



Braided Wreath & Flowers

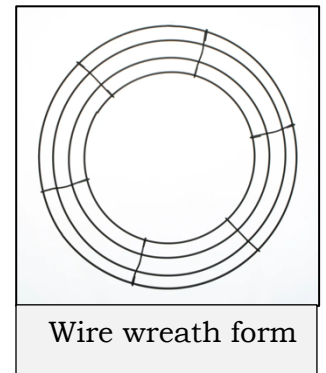
Peggyann Watts & Christine Manges

Supplies

- Fabric for wreath: ½ yard
- Fabric scraps for flowers
- Wire wreath form
- Safety pins, Needle, and Thread
- Fabric scissors, Paper scissors
- Patterns, next pages
- Flower center buttons
- Optional: hot glue gun
- Optional pin backs
- Optional curved needles
- Optional pine cones, bells, ribbon bows or other wreath decorations



- A – Thread
 B – Holiday Plaid Fabric
 C – Sewing Needles
 D – Pin Backs
 E – Optional curved needles
 F – Sharp scissors



1. Braid the Wreath

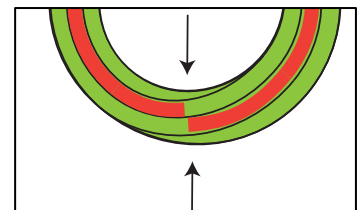
There are multiple ways to approach braiding the wreath. They vary from very simple to intermediate. Here is a brief description of the different methods: we'll cover the first one today in the demo, but the others are options for braiding the wreath if you prefer.

A. Peggyann's Method: all braids the same loop count

Make 3 to 4 braids to fit around the outside edge of the wire wreath. The braid-ends are stitched back and forth across the braid, cut, and the cut ends are sewn together. This "fake butt" area is covered over by ribbon or decorations. Lace the rows together, lining up the butt areas. The outer row is laced to the wire form, and the inner row is squished a bit to lace the loops onto the center wire.

B. Taper-In, Taper-Out Method:

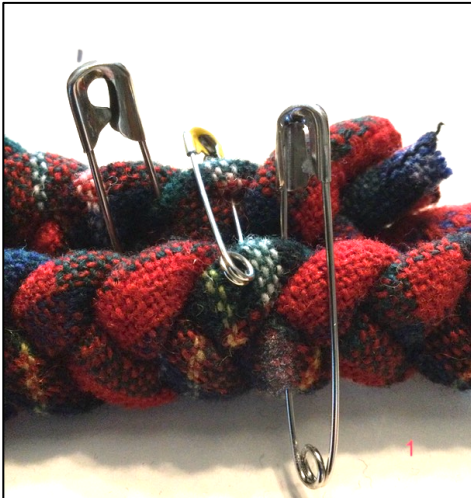
Begin braiding with 3 strands folded and pinned. Leaving a 6" tail of braid free at the Start, overlap the braid where it will fit easily around the center wire. Pin in place and continue braiding, making 9 increases around each row. Taper the Finish, then go back to taper the Start.



C. Butted method:

Figure out how many loops will easily fit around the outside edge of the wire, and butt. Make additional braids that decrease by 9 loops each row. Lace them together, then lace onto the wire form.

Peggyann’s Strip Rug Method



1. Place 3 strands on a pin and braid enough length to fit around the outside row of the wire wreath, with a couple loops extra for overlap. Pin the Start and Finish together.

Photo left shows the Start in back and the Finish in front. The small gold pin in the middle pins the braids together where they will be “butted,” (or, cut and stitched together). The Large pins on each braids indicate where the braids will be sewn, on the left or right side of the pinned loop, then cutting them about ¼” longer than the stitch line.

Wire Wreath Diameter	8”	10”	12”	14”
Braid Length	26”	32”	38”	44”

2. The large safety pin marks the sewing line. Remove pin when you have placed your needle for sewing. Sew and forth across the braid to secure all 3 strands.



the back



1. (Finish End) To the left of the pin is the part that will be discarded. Cut to the left of your sewing line.



4. The opposite (Start) end.



5. Both ends have been securely sewn. Now sew the 2 braid ends together, from one braid end to the other. Sew the fronts and then the backs.



6. Braids are joined and secure. Repeat above steps for two to three more braids, lacing them together so that the "buted" seams are lined up.

Lace the braids onto the wire wreath, starting with the outer braid.

Lace the inner braid onto the inner wire.

Cover over the butted region with a ribbon, or decorations!



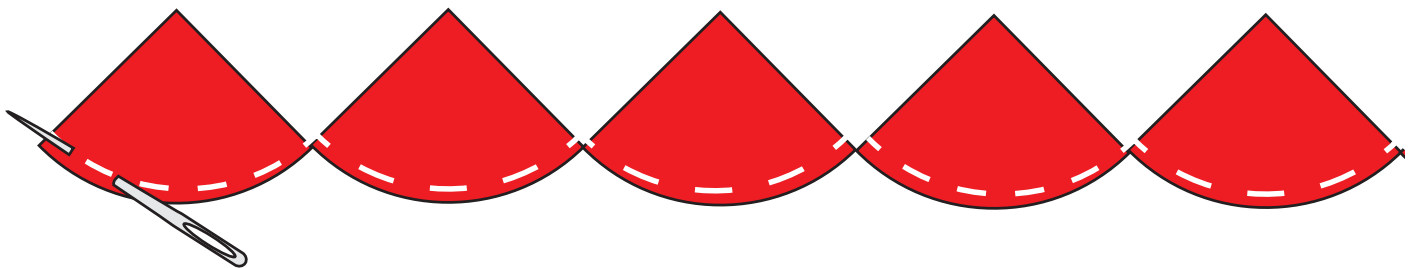
Make Wool Flowers: Poinsettia, and Rose

Photo left shows: *far left*: 5-petal paper shape used for the dark green leaves in back of the red poinsettia; *far right*: ¼" wide strips for rolling up into a quillie flower.

Upper left red flower shows a button center; right red flower shows 3 small quillies hot-glued into the flower center.

Make the Poinsettia:

1. Draw two out 3" OR 4" diameter circles onto red felted wool. Cut them in quarters to get 8 pieces... but you will only use 5 of them. Set the rest aside for another flower.
2. Thread a needle with matching thread and knot the end. Use a running stitch along the curved edge of all 5 petals. See photo above and diagram below. Join the 5 petals on one thread.
3. Gather the 5 quarters together into a circle while keeping them flat on the table, pointy side outward. Tie the circle closed as tightly as possible.
4. Place a green multi-leaf shape behind the red flower petals, OR cut two 1" larger circles than used for the flowers, and stitch a second layer of green leaves. Hot glue or stitch the petals and leaves together, making the leaves fall between the petals.
5. Add decorative buttons or a quillie as a flower center. Stitch or glue them together.



6. (Optional) Sew a pin-back to the back of the flower. This will enable you to use the flower as a pin OR as a wreath decoration, and reposition it as desired.

7. Flower-center Quillies: cut ¼" wide and about 2.5" long. Roll up, and glue or stitch them in place. Or, use buttons and stitch in place.

Make the Rose:

Above: completed rose.

1. Use medium- to light-weight wool: green plus a rose petal color of your choice.

2. Draw the rose strip freehand, or as on the pattern sheet. Make sure there is always at least ¼" of wool along the straight edge.

3. Start to roll up the rose from the narrow end. Keep the flat bottom even.

4. Place a tuck or pleat in the wool twice as you roll.

5. With matching thread, sew through the bottom ¼ inch of the rolled-up rose, back and forth.

6. Roll the edges of several petals down and secure them with a stitch. Flower looks "opened up."

7. Cut out 2-3 leaves and attach to back or bottom of rose.

8. Sew on the pin back, behind the leaves.



Flower Power

