




Making Flexwire Rosaries

by The Rosary Shop, <http://www.rosaryshop.com/>

For an animated, step-by-step tutorial, see our web site.
To make the rosary you will need:

- 59 Beads (53 Hail Mary and 6 Our Father)
- 1 Center and 1 Crucifix
- 4-5 Feet of Flexwire
- 4 or more crimp beads 
- 71 or more heishi beads 
- 12 or more separator beads 
- Crimping pliers and Sidecutters
- 1/2 hour, depending on your experience and dexterity

There are different methods for making a flexwire rosary. One of the easiest is using simple heishi and round separator beads between the prayer beads. That is the method that will be described here. We will assume that you are making a 5-decade Dominican rosary. If you are making a different rosary or chaplet, you may need to adapt these directions.

1. Thread a crimp bead onto one end of the flexwire.
 2. Thread the flexwire through one of the upper eyelets on the center, then back through the crimp bead. Leave a 1/4" loop. If the loop is too tight, the rosary will bind up on itself.
 3. Using your crimping pliers, crimp the crimp bead; first crimp it using the jaw with the tooth, then place the squished bead on edge between the toothless jaws and gently crimp to collapse the bead on itself.
- NOTE: The durability of your rosary is entirely dependent on the quality of your crimping. Do not attempt multiple "squishings" of the same bead. Doing so will weaken the bead. If the crimp doesn't work right the first time, remove the bead and start over with a new crimp bead.
4. Cut off the excess wire using your side cutters. If you cut the wire too close — flush with the crimp bead — it will likely pull through under pressure and beads will go flying in all directions! Leave about 1/16" or more. This extra length can be tucked into the beads you are about to string on the rosary.
 5. Slide the first Hail Mary bead onto the flexwire. Some people prefer to add additional, decorative beads on either side of the Hail Mary beads.



6. Slide on a Heishi bead.
 7. Slide on another Hail Mary bead and Heishi bead. Continue this pattern until you have a decade, a set of ten beads.
 8. Slide on a separator bead, heishi bead, Our Father bead, heishi bead and separator bead.
 10. Repeat the same pattern four more times. The result should be 5 sets of Hail Mary beads, each separated by the Our Father bead set.
 11. Attach the other end of the flexwire to the center eyelet in the same way as in steps 1 - 3.
- NOTE: It is important at this point to leave a little slack in the beads. If they are strung too tightly, then the rosary will not coil up to fit in a pocket and it will have a tight, rigid feel. In addition, the pressure of the bead may pop off a crimp bead.
12. Follow steps 1 - 3 to attach the "stem" of the rosary — the length between the center and the crucifix.
 13. Slide on an Our Father set as in step 8.
 14. Slide on three Hail Mary beads, each separated by a heishi bead.
 15. Slide on a final Our Father set as in step 8.
 16. Attach the flexwire to the crucifix as in steps 1 - 3, and you're finished!

