

Copper Tendrils

By Heidi Parviainen

Beginner Level

Autumn is quickly approaching and the change is in the air. The nights are cooler and the once verdant leaves are starting to change. This metamorphosis is the inspiration for my Copper Tendrils Necklace.

In this tutorial, you will learn how easy it is to make these contemporary leaf links using WUBBERS Half Round Mandrel Pliers.



Materials List

- 6 - 3 inch (7.62cm) pieces of 16 gauge (1.29mm) copper wire, half hard
- 5 - 3 inch (7.62 cm) pieces of 20 gauge (.81mm) copper wire, half hard
- 2 - 6 inch (30cm) pieces of 24 gauge (.51mm) copper wire, half hard
- 5 - top drilled green briolette beads
- 2 - 6 inch (30cm) pieces of flat suede lacing

Tools

- WUBBERS Medium Half Round Mandrel Pliers
- WUBBERS Classic Flat Nose Pliers
- WUBBERS Artisan's Mark Planishing Hammer
- Bench Block
- WUBBERS Classic Bent Nose Pliers
- WUBBERS Small Looping Pliers
- Safety glasses
- Flush Cutters
- Memory wire cutters
- Sharpie (optional)

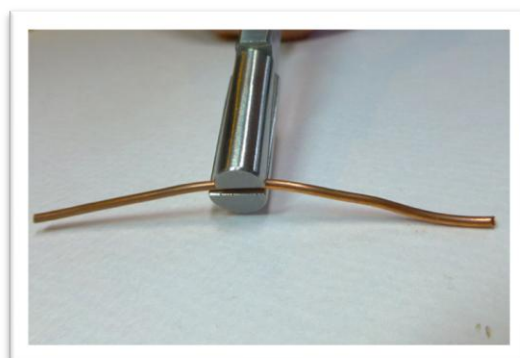
Step 1

Use memory wire cutters to cut 6 - 3 inch (7.62cm) piece of 16 gauge (1.29mm) wire.

Be sure to use safety glasses and cover the wire with your non-dominant hand as you cut.

Place the center of the wire between the jaws of the WUBBERS Medium Half Round Mandrel Pliers. Align the center point of the wire with the center point of the larger barrel, before closing the pliers.

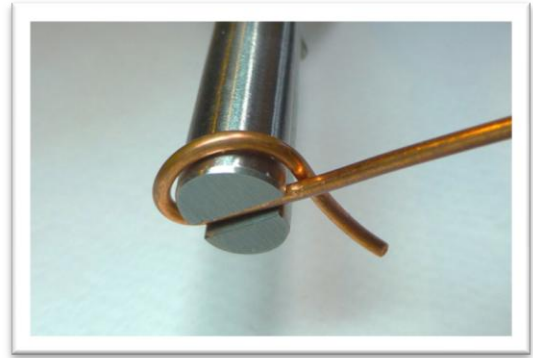
Use a Sharpie to mark both center points, if desired.



Step 2

Maintain a firm but gentle grip on the pliers to hold the wire in place.

Bend one side of the wire around the back of the larger side of the WUBBERS Medium Half Round Pliers.

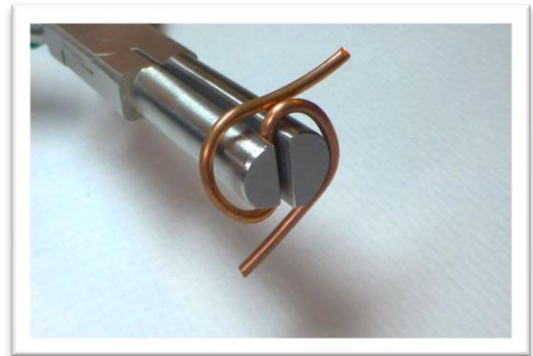


Step 3

Reverse the position of WUBBERS Medium Half Round Pliers. (Place the smaller barrel inside the half round shape just formed).

Place the edge of the larger barrel of the WUBBERS Medium Half Round Mandrel Pliers on the edge of the wire shape formed in the previous step.

Close the jaws and bend the remaining straight section of wire around the back of the WUBBERS Medium Half Round Pliers to form the shape in the illustration.



Step 4

Use WUBBERS Classic Round Nose Pliers to roll the wire away from the formed shape and form a loop on one end of the wire.



Step 5

Make another loop, in mirror image, on the opposite side.

The link will resemble a leaf.



Step 6

Place the “Leaf” link on a bench block.

Use the flat side of the WUBBERS Artisan's Mark Planishing Hammer to flatten and harden the link, by hammering both sides of the link. (Use tweezers or long nose pliers to hold the link as you hammer to prevent injury).



Step 7

Use the rounded end of the WUBBERS Artisan's Mark Planishing Hammer to add texture to the “Leaf” links.

Repeat Steps 1-7 to make a total of 6 links.



Step 8

Place the briolette on the center of a 3 inch (7.62cm) piece of 20 gauge (.81mm) wire.

Place the WUBBERS Small Looping Pliers against the side of the bead to begin a wired loop.



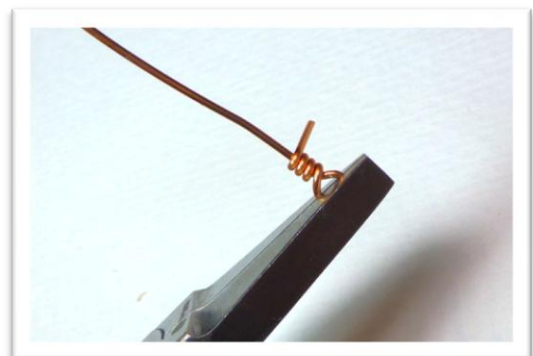
Step 9

Remove the bead from the wire and use WUBBERS Classic Flat Nose Pliers to hold the loop.

Wrap the tail of the wire around the post to form 4 coils.

Use flush cutters to trim any excess wire.

Be sure to use safety glasses and cover the wire with your non-dominant hand as you cut.

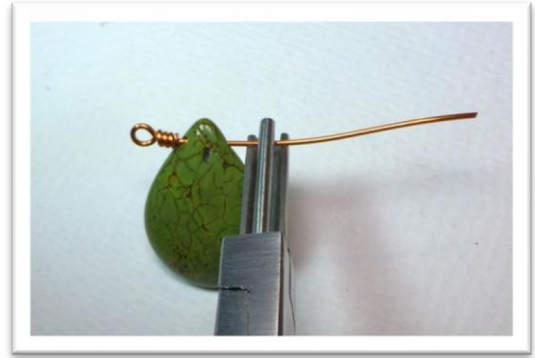


Step 10

Place the bead back onto the wire.

Rotate the wire to bring the end of the coil, the widest part, to the top side of the wire. Push the bead against the coil to ensure it is snug.

Place the WUBBERS Small Looping Pliers against the side of the briolette and begin forming a wire wrapped loop.



Step 11

After the second wrap, bend the wire stem into an upward angle. Finish the loop and trim any excess wire.

If necessary, use WUBBERS Classic Flat Nose Pliers to rotate the loops to a horizontal position, as shown in the picture.

Repeat Steps 8-11 for a total of 5 briolettes.



Step 12

Use WUBBERS Classic Bent Nose Pliers to gently twist open the loops of the "Leaf" links.



Step 13

Attach the leaf links to the briolette in mirror image.

Use WUBBERS Classic Bent Nose Pliers to close the loops of the "Leaf" links



Step 14

Attach the remaining links and briolettes in mirror image.



Step 15

Slide a piece of suede lacing through the end loop of the leaf chain, until it is centered on the loop.

Leave a 3mm tail and bend the 24 gauge (.51mm) wire at a right angle.

Place the 3mm side of the wire parallel to the suede. Hold the wire in place using WUBBERS Classic Bent Nose Pliers.

Wrap the wire around the suede until the tail is covered. Trim any excess wire using flush cutters and your safety goggles.

Use an overhand knot to tie the ends of the suede together. Repeat for the other side.



Step 16

As with all my tutorials, I encourage you to personalize it and make it your very own.

Use different wire or alternate beads, add a patina or whatever you can imagine.

Wear your piece with pride!



Review Questions

- 1) Why do I use memory wire cutters in lieu of flush cutters on the 16 gauge wire?
 - a) To avoid damaging the flush cutters
 - b) To get a cleaner cut on the end
 - c) It requires less hand strength
 - d) All of the above

- 2) Why do I use WUBBERS Classic Round Nose Pliers instead of the WUBBERS Round Mandrel Pliers to form the loops?
 - a) No reason. You could use WUBBERS Round Mandrel Pliers if you wanted.
 - b) To avoid damaging the WUBBERS Round Mandrel Pliers, as the wire gauge exceeds the recommended size.
- 3) Why do I instruct you to add pieces in mirror image?
 - a) To be confusing
 - b) To make the piece symmetrical
 - c) To add interest
- 4) What else could be made using the “Leaf” Links?
 - a) Earrings
 - b) Bracelets
 - c) Chains
 - d) All of the above
- 5) What could be used instead of suede lacing?
 - a) Chain
 - b) Ribbon
 - c) Beaded strands
 - d) All of the above