

## Fun and Funky Anodized Rings

By Christine Keller

While showing my sterling silver jewelry line to a gallery owner, she made the suggestion that I make something with colorful wire. Since I am all about color, I thought why not?! These rings are what came of that conversation. They are now a permanent part of my 'Light as a Feather' line at [Chrizart.com](http://Chrizart.com).

People love them because they are so lightweight and come in a rainbow of color combinations. I hope you enjoy making them as much as I do!



### Materials List

- 2 different colored 14" pieces of 18 gauge anodized aluminum wire (wire supplies available from [Chrizart.com](http://Chrizart.com))

### Tool List – Don't forget Safety Glasses!

- Ring mandrel
- Wire cutters
- WUBBERS Classic Chain Nose Pliers
- Safety glasses

### Step One

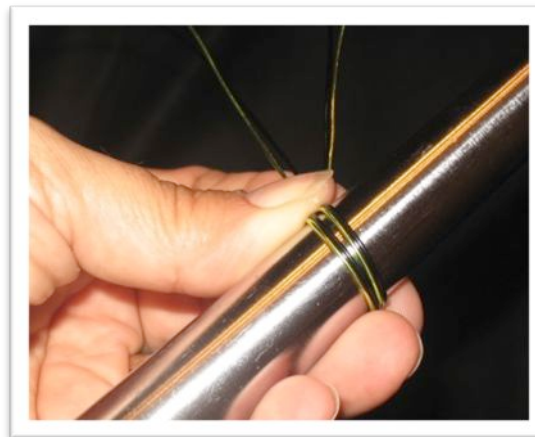
Straighten and hold the two wires side by side, and wrap them around the ring mandrel.

Tip: If you want a size 8 ring, wrap the wire around the size 9 mark on the mandrel. Always begin one size larger than your intended size.



### Step Two

Continue to wrap the wires around the mandrel a second time. You will now have four wires lying side by side. Be careful not to cross them.



### Step Three

Twist the two sets of wires as shown, pulling one set of wires down and the other set of wires first up and then down to lie parallel to the other set.



### Step Four

Continue to wrap all four wires around clockwise until a circle is formed as shown in the picture.



### Step Five

Remove the ring from the mandrel. While this is not necessary, I find it easier to work without having to hold onto the mandrel.

Place your index finger through the ring shank for support, and place the thumb of the other hand atop the four wires, a bit below the first loop. Continue to loop the wires in a clockwise direction to form a second loop as shown.

At this point you can continue with your design, making it as big and funky as you wish, simply by adding more loops on the top of the ring. Remember, there are no wrong designs!



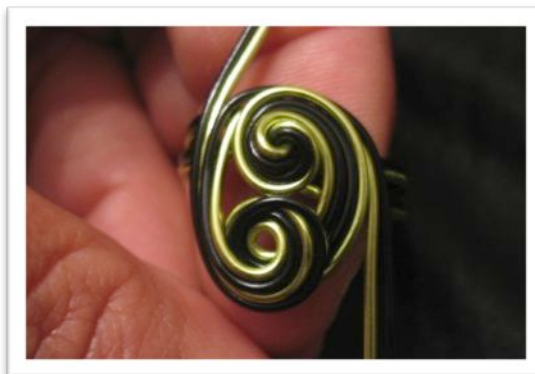
### Step Six

When the ring top is as big as you want it, bring both sets of parallel wires straight down.



### Step Seven

With one set of wires pointing straight down, loop the other set, up and around the left side of the ring, so that it is pointing straight up.



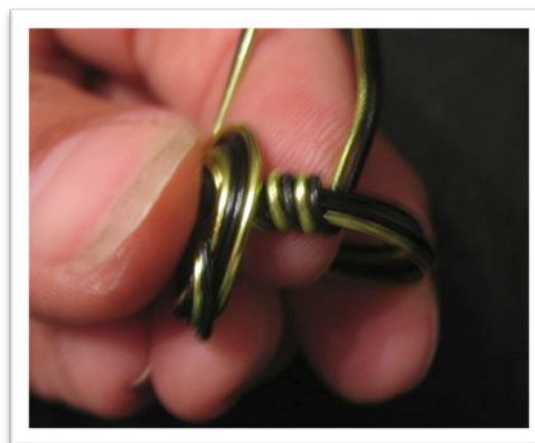
### Step Eight

Trim the two wire sets to approximately two inches.



### Step Nine

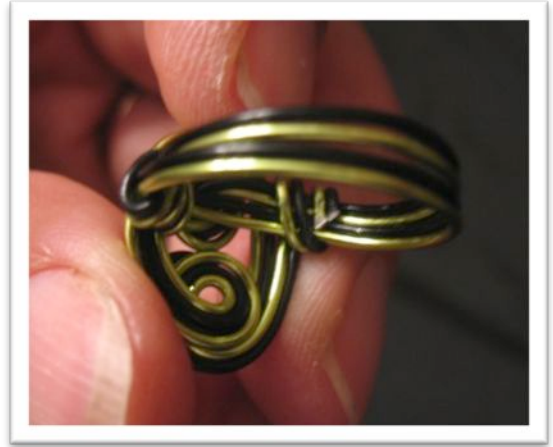
Using your fingers, loop each set of wire into and around the ring shank twice, to secure them in place. Cut the wires of both sets with wire cutters inside the shank so that the cuts are hidden. Then, snug them using Wubbers Classic Chain Nose Pliers.



**Tip:** Use care when snugging the wire. Push wire ends against the shank, and angled slightly toward the ring top. The loops should be as close as possible to avoid rough spots inside the ring shank. This metal marks very easily, so a light, even pressure works well.

### Step Ten

Place the ring back on the mandrel to round out the shank. Push the shank to the desired size.



**Tip:** Initially, the ring may be small. Gently stretching it on the mandrel will return it to your intended size.

Congratulations on your finished product! I hope you enjoy these rings as much as I have.



### Review Questions

- 1) How many wires are used to make the ring?
  - a) One
  - b) Two
  - c) Three
  - d) Four
  
- 2) If the ring is small, what can be done to make it slightly larger?
  - a) Just wear it.
  - b) Take a pair of Wubbers Jumbo Round Mandrel Pliers and stretch it.
  - c) Use a ring mandrel to gently stretch it.

- 3) True/False. When starting the wire on the ring mandrel, the starting point should be 1 size larger than the actual ring size?
- a) True
  - b) False
- 4) True/False. When you're done with the ring, it's important to solder the ends of the wire to ensure that it won't slide off your finger.
- a) True
  - b) False