

Copper Cone Earrings

By Sharilyn Miller

Wubbers Jumbo Tapered Round Mandrel Pliers are perfect for creating a cool pair of copper-wire cone earrings! I used 12-gauge *half*-round wire to make the cones in this sample pair. Half-round wire not only looks more interesting than round wire, but it also significantly reduces the weight of the finished earrings. You could also try using 16-gauge round wire, twisted wire, and other types of wire such as sterling or fine silver, brass, or colored craft wire.



Materials List

- 12-gauge half-round copper wire: approximately 60 inches
- 16-gauge round copper wire: approximately 4-1/2 inches
- Two ear wires (if making your own, approximately 6 inches of 20-gauge wire)
- Two bead dangles on headpins

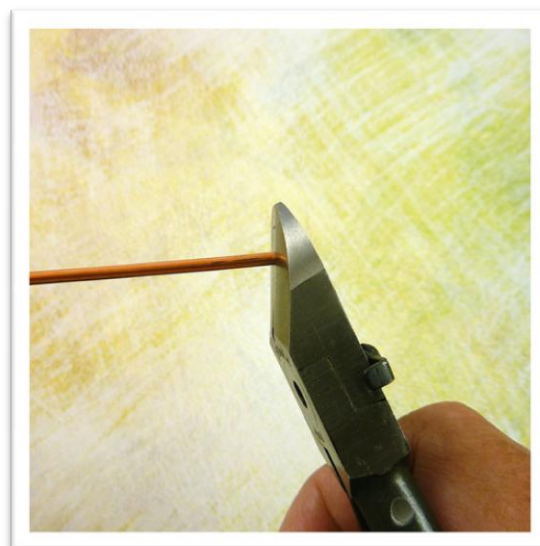
Tool List – Don't forget Safety Glasses!

- Wubbers Jumbo Tapered Round Mandrel Pliers
- Wubbers Classic Chain Nose Pliers
- Baby Wubbers Round Nose Pliers
- Safety glasses
- Wire flush-cutters suitable for cutting up to 12-gauge wire
- Ruler and/or measuring tape

Step 1

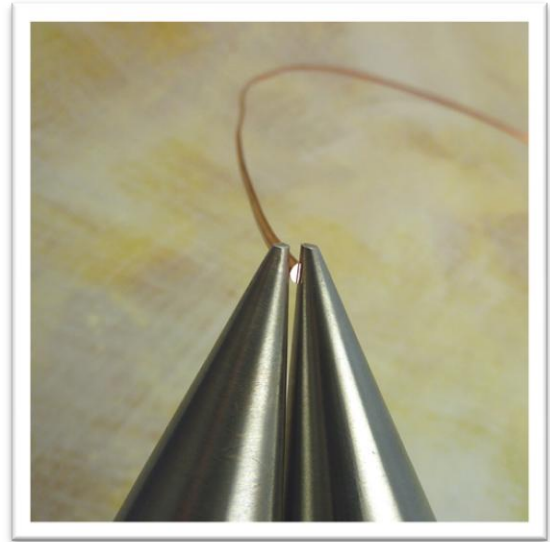
Flush-cut two pieces of 12-gauge half-round wire, each piece 30 inches in length.

Note: This measurement is an approximation. If you wish to make smaller cones, you'll need less wire.



Step 2

Place one end of the half-round wire in the tips of the jumbo tapered round mandrel pliers as shown. Your goal is to grasp the wire as close to the tips of the tool as you can, without losing your grip on the wire.



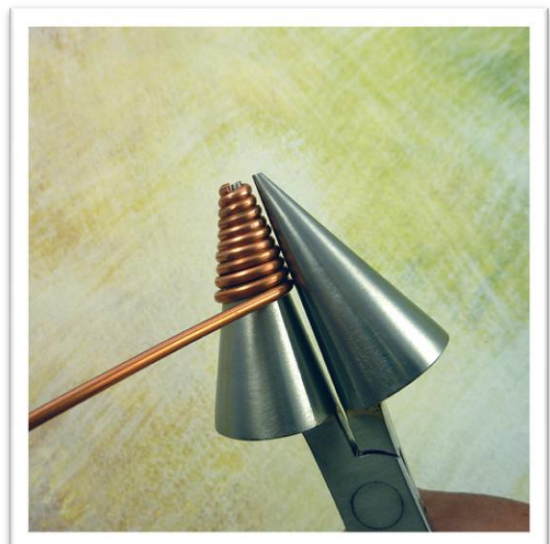
Step 3

Begin wrapping the wire around the tip of the tool, bringing the wire down toward the back of the tool as you wrap it. This will create the cone shape.



Step 4

As you wrap the wire down the tool, use your fingers to occasionally press the cone down. The wire cone has a tendency to spring up toward the tip of the tool as you wrap it, so you'll need to press it back down in place occasionally.



Step 5

Wrap until you run out of wire. A few minor gaps between each wire wrap are OK, but try to minimize these.



Step 6

Once finished, remove the cone. Use the tips of the jumbo tapered round mandrel pliers to create a small loop in the center of the back end of the cone, as indicated in the photo. Take your time with this, and be sure to close this small loop as you tug it gently to the center of the coiled wire cone.



Step 7

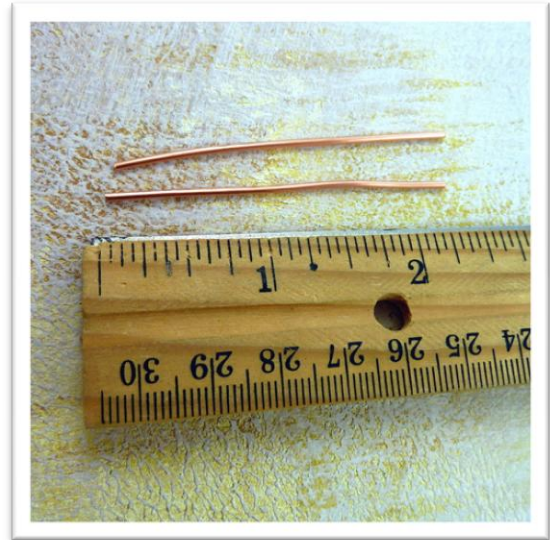
Repeat steps 1-6 to create a second wire cone with the remaining 30 inches of half-round wire. Then create two bead dangles on headpins using the beads of your choice. If you don't know how to make bead dangles on headpins, a **Wire Wrapped Bead Dangles** course on this technique has been provided on WubbersU.com.



Tip: Use lightweight beads to keep the earrings light.

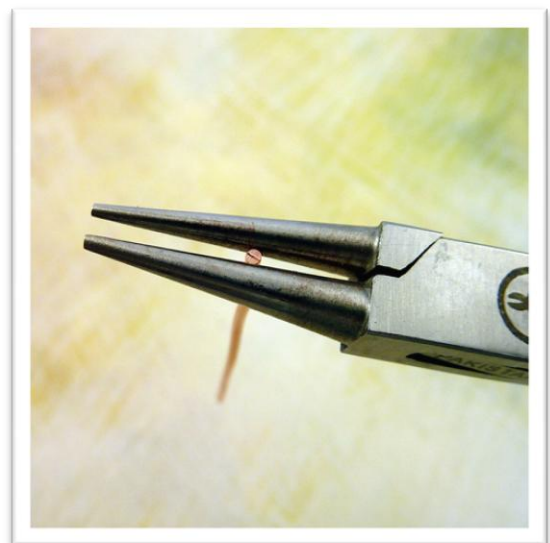
Step 8

Flush-cut two pieces of 16-gauge wire, each piece about 2-1/4 inches in length.



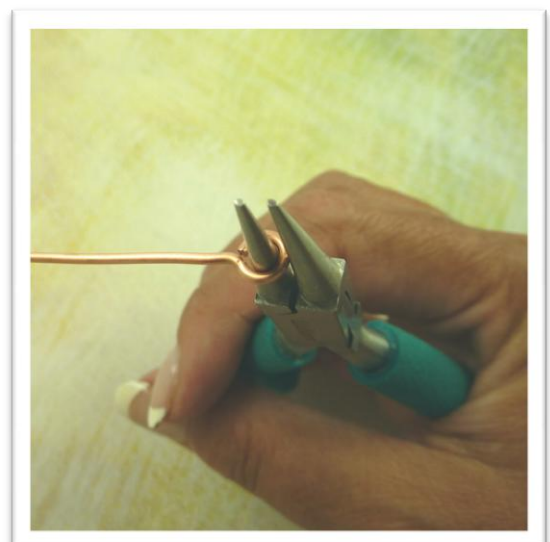
Step 9

Place one end of the wire in the middle of the baby round-nose pliers.



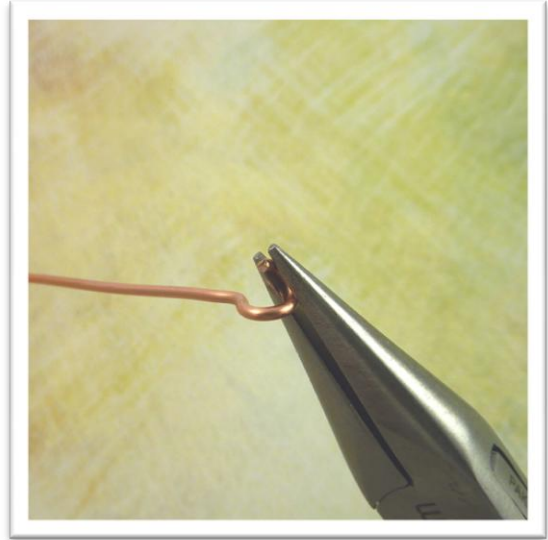
Step 10

Create a small eye-pin loop on the baby round-nose pliers as shown. Note that this is a simple eye-pin loop that is *not* wrapped. If you don't know how to make a simple eye-pin loop as pictured, a tutorial on this technique can be accessed in the **Eye-Pin Loop** course on Wubbers University.



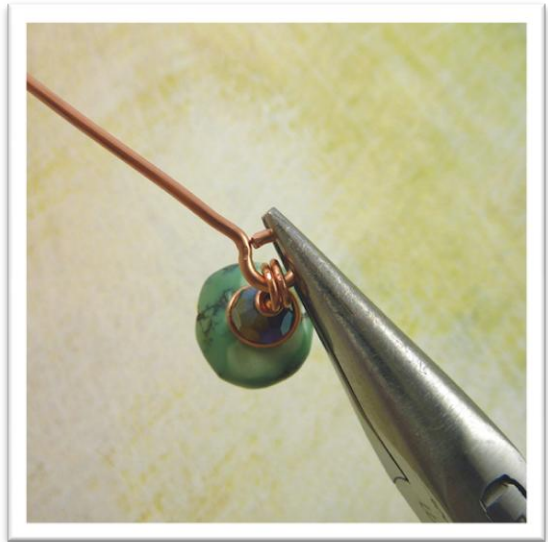
Step 11

Open the eye-pin loop sideways using chain-nose pliers.



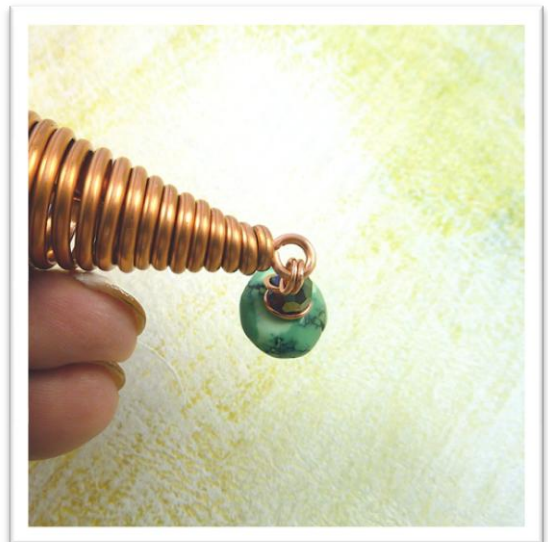
Step 12

Place a bead dangle on the eye-pin loop and then close it again, using chain-nose pliers.



Step 13

Slip the wire through the small end of the cone, with the bead dangle protruding as shown.



Step 14

Run the straight end of the wire through the loop in the center of the large end of the cone.



Step 15

Use baby round-nose pliers to create a small eye-pin loop in this end of the wire.



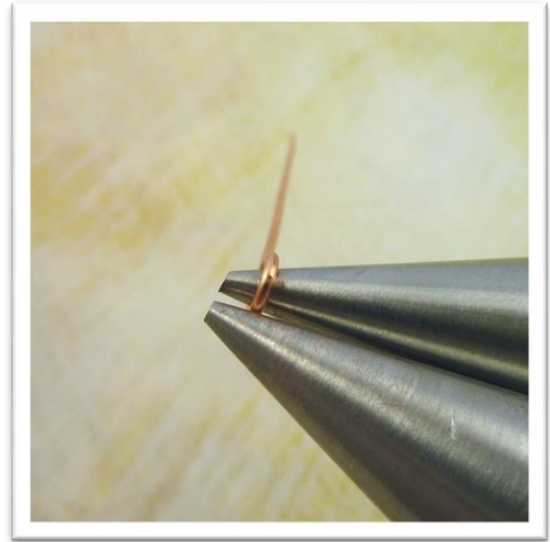
Step 16

Repeat these instructions to create two wire cones with bead dangles.



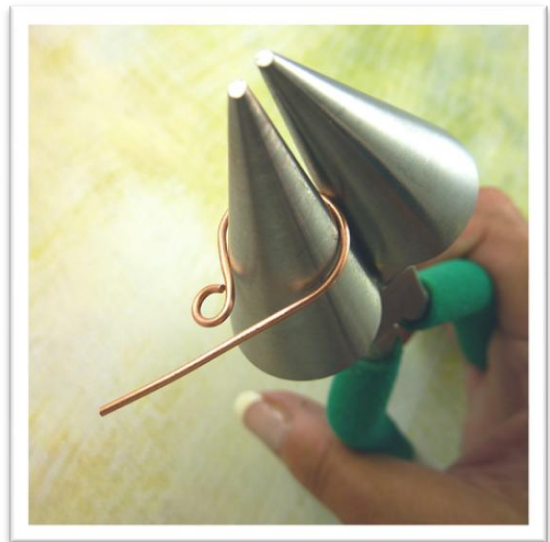
Step 17

You can now attach your cones to a pair of ear wires of your choice. If you'd like to make a simple pair of ear wires yourself, start with two pieces of 20-gauge wire, each about 3 inches long. Create a small loop on one end of each wire piece, near the tips of the jumbo tapered round mandrel pliers.



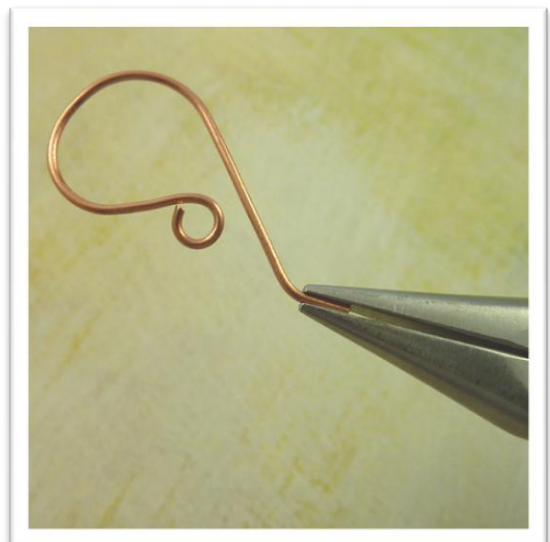
Step 18

Place the wire near the back of the pliers and bend the wire over as shown, until the small loop almost touches the wire.



Step 19

Use chain-nose pliers to gently turn up the straight end of the wire, creating a "tail" that will be easier to insert into your pierced ear. Option: File this wire end gently using a nail file or jeweler's file.



Step 20

Open the loop on the ear wire sideways using chain-nose pliers.



Step 21

Place the eye-pin loop at the top of a cone on the ear-wire's loop, and then close it sideways firmly, using chain-nose pliers. Repeat these instructions to finish the second earring, and your copper cone earrings are ready to wear!



Option: The finished earrings pictured were darkened with a solution of liver of sulfur, and then polished with 0000 steel wool from the hardware store. Instructions for this process are provided in the **Accent Texture with Liver of Sulfur** course on Wubbers University.



Review Questions

- 1) Making these earrings with half round 12 gauge wire will...
 - a) Make the earrings lighter than using 12 gauge round wire.
 - b) Make the earrings easier to match.
 - c) Make the earrings heavier than if you use 12 gauge round wire.

- 2) To make these earrings....
 - a) You place the wire at the top of the cone and work down.
 - b) You place the wire at the bottom of the cone and work up.
 - c) You can measure the wire and start in the middle, thus keeping both ends even.

- 3) The eye-pin loop must be opened...
 - a) By hammering it open.
 - b) With a pair of chain nose pliers.
 - c) After you insert the beads.

- 4) Ear wires should be made from....
 - a) The same 12 gauge half round wire used on the earring.
 - b) 26 gauge wire so they will be very light.
 - c) 20 gauge wire, which is pretty much standard size for ear wires.

5) The end of the ear wires are filed smooth....

- a) So they will be pretty.
- b) So they won't catch in long hair.
- c) So they don't hurt when you put them in your ears.