

# Braided Nest

*In the art and craft world, one of the greatest challenges and rewards is to mix mediums successfully. This project gives new life to ordinary copper wire and turns it into something that can be displayed in art galleries.*



## **You will need:**

- Round metal bowl
- Cling film
- Blue handmade paper (torn into strips  $\pm 4 \times 2$  m)
- Wallpaper glue
- Water-based varnish
- Very thin copper wire
- Blue beads
- Knitting needles
- Leather punch





## *How to make a braided nest:*

1. Measure the rim of a metal bowl that will act as a prop for the paper-mâché bowl. These measurements can be used as the length guidance for the piece of knitting. From the copper wire, knit a rectangle in plain stitch. Do not be concerned about gaps or size – it is all about the texture of the knitting. Carry on knitting until the rectangle is about 10cm high. Once the rectangle is complete, thread some beads in between the knitting. Pull the wire on the one side, giving it an open pyramid shape. Set aside and start making the paper bowl.
2. Turn the metal bowl upside down and cover it with cling film. This will prevent the paper pieces from sticking to the metal bowl.
3. Dip the paper strips into wallpaper glue. Gently use your fingers to remove any excess glue and start to cover the round metal bowl. Continue with this process until the entire bowl is covered, with the blue handmade paper.
4. Repeat this process until you have two to three layers. Allow your bowl to dry overnight.
5. Once the bowl is completely dry, remove it from the metal bowl carefully by removing the cling film.
6. Seal the bowl with varnish and leave it to dry.
7. To add a touch of flair, use a leather hole punch and make a few holes around the border of the paper bowl, about 5mm from the rim.
8. For the final stages of this project, drape the knitting over the rim of the paper bowl. Allow the knitted part to overlap the edge of the paper bowl. Take a piece of copper wire and sew the two parts together with straight stitches.
9. Place battery operated tealights on the inside and display your braided nest.

