

Wings



Supplies:

- *28-gauge wire
- *Fantasy Film
- *Bond Grrrip Glue
- * Ranger Adirondack Alcohol Inks:
 - Stream
 - Wild Plum
 - Butterscotch
- *Ranger Adirondack Alcohol Blending Solution
- *Glass Glitter extra fine
- *Micro Marbles
 - Clear
 - Gold
- *Varnish ~ Gloss
- *Hemostat, 6" or longer
- *Scissors
- *Toothpicks
- *Heat Gun
- *Popsicle stick
- *Paper Towel
- *Plastic container

The wings are very basic and open to many interpretations. I hope this will encourage you to expand on my techniques and create some beautiful wings for your fairies, dragons, anything that flies ☺ The wings are pose able and can be fixed to your sculpt as well as removable.

For this lesson, I will demonstrate my wing technique using coated florist wire for a clearer view of the armature construction. Typically, I would use gold or silver wire.

Cut a yard of wire and bend in half. Cut through the loop at the bottom. (You may leave the loop but it is easier to insert straight wires into your sculpt vs. a loop.) Twist the bottom of the wire approximately one inch from the bottom. You now have a left and right wing developing.



This is a cool technique... No need for those clumsy templates to make an exact left and right wing. Hold both wires together; loop them over your forefinger and down to the top of the twisted wire. Twist in place. Continue to rows two and three. I like to stagger the lengths and this is a good time to do so.



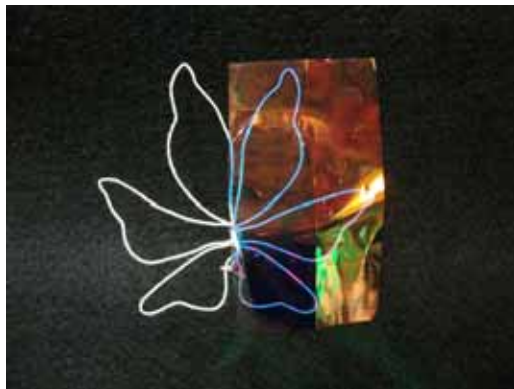
To add some personality to the wings, I like to add some definition to each section. Gently hold both wires and indent the wires using your thumb and forefinger. You may be as simple or as elaborate as you like at this point.



Gently unfold the wing and lay flat. You now have 6 separate wing sections. Keep this in mind, as I will refer to this in my instructions further into this article.

Cut a piece of Fantasy Film that will cover the right side of the wing with approximately ¼” over hang. I find it is much easier to align the edge of the Fantasy Film along the center spine. This will make sense once you start to use the heat gun. TRUST ME you do not want to use one sheet of Fantasy Film to cover the right and left sides. The wings will NOT be pose able if you do it that way.

Apply a thin line of glue to the wires using a toothpick.
Lay the Fantasy Film onto the glue/wires and press into place.
Repeat the same process on the left side.
Let dry



Flip the wing over. Sprinkle glitter inside the wing armature onto the Fantasy Film using a Popsicle stick.
Cut a piece of Fantasy Film to cover the right side of the wing with approximately ¼” over hang. Set aside.
Gently apply a thin strip of glue to the wires using a toothpick. Carefully lay the Fantasy Film onto the glue/wires and press into place. Repeat on the left side.
Let dry.



Trim approximately 1/8” around EACH section of the wing. The Fantasy Film will shrink so keep this in mind as you trim. I find a curved pair of Embroidery scissors to be very helpful allowing me to get into the tight curves and angles.



PLEASE use Hemostats for the next step. 6" or longer is best. When using the heat gun, the wires AND hemostat can get VERY hot so PLEASE be very careful and conscious of what you are doing. I have been known to get so involved in this process, turning and flipping the wing that I have actually come close to burning my wrist. DO NOT aim the heat gun at any of your body parts ☺ PLEASE!

Start approximately 6 inches away from the wings using the heat gun aiming for the edge of the wires and work towards the center. Slowly get closer as you familiarize yourself with the heat gun and it's heating elements. The Fantasy Film will melt and shrink very quickly. Periodically, allow the wires/wing and hemostat to cool down.



Trim areas that may have overlapped and heat again if necessary.

The wings look pretty nice at this stage and you may elect to stop at this point BUT why? Lets play with some alcohol inks and add some more of the WOW factor.

The alcohol inks dry quickly on non-porous surfaces so work on one wing section at a time. I dripped a few drops of alcohol inks in various colors onto the wing section closest to the spine of the wing. I then tilted the wing and allowed the colors to bleed together ending at the tip of the wing. If I have an overflow of ink, I will gently rest the tip of the wing section onto a paper towel and soak up the excess. Apply the alcohol inks to all sections if desired. Let dry completely.



The colors are nice but I want to create a translucent effect for my fantasy wings so I used the Alcohol Blending Solution. The Alcohol Blending Solution dries a bit slower than the inks but I suggest you work on one wing section at a time until you get a feel for it's properties.

Begin by squirting the Solution onto the ink. Tilt the wing allowing the solution to wash over the ink and run off the tip of the wing. Lay the tip of the wing gently onto a paper towel to soak up excess. Continue the process on the remaining 5 sections.

NOTE: You may add more inks and solution at this time. Experiment! Have fun! If you are not happy with the look, simply soak a q-tip or cotton ball with the Alcohol solution and wipe clean ☺



You may stop now but why? Lets add more Glitz!

Pour a thin layer of clear and gold micro marbles into a plastic container. I like to use 75% clear and 25% gold for a nice mix. The clear micro marbles pick up the underlying colors of the inks beautifully & the gold adds just enough punch ☺ you can also add a dash of glass glitter to this mix, which causes more sparkle.

Apply glue to the outer edges of the wing and around any holes you may have created. Cover any exposed wires as well. Lay the wing on top of the micro marbles and gently shake the plastic container covering the glue with marbles.

Let dry.



Seal with a thin coat of Varnish. Let dry.

Your wings are done!

I am sure by now your imagination is running wild with ideas for future wings. You might consider adding fibers, wires with beading, fringe, monofilament dipped in clear beads, stack two wing armatures on top of each other for a wonderful effect.... the possibilities are endless. Explore!



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