

# SILK WINGS



Creating wings using Inkjet Silk sheets can be fun and exciting. There are many ways to achieve the perfect look for your art doll.

I'll be showing you one of the ways you can create beautiful Lily Petal silk wings.



## Suggested Supplies

- Inkjet Silk Sheets or pre-printed Silk wing sheets.
- Glitter Glue (Stickles or equivalent \* )
- 3D Pearlized Paint (Jacquard 3D Lumiere or Ranger Liquid Pearls \* )
- 3 bottles of Jacquard Pinata Ink or Ranger Adirondack Ink
- Art Glitter dry glitter (2 colors)
- 22g White cloth covered floral wire
- 20g Craft Wire in a green color
- Gem-Tac or any water based white adhesive
- Brass Filigree
- Rhinestones and beads of your color choice
- (optional) Art Glitter UF Transparent (dry), in your favorite colors.
- High Gloss Spray Lacquer (available from home improvement stores)
- Peacock flue feathers

*The two options below should only be used if you cannot find glitter glue or pearl paint in the same color family as your wing images.*

\* You can also mix your own glitter colors by mixing your favorite glitter color into Sakura 3D lacquer. It's best to keep your glitter glue in a dispensing bottle so it doesn't dry out.

Making your own thick pearl paint requires using Gum Arabic, water and Pearl Ex powders. Add more Gum Arabic to thicken, but still flow easy enough to apply. Use a toothpick to add the dots if you don't have a needle nose bottle

Colors used for this tutorial are:

Ranger Stickles:

- Fruit Punch
- Pine

Ranger Liquid Pearls:

- Dark Chocolate

Jacquard Pinata Inks:

- Claro Extender
- Rich Gold
- Rainforest Green
- Chili Pepper

Art Glitter

- 163 Egyptian Gold
- 109 Cavalado



For these wings, I'm using 22g white cotton covered floral stems. These stems are 18 inches long and come pre-packaged. The wire is thinner than I normally use for wings, but the fabric covering adds to the overall diameter and the 22g is just small enough to get through the tiny openings of the filigree. 20g covered wire is too thick to pass through these openings.

First, make a loop in the wire by folding it in half. Bend the loop so that it curves downward.



Put the loop under the filigree loop and run the two stems into the filigree holes so that the wire comes out the back side of the holes. With your pliers, press down on the top of the wires to flatten them. Make two of these, one for each half of the upper wing sections.



Your two upper wing filigrees should look like this with both the wires in place.

The construction for the bottom wing sections will be a bit different.





Lay a piece of Saran or any type plastic wrap on your work surface to protect it from the ink run off.

With your metallic alcohol ink, coat the wire that is over the filigree. If some of the metallic gets on the metal, don't worry, it will be fine. The ink will soak through to the opposite side of the cloth, so you won't need to do it on the backside. I recommend that you allow this step to dry overnight. Alcohol inks dry fast, but the metallic takes longer.



Once my silk sheet is printed and allowed to dry completely (about an hour). I peel the silk off of it's backing. This is easier to do if you wet a corner of the silk. The paper will release itself and you can pull the rest off cleanly.

I'm using my Coral Lily wing print. If your handy with Photoshop, you can create your own unique flower petal wings.

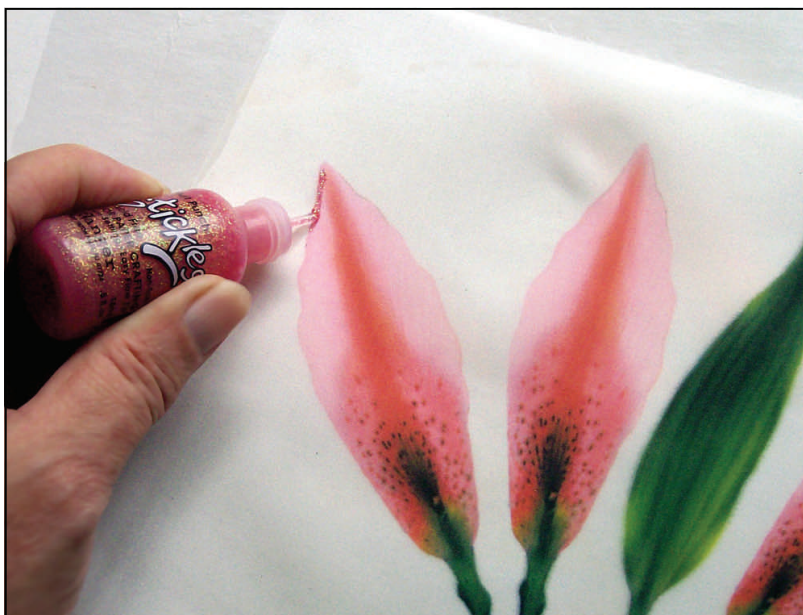
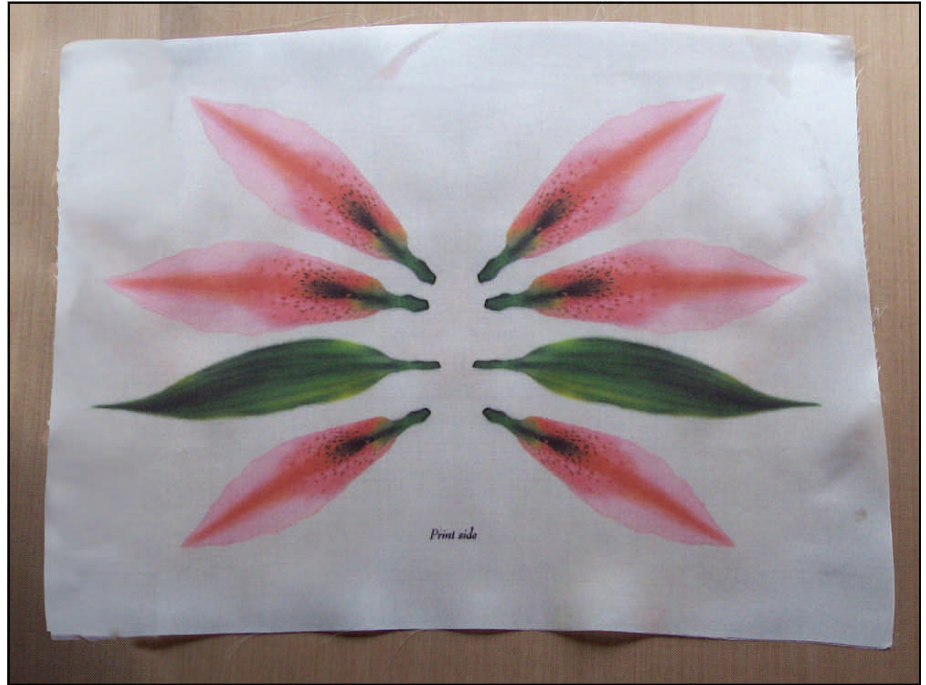




This next step is important. Once the full sheet is off the paper, lay it on a non-stick teflon craft sheet. Give a **light** spray of gloss lacquer. Hold the can at least 18 inches from the surface of the wings. **Do NOT soak the image.** This will seal the ink so that it doesn't bleed when you apply any glues. It also adds body to the silk and doesn't take away from the silk look. If you spray too much, the silk will look wet and it will pool on the backside. If that happens, take your sheet off the teflon sheet and hang somewhere where it can dry using some clamps (shown on the right).



I use the Valspar Hi-Gloss Clear Lacquer, which I get from Lowe's Home Improvement store. You can use any brand that is available as long as it's lacquer, clear (the cap will be clear) and it's gloss. The cap color indicates the lacquer color. Matte or Satin doesn't work the same.



Once the silk sheet is completely dry, I like to use the glitter glue to outline the petal and leaf edges. Do not glitter the green base of the flower petals.

*I only use this glitter glue application for silk wings. If you try this on transparency sheets, the glitter glue can pop off when you cut them out.*

I do all the flower petal and leaf outlines and allow these to dry completely before going to the next step, adding dimensional dots to the inner flowers.

I used Ranger Stickles Fruit Punch for the flower petals and Ranger Stickles Pine for the leaf.

With the glitter glue dry, I begin to add some dots using the Ranger Liquid Pearls in a color that is dark and close to the color of the print. I only need a few dots to add interest and a bit of depth. Let the pearl paint dry completely before doing the opposite side.

When dry, turn your sheet over and do the same glitter glue steps and Liquid Pearl steps. The Liquid Pearls will appear like darker spots so it's easy to add your dots in the exact same places.



When all the flower petals and dots are dry, cut them off the silk sheet. You'll find that the lacquer will help stop any fraying and you'll get a nice clean cut.

Lay your petals under your filigree wire stem. You want the green base of the flower just where it meets the filigree. I use a light touch of pencil to mark where to cut the stem at the tip and also where the green starts to blend into the coral color on the petal. Don't use a marker pen, unless it's the same color as the flower. A pencil can give you a light, thin mark. Do not press hard.





With my marks made, I'm ready for the inks. This is a bit messy, so lay a couple of pieces of paper towel on top of the saran/plastic wrap you used from the gold ink. From the filigree to the first mark, I use the Ranger Rainforest Green ink. It will soak through to the opposite side.



Take your Claro Extender and put a few drops on the green ink. You'll see the green lighten up. If it gets too light, add a bit more ink and blend with a q-tip or a piece of paper towel. The paper towel will absorb the liquid and it also gives you an idea of how the blending will look when it dries.

Using Ranger Chili Pepper ink, I will start from the green ink and go along the length of the wire. Again, using the Claro Extender to thin down the reddish pink to the end.





When your wires are completely dry, lay it over the petals. You can see that the inks lightened up as they dried and are now closer to the color of the petal and stem. You can just see the pencil mark at the tip of the petal. Cut off the excess wire at that point. Do this to both petals.

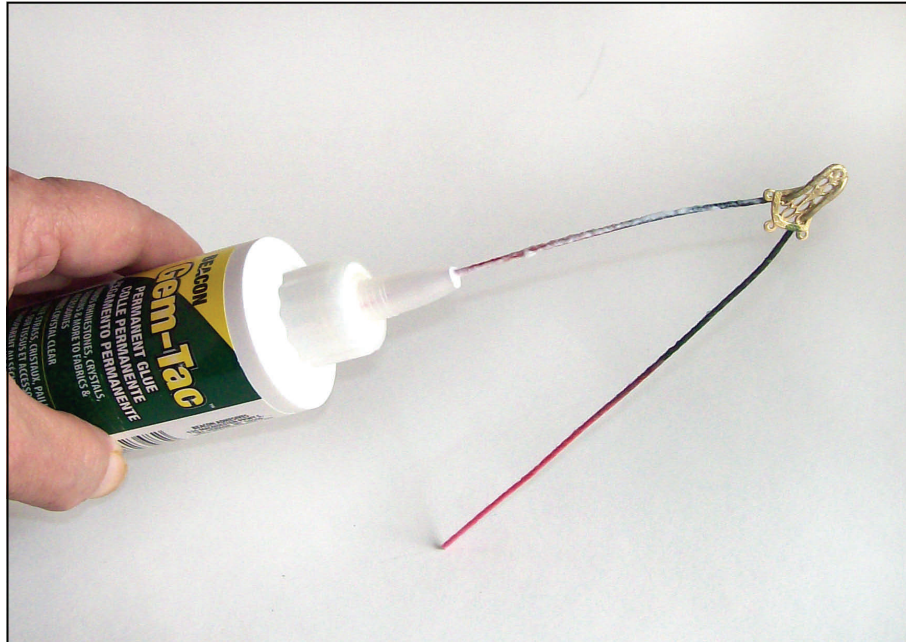


With both wires trimmed and lined up with the petals, it's time for glue!



One of my favorite methods to apply glue is to stick the wire into the bottle and then slowly pull it out. It's best to hold the bottle upward making the glue slowly come to the tip, but for the purposes of the picture, I had to have a free hand to hold the camera. Normally, I would be holding the filigree while inserting into the bottle.

When you begin removing the wire, the glue should be evenly distributed all the way around the wire. If you need to touch up some bare spots, just run your fingertip along the glue and push it where you need it.



Let your petals lay flat until the glue becomes tacky. When it starts to dry, it will get more clear. When you see this, press the green stem base of the petal around the green base of the wire. The image below shows the top petal with the green part pressed down and the bottom petal before this step. When you have the top done, do the next one exactly the same. When both stems are secure, allow the petals to dry completely.



Both petal bases should look like this.



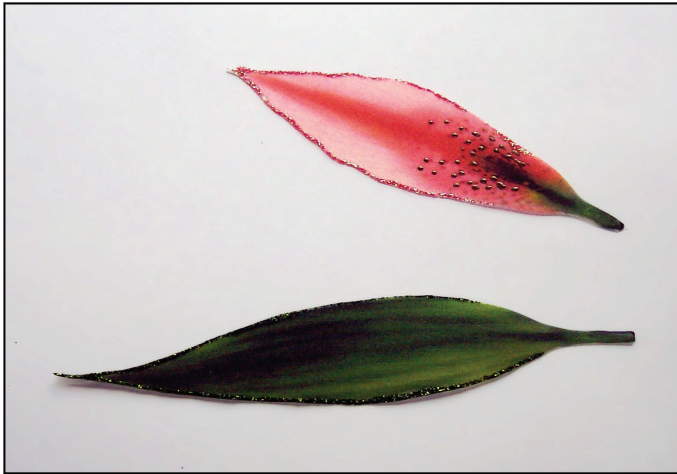
For the bottom section of the wings, follow the same inking instructions, but the bottom wire should be all green for the leaf that will be attached. Your filigree/wires should look like this.





Follow the same steps on page 6 for marking the flower petal wing section. For the bottom leaf section, only mark where you will be cutting off the excess wire.

When your wires have been marked, repeat the steps on page 8 and 9 for trimming and glueing the wires and wrapping the base of the flower and leaf to the wire. Your section should look like the lower right image.



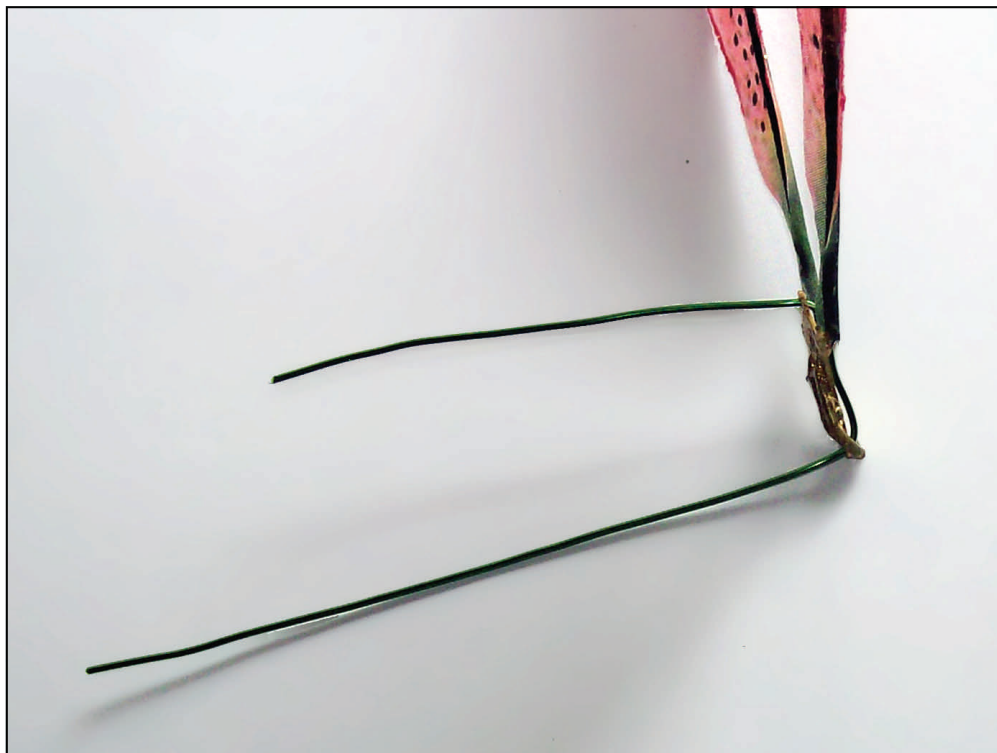
These next instructions will be about the wire stems which insert into the back of the art doll. Using 20g regular colored wire, cut two pieces about 6 - 7 inches long. Lay a piece over the center of the filigree. You want about 1/5 to 2 inches over the top of the loop of the filigree. Make a slight bend in the wire at that point. Make another bend at the bottom loop of the filigree.



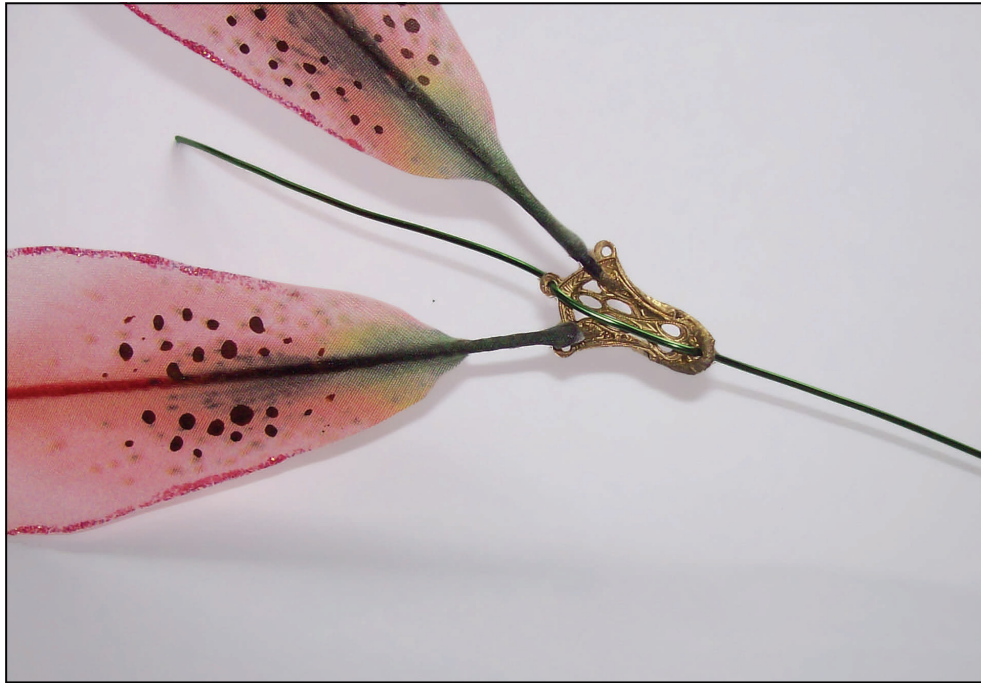
The bent wire should look like the image below. Make the bend in the wire as close to a 45 degree angle as possible. Round tip needlenose jewelry pliers work well for this, but any small needlenose will work.



Carefully insert the wires through the back into the top and bottom hole of the filigree. From the side view, your wires should look like the image below.



Your wire should look like this from the back

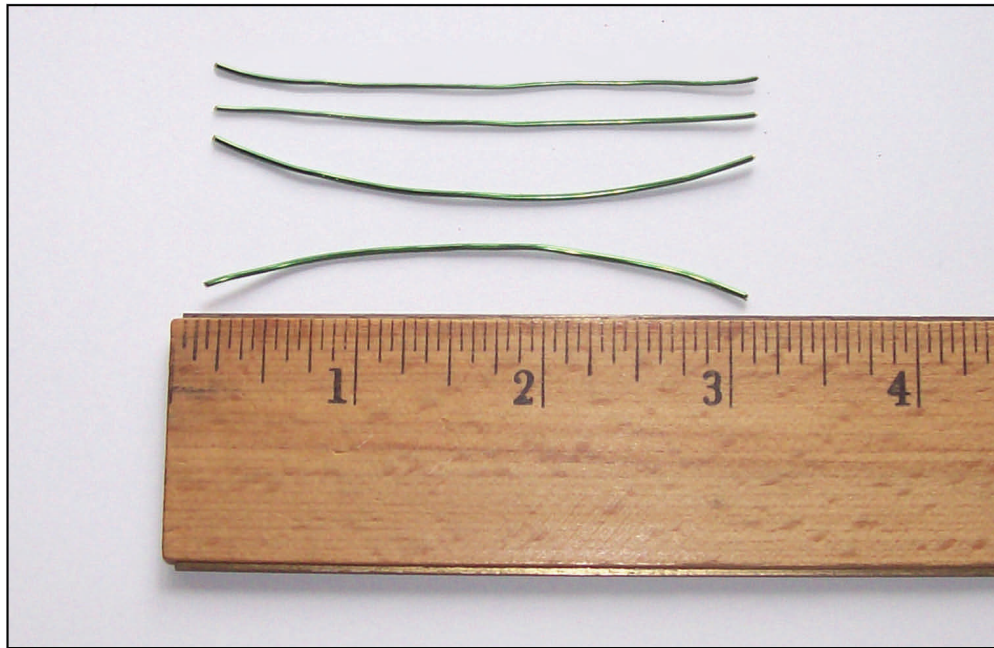


Front view

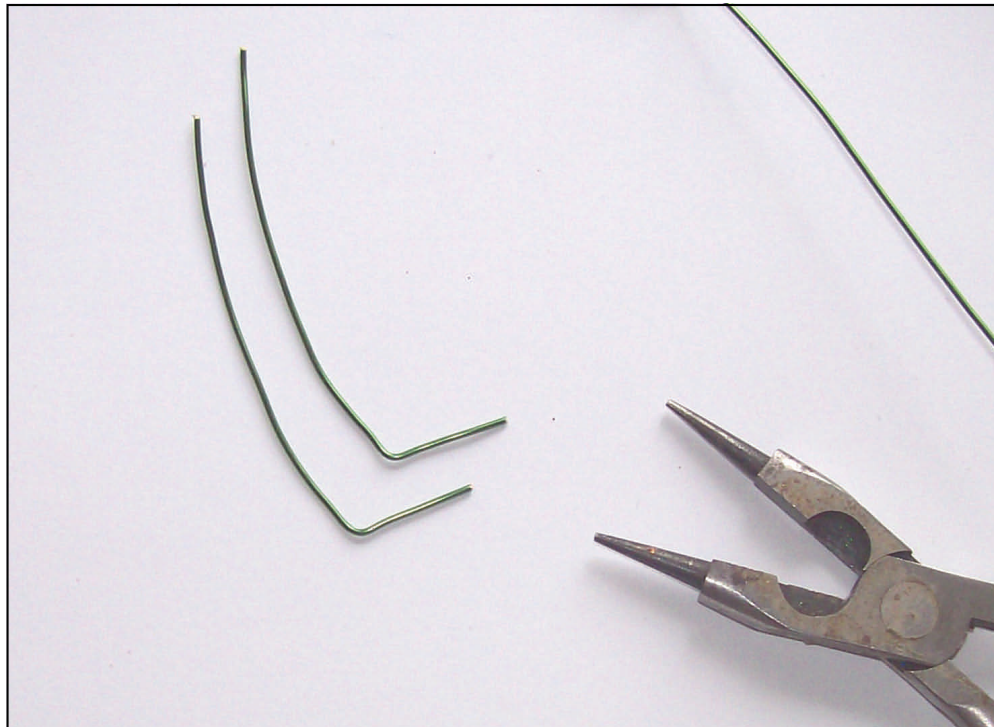




Cut four pieces of the same green wire about 3 inches long.



Take your pliers and bend the ends of all the wires. You want about 1/2 inch of wire at the bend.





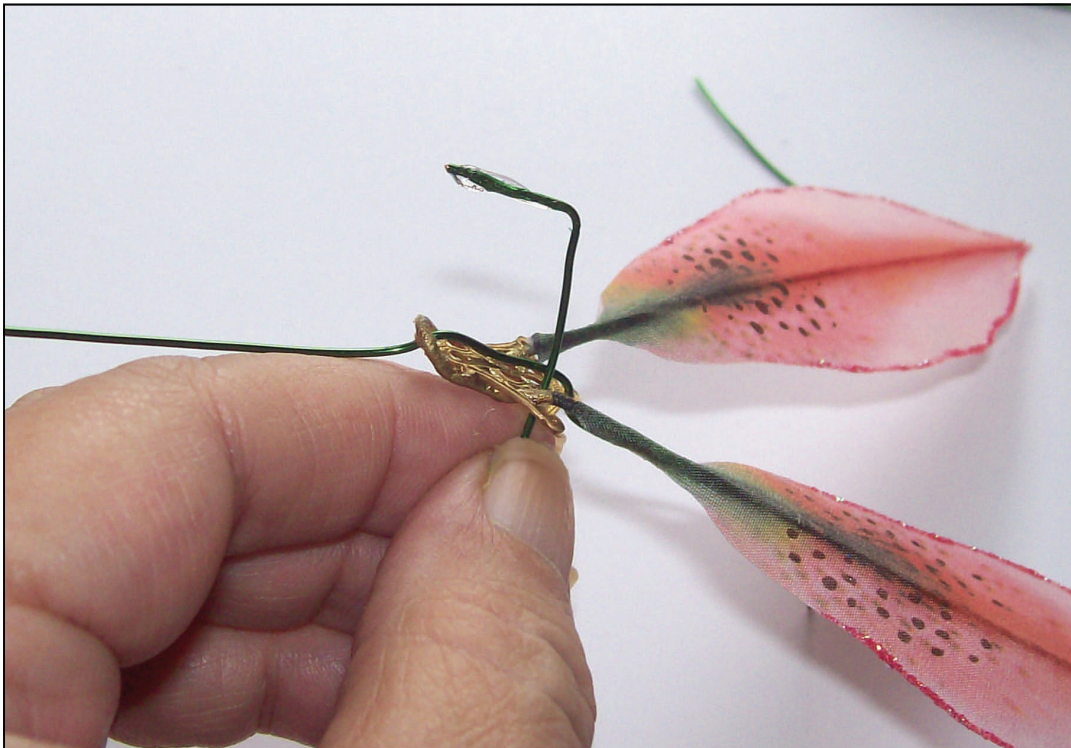
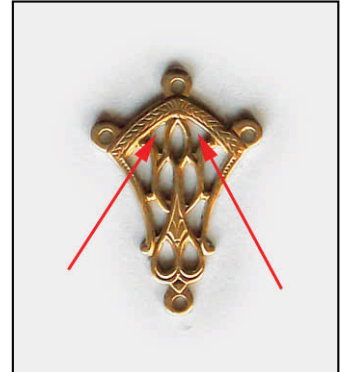
The four small wires along with the main center wire will create the stamens at the center of the petals.

Each top wing half will get two 3 inch wires. Insert the first wire through the back of the filigree with the short end at the back (see below). Using Fabri-Tac glue, get a good size coating on the short end. Pull the wire from the front so that the glue coating touches along the center wire in the middle on the back side.

I used the two top openings in the filigree, but either of the lower openings will also work.

I didn't use the actual loops on each side because that is where I plan to glue some rhinestones.

Repeat the step for gluing the second wire to the back of the filigree.





The back side of the filigree should look like this when both small wires are glued in place. The glue should be around the center wire. Let the glue dry like this over night. If you don't let it fully dry, the wires can come loose and re-gluing will make a mess.



Your bottom wing section will not get the extra wires. It will only have one long wire going through the two loops...the one at the bottom of the filigree and at the top center of the filigree.

Depending on how you want your wings to look, you can cut wire either longer or shorter than what I am showing here. I cut two pieces of 20g green wire at 10.5 inches. This time, I want the wire that comes out of the center loop of the filigree to be much longer than the length of the bottom leaf.





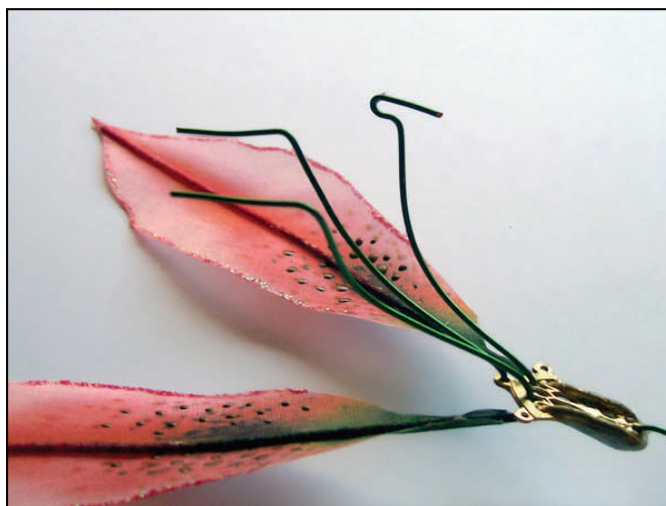
There are several ways to dress up this longer wire. You can give it a slight twist, you can leave it longer and straight or you can make it shorter. You can also make it into a stamen like the top wings since it does have a petal. You can also change out the top petal and add a second leaf.



The purple Silk wing example shows the above method. The pink Vellum example on the right shows the long wire glued to the actual leaf instead of being added as a separate decorative element. The pink wing does not have a bottom filigree. The bottom leaf is attached as a regular wing wire. The third pink petal is also a separate piece. This method will create a thicker insertion stem.



Once the glue that is holding the stamen wires dries completely, you are ready to bend the tips that are facing front. You want to bend them back about a 1/2 inch, then bend them forward about half way so they resemble “T” pins.



You can get creative on decorating the stamen wires. I've used both glitter and Swarovski bicone beads for this step. For these wings, I will do the glitter method.

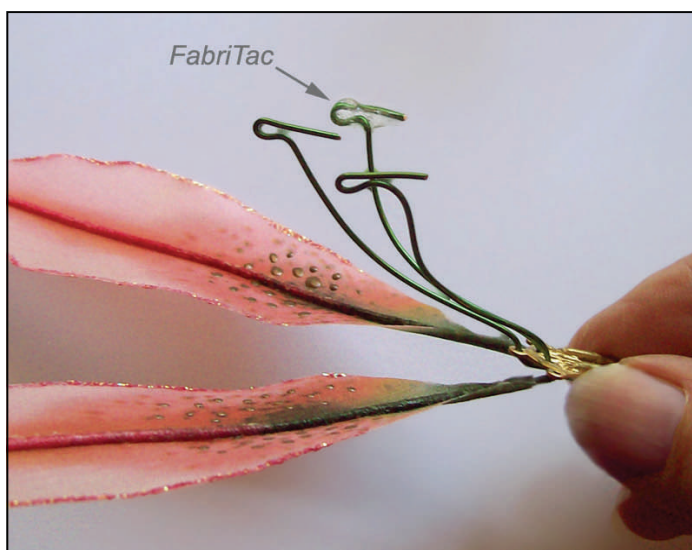
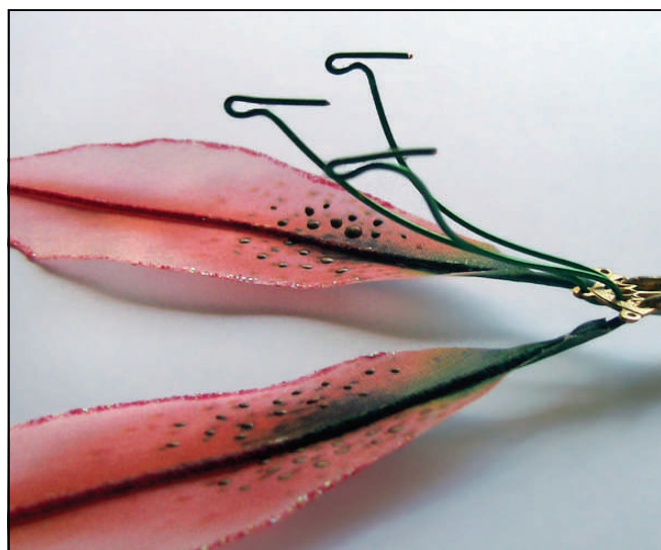
*My favorite dry glitter is Art Glitter. I'll be using Egyptian Gold and Cavalado. Green shades are important to me as some are more blue and others are too light. Getting the right shade is easy with Art Glitter.*

163 Egyptian Gold  
Opaque

109 Cavalado  
Opaque



With all three wires bent, take some FabriTac and apply a generous amount to the top and sides of the first wire. If you have older glue that is on the thick side, that will work perfectly for this. If your glue is fresh and more fluid, apply one coat and let it set until it's tacky and then apply a second coat to build it up. Do only one wire at a time.





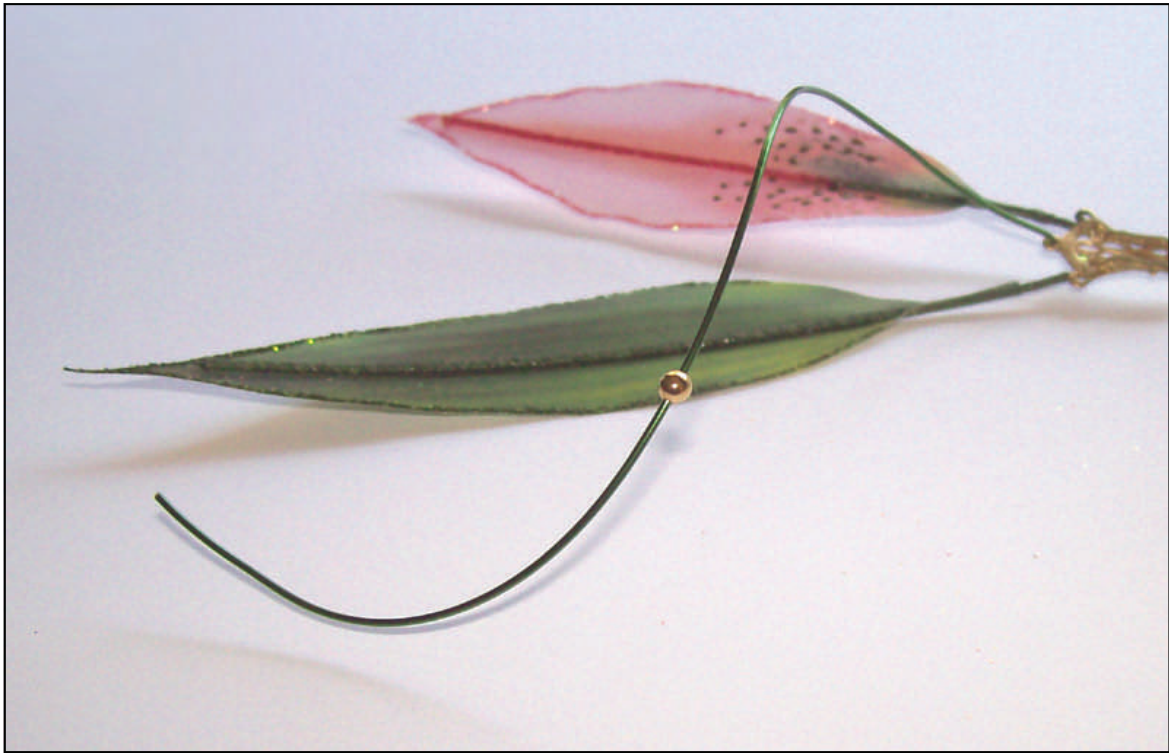
You will be dipping the glued wire tip into the jar of glitter. This is why you should only do one tip at a time. If you do all three, you may end up getting glue on the jar and it will be stringy from touching another surface.



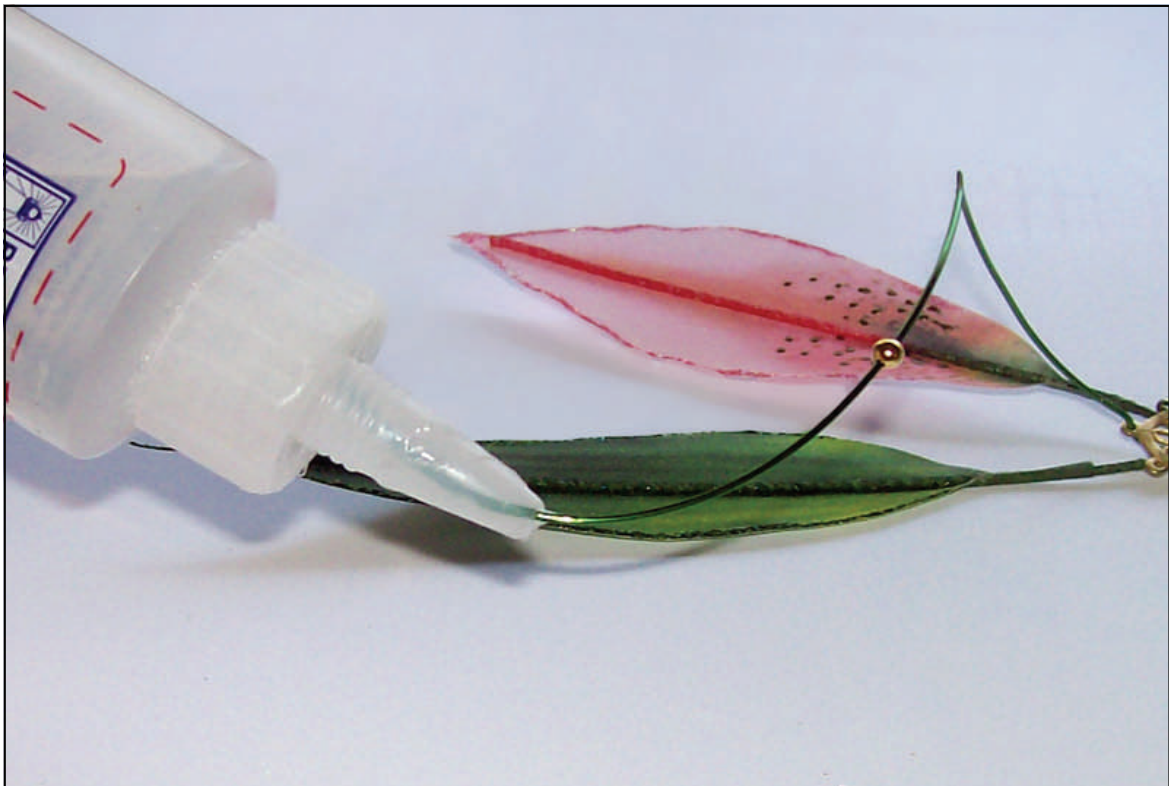
Once all three wire tips are glittered, let them dry completely. You can go to the bottom wire while these are drying.



This is where you can add either round gold beads or Swarovski bicone beads or a combination of both. I'm using a single 3mm gold bead on the long extension wire. Do not glue the bead in place just yet.

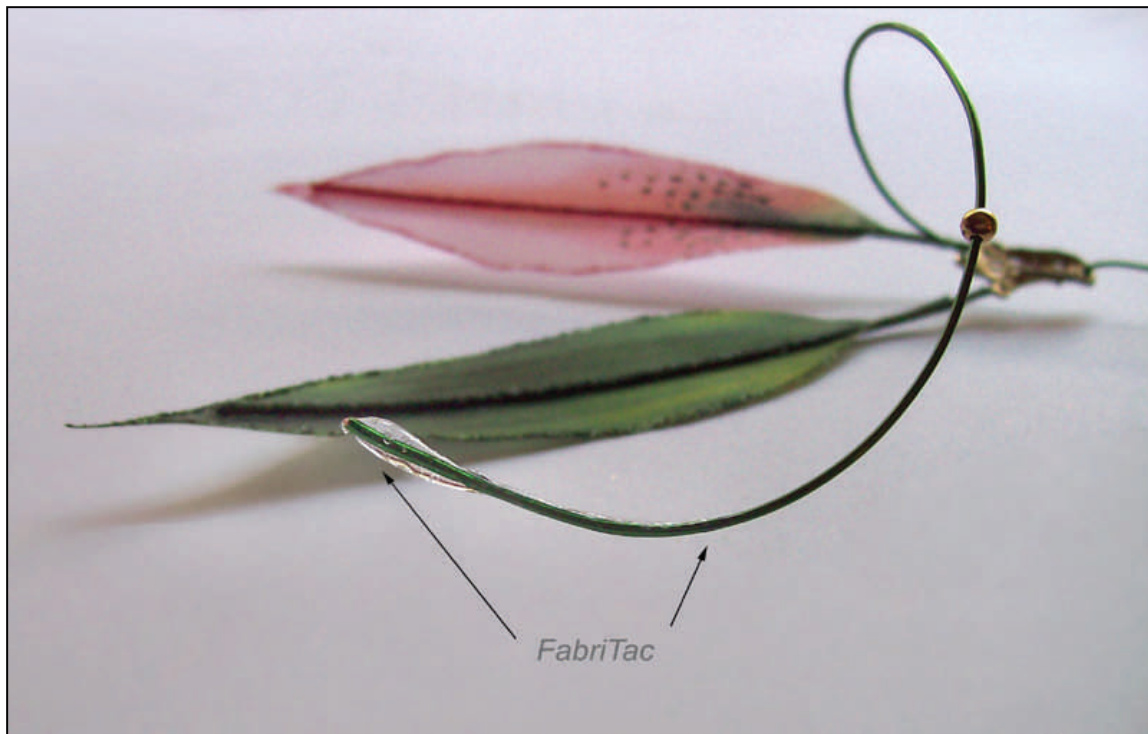


Insert the bottom of the wire about 1 1/2 inches into the tip of the FabriTac and allow the glue to get to the inside tip of the nozzle. Slowly pull the wire out.





When you get to the last 1 inch of wire, do a couple of passes with the FabriTac to build it up towards the end of the wire. It should look like a teardrop.



Dip the end of the wire into the green glitter jar. You might have to dip a couple of times to get a good coat.



You may have to re-shape the bottom tip after the glitter dip so do this while the glue is still moist. Try to hang the wing section so that the extension wire is vertical and the bottom tip is hanging down. Use the stem wire like a hanger. If you lay it flat (as in the picture below), the moist FabriTac will start to droop downward. If it dries like that completely, it cannot be re-shaped.



Once both the upper wing and bottom wing sections are completely dry, you can decorate the filigree with some rhinestones and if you like, add some maribou feathers to the back side.

In the event that the gold ink on the filigree has become dull looking from handling, you will be able to touch it up towards the end.



I put a small drop of Sakura 3D lacquer on the filigree holes and attached a pretty AB rhinestone to each spot on both the upper and lower wing sections. The Sakura has a great hold when dry and doesn't become brittle hard over time, which could cause the stones to pop off.



In the image below, I've use a light coat of Sakura on the base of the stamen wires and the base of the extension wire and sprinkled a light coat of the green glitter. That small amount gives just enough bling to the plain wire.



The wings need a little something extra at this point. Feathers add a nice touch. You can use a piece of Marabou in a similar shade as in the pink wing below, or if you like the look of the wings without feathers, its ok to leave this step out. The purple wing below has no feathers because the Swarovski bicone beads on the stamens are plenty of decoration. When I use glitter on the stamens, then I like to use feathers as a background. It's up to you.



For the wings in this tutorial, I'm going to use bronze/green Peacock flue feathers. I think this will be a nice touch by adding a bit more green coloring.

Pull the feathers out of the sewn thread that holds them all together. Make four groupings of Peacock flue feathers as close to the same width as possible. Using your non-stick glue mat, lay the feathers down and saturate the bottom of the flue about 3/4 inch up the feather shafts with glue. I'm using Gem-Tac glue. Allow to dry completely.





When the glue is dry, it will be clear. Peel the feathers off the mat and trim the bottom with scissors so that it fits the shape of the back side of the filigree.



The bottoms are all trimmed off and now you can give a bit of curl to the feathers.

If you've ever curled ribbon in the past, the process is the same. Use a bit less pressure on the feathers otherwise the delicate shaft can break or can get cut off. You only need to give a gentle curl to the tips.

If your feathers are curling in one direction, make sure when you glue them to the filigree back, that each wing half has the feathers going the same way. You don't want the one on the left curling downward and the one on the right curling upward.

After you curl all of the bundles, lay them flat and make sure which way the curl is going. The image to the right shows the one bundle with the feathers going in both up and down curls. This is fine as long as the second bundle is doing the same thing.



Let's decide where to put the feathers. Do you want to use them on the top wing section, the bottom wing section or both? Lay the wings out as if the upper and lower wings are about to be joined. This will give you a good idea of the finished look.

This is how the wings look with the feathers on top and how they look if used only on the bottom.



I like how the feathers look on both the upper and lower sections.

After you decide which way you want to go, apply glue to the bottom of the feather bundle as large as the filigree back side. You'll want to give it a nice coat, but not so much that it's runny or oozes out the sides when you press it in place.

I'm using Gem-Tac white glue for this step, but you can use Fabri-Tac if you prefer. Gem-Tac doesn't cause stingers when you get it on your fingers from pressing.

Once you have it in position allow it to dry completely before handling for the final touches.



The back side of the feathers should look like this after the glue is completely dry. It should cover the wires on the back of the filigree.



Using your gold ink, apply it to the back of the feathers. Dab a light coat around the sides of the filigree and feathers to fill in over the glue. The glue will give the gold ink a shiny look. Now's the time to touch up on the front filigree if you need to.

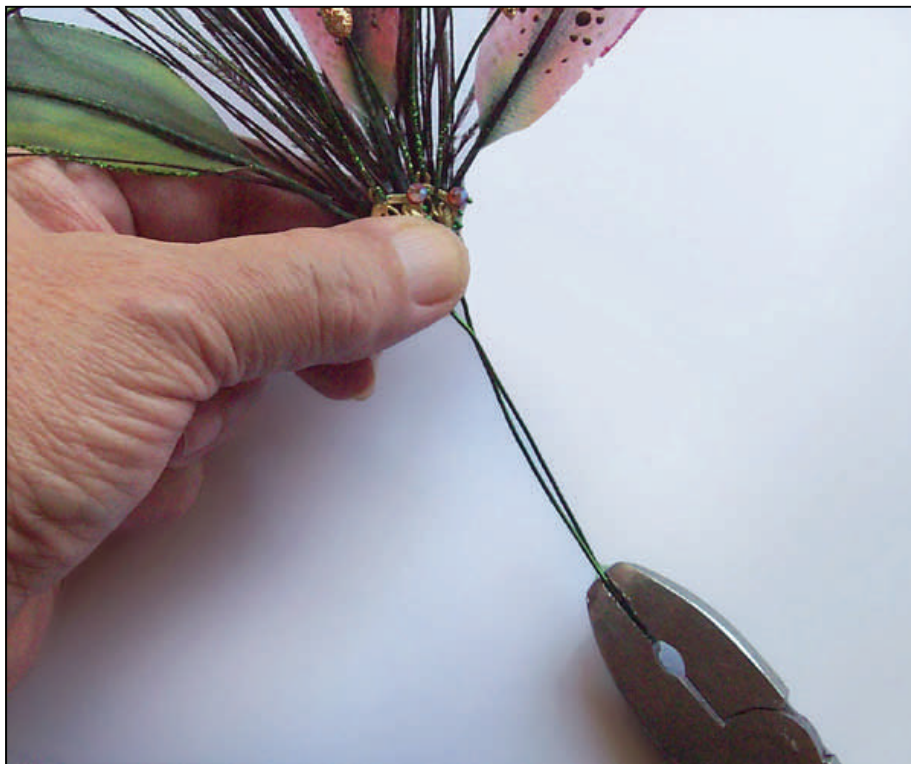


For a finishing touch, a few microbeads on the back and sides of the feathers can add a little interest and depth to your wings. I used Hunter Green metallic beads since that color is closest to the color of the leaf, but you can use gold or bronze metallic if you prefer. Microbeads are optional and the wings look just as pretty without, so if you don't like the look, don't put them on. If you do use them, do it lightly.



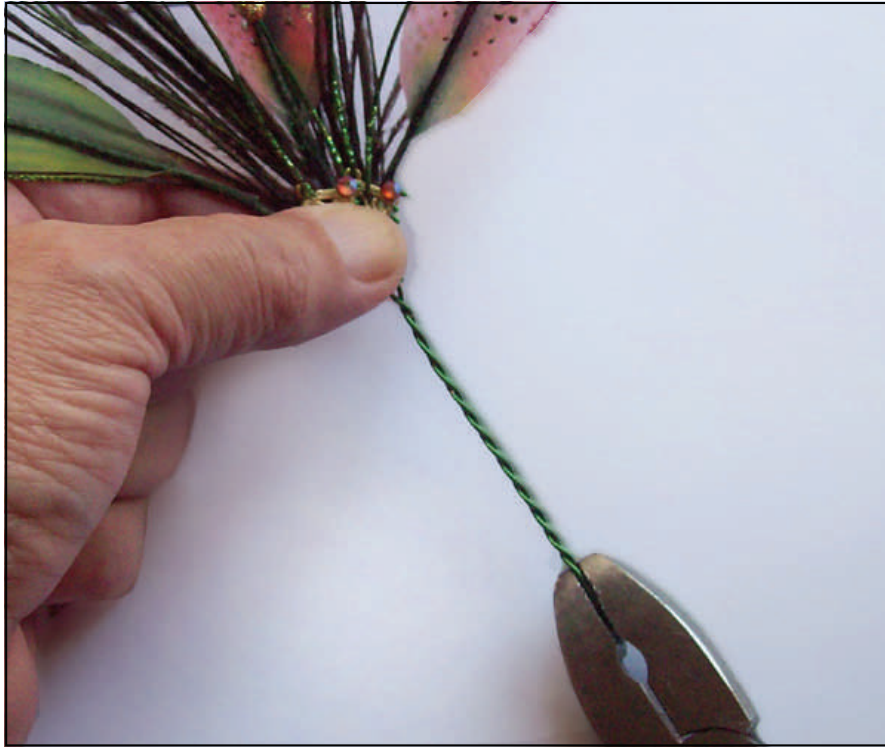
Let the microbeads dry completely before attaching your upper and lower wings together.

Using vise grip wire twisters or vise grip pliers, lock on to the bottoms of the wires. Hold the bottom wing filigree over the top wing filigree with your fingers. Hold it snugly.





While firmly holding the filigree base, slowly turn the pliers. As you do, you will see an evenly twisted wire emerge. Stop when your wire looks like the one pictured below (if you twist tighter, you risk snapping the wires. If they snap off, they cannot be repaired). Let go of the filigree and release the vise grips.



I prefer to leave my twisted insertion wires on the long side. The reason is... I can always cut them to the exact length needed for the doll and if I sell them to another artist, they can trim them to the size they need.

Once you release the vise grips you'll see the two ends that had been clamped. These are not twisted and they are a great gauge to judge where to cut off. Your vise grips may have a wire cutting edge and if not, you can use an old pair of scissors. Cut off those ends. You'll want at least 1 1/2 inches of insertion wire remaining after cutting off the ends.



Now that the wires are attached together and trimmed, you can shape your petals. You can give them gentle bends that will create dimension and give a more realistic look.



Here are the finished wings. I think they look fabulous! The Peacock flue feathers look great and give a slight iridescent shimmer. The lightly glittered petal edges are not overpowering.



I hope you found this tutorial to be helpful. Yes, it's a large one, but I believe in using a lot of pictures. I am a visual person and learn best when I can see everything. I think all artists are similar in that respect.

I am always available to answer any questions that might come up, so please let me know if I can help. I look forward to seeing your fabulous wing creations!