

April Showers Earrings

By Heidi Parviainen

Spring is finally here and I have a fun new project to welcome the nicer weather. I've created these fresh and fun earrings using Wubbers Triangle Mandrel Pliers!

They're quick and easy to make. They are so simple to adjust and personalize with your own colors and style. Just in time to match that new Spring outfit!

They say April Showers bring May Flowers, but why not have both?



Materials List

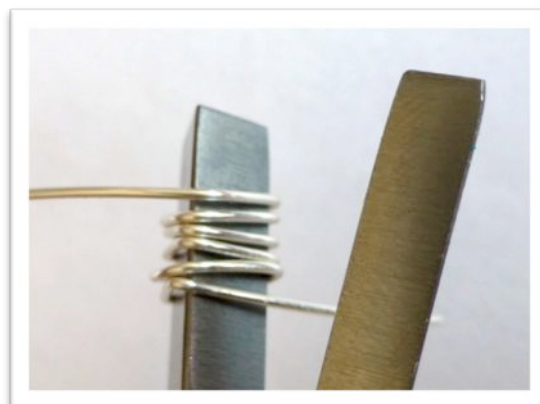
- 1 roll – 20 gauge (.8mm) half hard wire
- 1 roll – 26 gauge (.4mm) half hard wire
- 6 – 3x5mm frosted glass tear drop beads (aqua mix)
- 2 – 2x3mm frosted glass aqua rondelles
- 2 – 2x3mm frosted glass blue rondelles
- Wubbers Small Looping Pliers
- Wubbers Classic Chain Nose Pliers
- Wubbers Classic Round Nose Pliers
- Wubbers Small Triangle Mandrel Pliers
- Wubbers Classic Medium Flat Nose Pliers
- Flush cutters

Step 1

Leaving a 1 inch (2.5cm) tail, place the 20 gauge (.8mm) wire between the jaws of the Wubbers Small Triangle Mandrel Pliers.

Working from the roll, loosely wrap the larger side of the pliers with 7-8 coils of wire.

Trim the wire with flush cutters.

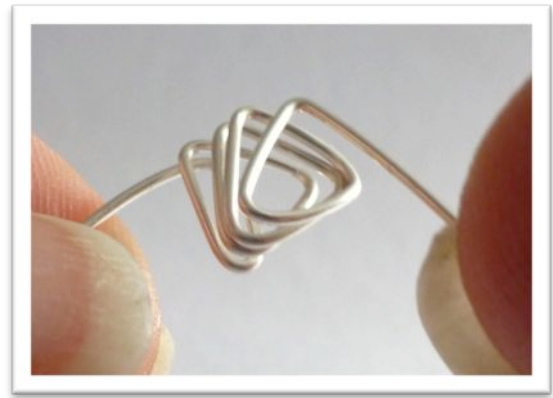


Step 2

Hold the ends of the wire in each hand. Gently pull the ends away from each other and down to start arching the wire coil.

Once the coil has begun to separate, as shown in the photo, hold the triangle between the thumb and fingers of your non-dominant hand.

Push the bottom angle of the top triangle away from the rest of the coil by placing your thumb against the side of the first coil just above the point.



Step 3

Continue pushing the coils until the triangles overlap.

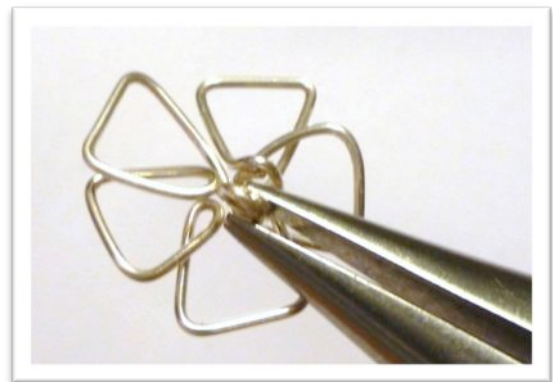
Once they have started to separate, grasp the outside edge of the triangles to form into a circle until the ends meet. This will create a flower shape.

Use Wubbers Classic Round Nose Pliers to loop the wire ends.



Step 4

Use Wubbers Classic Chain Nose Pliers to bend the wire loops at a 90 degree angle.



Step 5

Use Wubbers Small Looping Pliers to form an eye pin from a 5 ½ (14mm) inch piece of wire.

Place a frosted blue and a frosted aqua bead onto the eye pin. Then, slide the eye pin through both loops on the back of the flower.



Step 6

Add a frosted aqua and frosted blue bead to the eye pin.

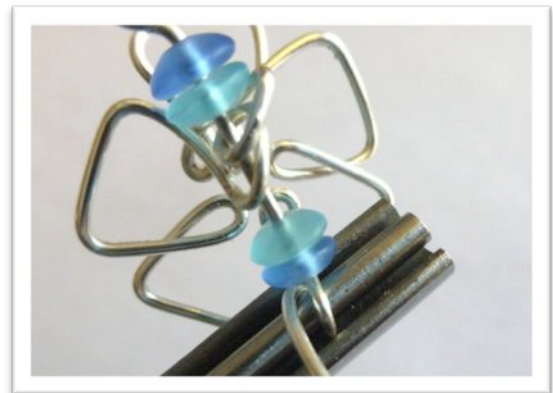
Use Wubbers Classic Medium Flat Nose Pliers to hold the beads in place, squeezing the wire loops between the beads.

Bend the wire over the top of the Wubbers Medium Flat Nose pliers while holding the beads and loops in place.



Step 7

Use Wubbers Small Looping Pliers to create a wire loop at the 90 degree angle just created.



Step 8

Hold the loop with Wubbers Medium Flat Nose Pliers as you continue to wrap the wire down the pin toward the beads.

Hold the wire in the position shown in the picture, at the top of the loop. This position allows the eye pin to rotate as the pin is wrapped, causing less fatigue and less wire damage from repositioning.



Step 9

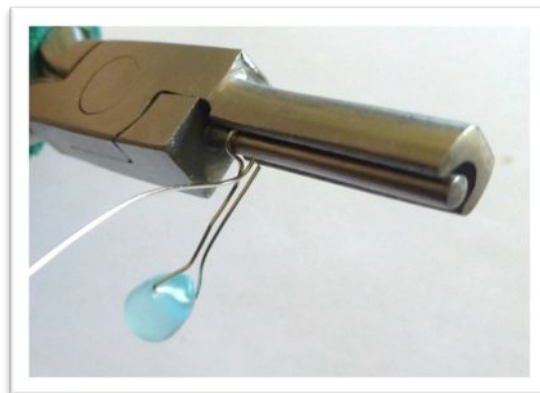
Thread a light aqua bead onto the 26 gauge (.4mm) wire.

Bend the wire to double it above the bead. Leave a tail equaling the desired length of the pendant when done, (1/2 - 1 inch or 1.25 - 2.5cm).



Step 10

Use Wubbers Small Looping Pliers to form a loop where the tail meets the barrel of the Pliers.

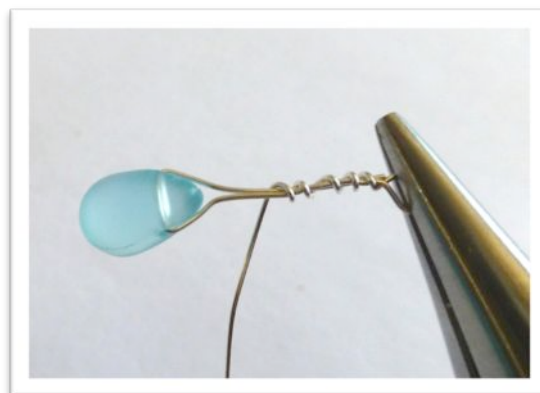


Step 11

Use Wubbers Classic Chain Nose Pliers to hold the loop. Wrap the wire down the doubled wire to the top of the bead.

The wrap can be done tightly as traditional or more loosely as shown. Use your own style to project your own personality.

Repeat steps 9-11 for the other 2 drops. Be sure to vary the lengths.



Step 12

Use WUBBERS Classic Medium Flat Nose Pliers to open the eye at the base of the flower.

Add all 3 drops. Close the eye.

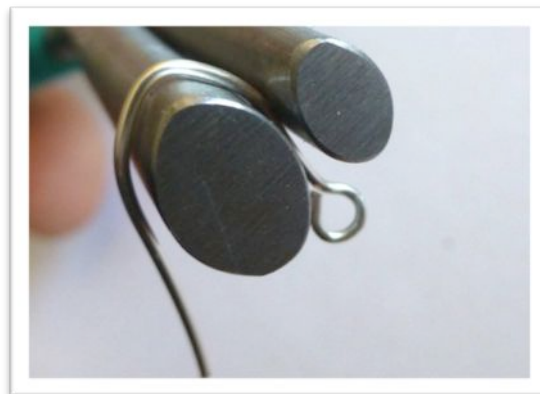


Step 13

Use a 2 inch (5cm) piece of 20 gauge (.81mm) to create an ear wire.

Begin by forming an eye pin with Wubbers Small Looping Pliers.

Place the eye pin between the barrels of the Wubbers Large Oval Mandrel Pliers. Wrap the wire over the larger barrel to form a perfect ear wire.



Step 14

Repeat Steps 1-13 to create a second earring.

Don't be afraid to experiment with colored wire and different beads.

Try adding more petals or use a different pair of Wubbers Mandrel Plier to create your own unique flower.



Review Questions

- 1) To create the flowers in this tutorial, Heidi used:
 - a) Wubbers Small Oval Mandrel Pliers
 - b) Wubbers Small Square Mandrel Pliers
 - c) Wubbers Small Triangle Pliers
 - d) Wubbers Small Half Round Pliers
- 2) To create the ear wires in this tutorial, Heidi used Wubbers Small Looping Pliers and?
 - a) Wubbers Large Round Mandrel Pliers
 - b) Wubbers Large Oval Mandrel Pliers
 - c) Wubbers Large Half Round Mandrel Pliers
- 3) In Step 8, Heidi recommends holding the loop from the top for what reason?
 - a) To prevent fatigue
 - b) To prevent wire damage from repositioning
 - c) Both A and B
- 4) What are some of the ways you could personalize your own designs based on this tutorial?
 - a) Alter the beads and wire color
 - b) Alter the length of the drops
 - c) Both A and B
- 5) What temper (hardness) wire is recommended for this design?
 - a) Half hard
 - b) Dead soft
 - c) Hard