

Cellophane Fairy Wings

Materials

Large paper (for patterning & covering work areas)

14-16 gauge steel or aluminum wire

20-28 gauge craft wire (floral wire or color of your choice)

Cellophane rolls or sheets in your choice of color

Spray adhesive

Floral/electrical tape

Spray paint (optional)

Glitter, paint, embellishments as desired

Clear resin kit

Disposable brushes

Tools

Wire cutters

Pliers

Heat gun

Glue gun

Lighter/candle

Incense stick/soldering iron/extra wire

Soldering kit (optional)

WARNING: Potentially dangerous materials with sharp, hot, and sticky bits are involved. Create your wings in a well-ventilated area and have fire prevention materials on hand. Work with care and caution.

Find these instructions online at <http://cosplay.charmedseed.net/fairywings/>

Section One: Wing Frame

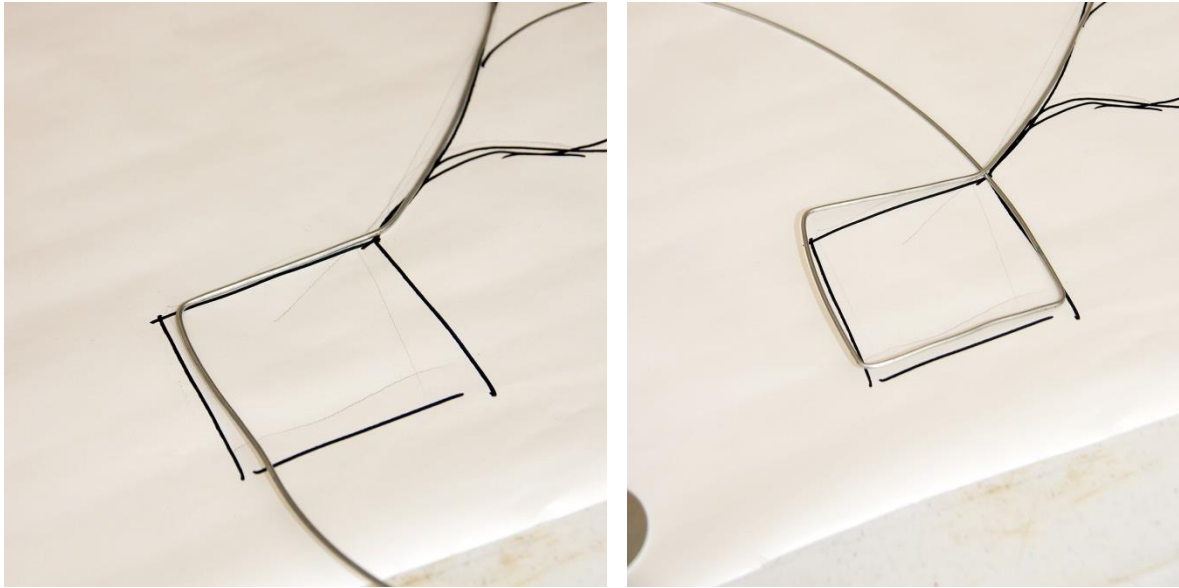
Use a large piece of paper to sketch out a pattern for your wings. The outer edge of your wings won't need wire, so keep in mind designing them like the veins of a leaf or actual insect wings.



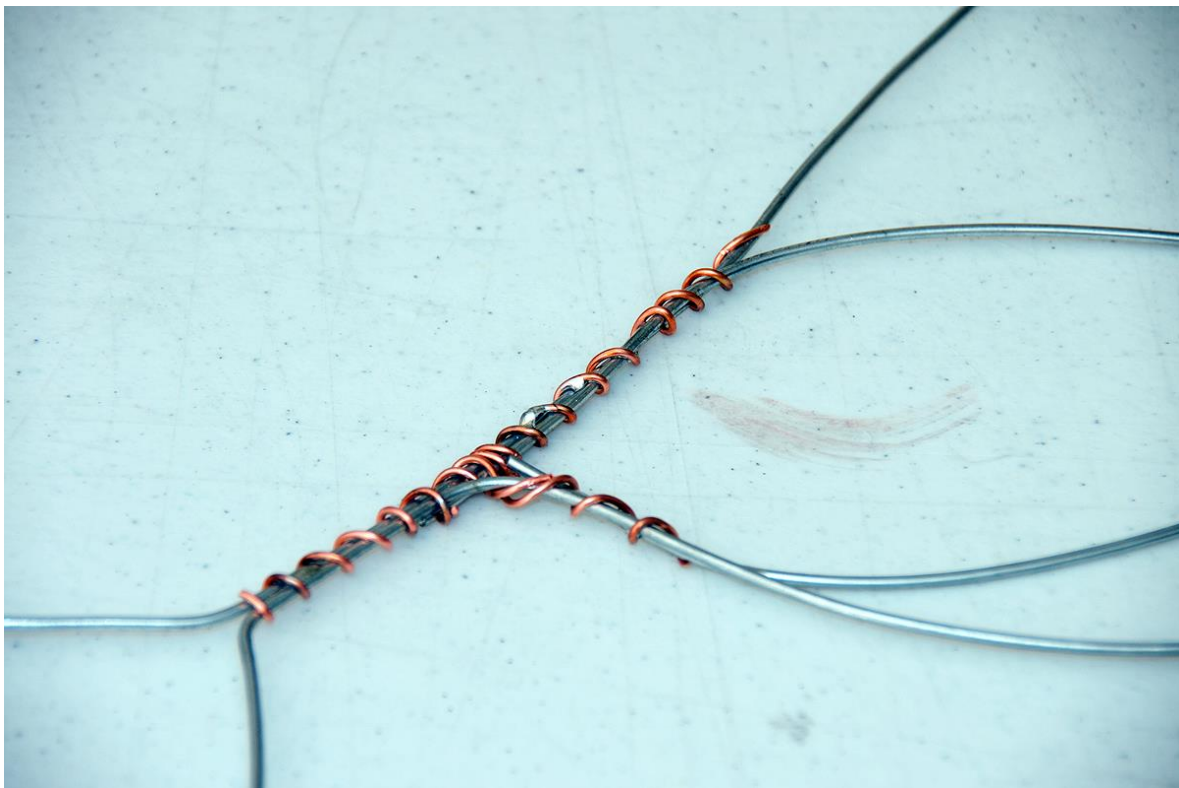
Image source: <http://www.officialpsds.com/Fantasy-Fairy-Wings-PSD85328.html>

Keep your frame flat as you design, this will help when applying the cellophane later.

Start with a square base. A square center base helps the wings to sit flat on your back.



Add in all major veins and branches. Attach with additional smaller-gauge wire or use solder (or both!).



You can choose at this point to cover your wing frame with floral tape or spray paint to get a uniform color.

Section Two: Cellophane Cover

Cut two pieces of cellophane to 'sandwich' one wing.



With the 'bottom' side under the frame, spray one layer of adhesive and add glitter, sparkles, additional cellophane if desired. If you add additional material, lay down another layer of adhesive.

Carefully apply your second piece of cellophane over the top, making a 'sandwich' of cello-wire-cello.

Use an Exacto knife to trim around the edges of the wings. Remember to leave cellophane for where your "open" wing edges will be. Leave 2-3 millimeters past the edge of the wire.



Once the edges are trimmed down, now is the time to heat-stretch and melt the edges. Use your heat gun or a hairdryer on high heat & low air. You'll see the cello start to tighten up. Be cautious – if you heat too much in one space, the cello will melt.



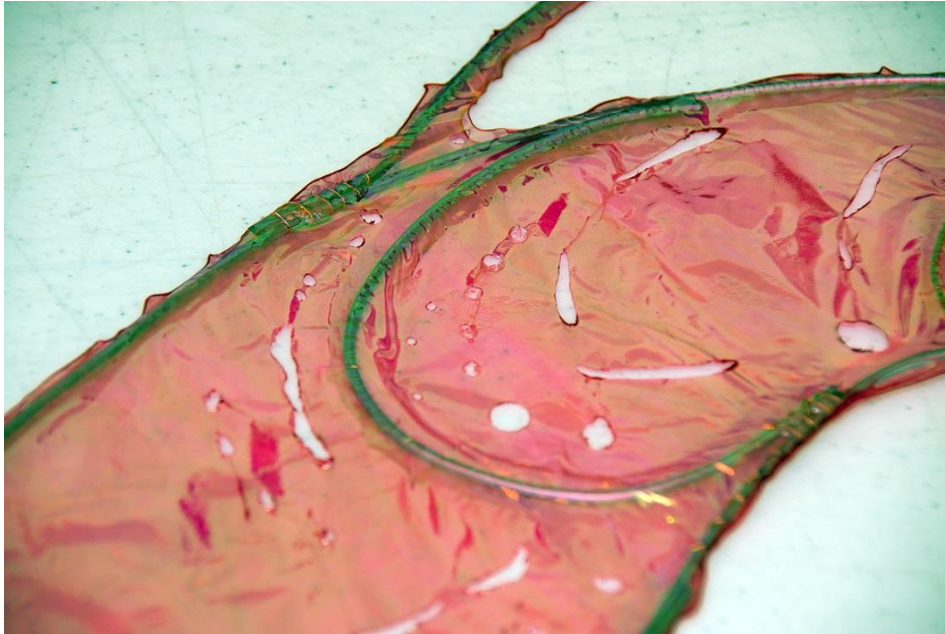
To secure the edges onto the wire use hot glue, a candle, or I prefer a small butane torch (such as the Bernzomatic Micro Torch – it also doubles as my soldering iron). Again, work slowly and with caution. If you melt away too much plastic, you can patch the space with a little hot glue.



Section Three: Details

Now you have your base wings securely on your wing frames. Now's your chance to make them really unique and organic. Reminder, you should be in a well-ventilated area and have fire safety equipment nearby.

Use your heating tools to poke holes into the wings and to make the edges more organic. You can heat pieces of wire (hold with a glove or something to protect your hands), use an incense stick, or the butane torch to alter your wings. Do as much or as little as you like!



Add more glitter, gems, flowers, etc as you like at this stage. Have fun!

Section Four: Resin Application

If you want to make your wings REALLY strong, coating them with resin will do just that. This is optional – the wings are perfectly functional without resin.

For this portion you will need a covered and well-ventilated area, like a garage. Resin makes massive amounts of fumes – please do not do this indoors. Be sure all your heated tools are extinguished.



An 8 ounce resin kit should cover most sets of wings. Prepare your working space by covering the floor with a soak-proof drop cloth to catch the drips. Clamp or clip your wings to a base so they ‘hover’ as flat as possible.

Follow the manufacturer’s instructions to prepare your resin. Once ready, pour and brush to evenly apply the resin to one side of your wings (front and back, that is). Wait to dry (usually 8 hours or so) then flip wings and repeat. Wait 72 hours before wearing.

Section Five: Wing Completion

Your wings are almost done! Resin-covered or not, you're almost ready to wear them!

If you need to, join together the wing sections with additional wire and hot glue. Cover the center frames with electrical tape. This will help protect you from any extra wires and will also keep the wings more secure.

To complete your wings, decide how you will wear them. If you are wearing structured undergarments (such as a corset), the center frame can be inserted into the back of your garment. If your wings will be worn over clothing, you can add straps of your choice.

If you are wearing them over your clothing, you can cover the base with fabric, ribbon, beads, and flowers to compliment your costume.

Your wings are ready to wear! Have fun and enjoy!



Fairy Stitch Factory Image