

# Making Ornament Eyelets

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I create my own eyelets for use on Christmas ornaments and miniature birdhouses. It only takes a few seconds per eyelet once you get the material and tools. Shown in the top two photos are the tools and supplies. I have two sets of beading pliers, one of which is an antique, that I've grown used to and use them almost exclusively. The other tools are a pair of side cutters, needle nose pliers, and a 3/32 drill bit. The supplies are 20 ga beading wire, super glue, and an ornament needing an eyelet.



I start with 20 gauge gold beading wire, available at Walmart, and a pair of beading pliers made for bending wire. I first pull 5 inches of wire off of the spool, then holding the wire with the beading pliers about 2 inches from the end, I make the first loop, creating an eye. Still holding the wire by the loop, I begin to wrap the wire tightly around itself.



I make sure to keep the wraps tight around the spool end of the wire, and close to the previous wrap to ensure a uniform wrap. Once your wrap nears the end of the wire, it is difficult to bend the wire with your fingers, so I use the needle nose to crimp the last 1/4 inch or so, and I then snip the completed eyelet off with the side cutters.



Make sure you have a pinprick made with a icepick or suitable tool in the end of the ornament to start your drill bit in before drilling the hole for the eyelet. It has been my experience that using the 20 ga wire in conjunction with the 3/32 bit makes a pretty



snug fit. You'll have to experiment with drill and wire size to find what works for you. At this point you are ready to insert the eyelet. Put a drop of super glue in the hole, and using the beading pliers insert the eyelet into the hole. I find it to be rather snug so I tend to twist the eyelet into the hole using the wraps somewhat like screw threads to help it twist in. Using the beading pliers makes this much easier, and also prevents fingers from being permanently attached to the eyelet and ornament.



These take only seconds to make, and are quite handsome even if I do say so myself!

