before you close the second jumpring, be sure there are no turns in your rosary chain from jumpring to jumpring.
30. Using a jumpring as before, attach the bottom hole of the center to another short piece of chain.
31. Find a loose eyepin and open the eye slightly to place it over the other end of the chain. Close the eyepin.
32. String one Our Father bead on this eyepin.
33. Make a loop on the other end of the eyepin, leaving a small gap in the loop.
34. String another small piece of chain through the gap in the loop and close the loop.
35. Find your three Hail Mary beads that you have already strung together. Open the last loop on one end, again bending the free wire sideways.
36. Slip the chain over the opening and close the loop again.
37. On the other end of the three Hail Mary beads, repeat these steps to attach another short piece of chain, another Our Father bead, and a final short piece of chain.
38. To attach the crucifix, open the jumpring that is attached to the crucifix. If there is not a jumpring on your crucifix, use any jumpring. Slip it over the final length of chain.
39. Before closing the jumpring, hold your rosary up to be sure that the center and the crucifix will both face the same direction.
40. Close the jumpring on the crucifix and you're done!



You might want to go back through the links and make sure they are all fairly tight. With practice your loops will become even and you will pick up speed.

Happy Rosary-Making!