Bada Bing Bling

by Roxane Cerda

What more could a girl ask for than a pair of hoop earrings? Crocheted wire hoop earrings, of course. If you’re thoroughly hooked on crochet but are sick and tired of yarn, whip up these fibbity fab earrings in no time, or make them larger and whip up a bangle bracelet or two that’s truly off the hook.

Project Rating: Fling
Cost: $10
Necessary Skills: Wirework

Materials

- 1 yard of 20 gauge silver wire
- 18 rounded, flat-sided cultured pearls (we used bronze colored pearls)
- 30 or so seed beads in a color to compliment your pearls
- 4 sterling silver jump rings
- 1 pair French ear wires
- 1 US H/5mm crochet hook
- Wire cutters
- Bead mat

1 Unraveling—but not cutting—a yard of wire from the spool, string your beads onto the wire, alternating between a pearl and a seed bead until you have used all of the pearls and all of the seed beads.

2 Create a slip knot at the end of the wire, leaving a tail that’s 2 inches long, give or take. To begin, simply mold the wire into a loop shape (see figure at right).

3 Fold the portion of the wire that crosses over to form the loop downward, positioning it under the loop.
Fold the wire downward.

Using your crochet hook, pull the downward-pointing wire through the center of the circle.

Pull the wire through the circle.

With the hook still in place, tighten the loop you created by using your fingers to pull the wire on both sides of the loop. (Don’t go crazy with the pulling here—not too tight, but not too loose.) That’s it—your slip knot is complete.

Slide one bead along the wire until it is as close to the hook as possible.

Open your left palm and drag the wire across your palm and between your first and middle fingers.

Close your fist. The wire should be caught by your last three fingers. Then extend your index finger and thumb, like you’re pretending to be an outlaw, or Amy Fisher with Mary Jo Buttafuoco.

Bring the wire forward over your index finger and use your thumb and middle finger to hold onto the bottom of the slip knot. With your right hand, hold the crochet hook so the loop is about an inch from the end of the hook part, with the hook part facing away from you and pushing against the working wire (i.e., the wire that runs behind it).

Position your hands to begin the chain stitch.

With the hook still pressed against the working wire, rotate the hook toward you clockwise to wrap the wire around the shaft of the hook.
Rotate the hook to wrap the wire around the shaft.

11 **Continue** rotating the hook another quarter turn until it points down.

12 **Pull** the hook to the right to catch the wire in the hook.

13 **Pull** the hook to the right and through the loop. The bead you slid over in step 6 should also pass through the loop. You have now completed one chain stitch, and should have a new loop on the hook!

14 After pulling a little on the hook to loosen this new loop, **repeat** steps 10–13 until half of the beads have been used.

15 About 2 in beyond your last stitch, use your wire cutters to **cut** the earring from the spool.

16 **Wrap** the excess wire on both ends of the piece—the 2-in tail you left at the beginning, and the 2 in you just cut on the other end—around each other to secure the ends together and then weave the remaining wire back through the piece, around the earring, through several stitches.

17 **Snip** the excess wire and mold your earring into a hoop shape.

18 Select a spot on your hoop to be the top, and **attach** a jump ring to that spot. Add a second jump ring to the one you just added and attach one of the ear wires to that same jump ring and close the ring. Voilà—you have finished one earring.

19 **Repeat** steps 2 through 18 using the remaining wire and beads.

### Variation

**Bangles for All**

As I’m sure you’ve already deduced, using a heavier gauge wire is really all that’s required to make crocheted wire jewelry with a sturdy form. Experiment with various wire gauges and bead sizes to create different looks for hoop earrings, bangle bracelets, or even a clasp-free choker—just be sure to work the wire ends back through the piece until they hold securely. To whip up some bangle bracelets to match your new earrings, use the same technique outlined above; just create approximately 8 inches of the crocheted chain before you bind the ends together, and omit the steps that add jump rings and ear wires. You’ll need approximately 4 to 5 feet of wire and closer to 25 pearls and seed beads per bangle.