

Burlap Christmas Wreath

Crafter level: Intermediate
Time needed: 1½ hours

What you'll need

- Wire cutters
- Jewelry pliers
- 1 package floral netting (18 in. x 24 in.) or chicken wire with 1 in. openings
- Work gloves or heavy gardening gloves
- 2 wire hangers
- 5-7 rolls wire-edged burlap ribbon or 1½ yd. burlap fabric, a ruler, tweezers and straight pins
- Roll of floral tape



How to make it

1. With work gloves on, unwrap one end of a hanger from its hooked end. Unbend it until it's straight and lies flat, but leave the hook on the end for hanging. Repeat with the second hanger.
2. About 18 inches down from the hook end of the first hanger wire, bend the wire a little more than 60°. Repeat with the second hanger wire.
3. Flip one hanger wire over and place it on top of the other hanger wire. See Diagram 1. Together, they should now resemble an isosceles triangle shape.
4. Remove your gloves and use floral tape to secure the two bottom sections of hanger wire together.
5. Twist one hanger hook end 90° so both hooks now face the same way. Secure hooks together with floral tape, wrapping all the way down to the squiggly part of the hangers. You have now created the wreath form.
6. Unfold the packaged floral netting or chicken wire, press out any warps, and lay it on top of the wreath form so that it overlaps the form on all sides. See Diagram 2.
7. With wire cutters, cut floral netting or chicken wire to match the wreath form shape, making sure you have about an extra inch of netting overlapping the form on all sides. See Diagram 3.
8. Grab your work gloves again for this next part: Wrap the cut ends of the netting or chicken wire around the edges of the wreath form. Use jewelry pliers to secure ends tightly to the form. Do this for all 3 sides until your netting or chicken wire is completely attached to the wreath form.
9. Remove your gloves and use strips of floral tape (about 10 inches long) to wrap around the edges of the wreath form to cover the sharp ends of the netting or chicken wire.

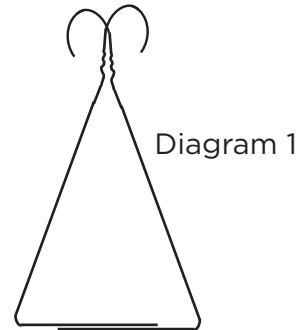


Diagram 1

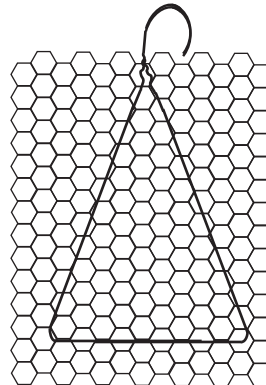


Diagram 2

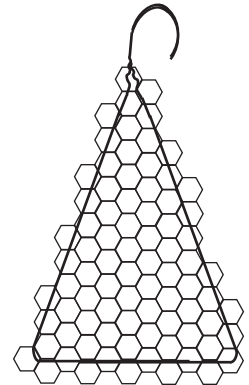


Diagram 3



If you're using burlap fabric, follow the next few instructions. If you have purchased wire-edged burlap ribbon, unroll the first ribbon and skip to Step 13.

10. For cutting strips from burlap fabric, use your ruler to measure 3-inch increments along the selvage of the burlap and mark them with a straight pin. At the first 3-inch mark, pull out one of the perpendicular burlap threads with your tweezers, from selvage to selvage. This will give you a straight line for cutting your strip.
11. Continue pulling out one thread every 3 inches until you have about 16 strips to cut.
12. Cut all 16 strips.
13. Now hold on to the end of 1 strip of burlap fabric or ribbon and push the next several inches through the center of the floral netting or chicken wire to form a loop. At the next opening, push another few inches through to form another loop. Try to keep your loops all about the same size.
14. Continue to push the burlap through each opening until you reach the end of your burlap strip or ribbon. Keep the last few inches of the burlap at the back of the form.
15. Continue the same process with the next strip of burlap. Work from the inside center of the triangle form outwards so it's easier to see your openings in the floral netting or chicken wire.



16. When all the netting holes have been filled, turn the form to the front and gently open any of the smaller, smooshed loops to cover the netting or chicken wire completely and give your tree a fuller look. Fill in any open spots with remaining strips of burlap.
17. All done! Now it's time to decorate your "tree" however you wish. Here are a few of our favorites.

