

Jewel in a Little Basket

By Jane Chew

Ever wonder how to get the bead inside a little wire basket? Seem impossible? Well, this lesson shows the tricks to place a bead within the cage. But after mastering the skill, you can use it to form earrings, necklaces or bracelets.

This tutorial requires simple materials such as soft wire, ear wires and round beads. It's suitable for beginners to intermediate level of students.

These materials and tools can be purchased from your local bead and craft stores. You might contact us at diyjewelryclub@gmail.com or visit www.diylessons.org as source for materials or jewelry making kits.



Materials List

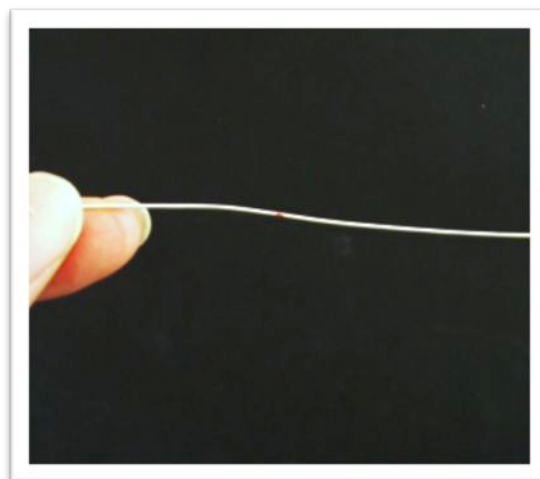
- 2 pieces of 10 ¼" (26 cm) long 21 gauge (0.7mm) round soft copper wire
- 1 pair of ear wires
- 2 pieces of approximately 2 ½" (6 cm) long 21 gauge (0.7mm) round soft copper wire
- 2 - 6mm faceted gemstones or round beads (with holes)

Tool List – Don't forget Safety Glasses!

- Wubbers Classic Round Nose Pliers
- Wubbers Classic Medium Flat Nose Pliers
- Wire cutters

Project Steps

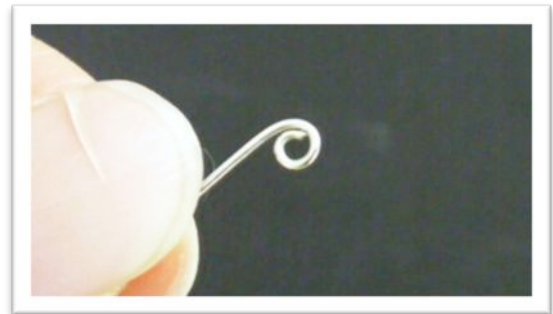
Step 1. Prepare a 10 ¼" (26cm) length of copper wire. Put a mark at the center of the wire, about 10 1/8" (13cm) from the end.



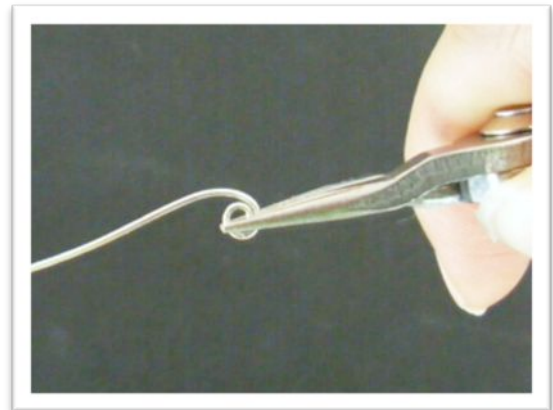
Step 2. Using the Wubbers Classic Round Nose or Wubbers Classic Flat Nose Pliers, place the wires at the tip of the pliers and curl the wire as shown in picture.



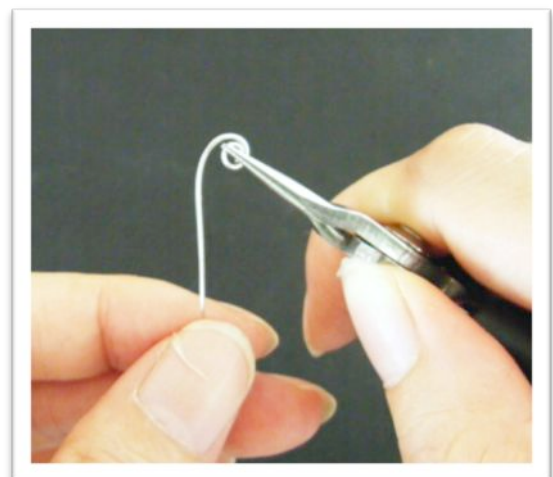
Step 3. Twist the wire and form a loop. The loop will be used as the basis to form a spiral.



Step 4. Hold the loop with the Wubbers Classic Flat Nose Pliers.



Step 5. Begin the bend by pivoting the wrist of your right hand downward to form the coil (your hand makes a clockwise turn). This is coordinated with your left hand that pulls the wire downward. You may hold the spiral at a different angle to help shape it if necessary.



Step 6. Continue twisting the spiral until the center mark is reached.

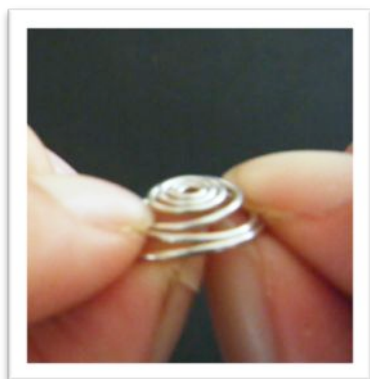


Step 7. Repeat the same process at the other end of the wire. Make sure the second spiral is in the opposite direction of the first spiral. The two coils should meet at the center and make an S shape.

Leave a little space between the coils as shown.



Step 8. Use your fingers to push the first spiral up to form a 'bowl'. Don't form the second one yet.



Step 9. Now slowly bend the 2 spirals toward one another as shown.



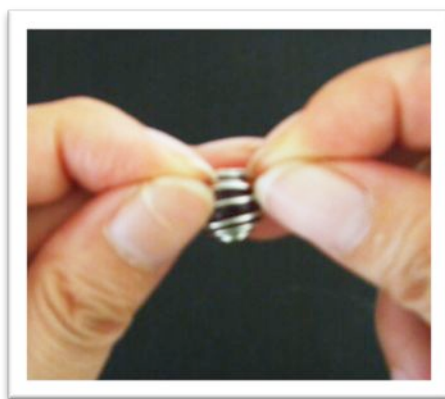
Step 10. Use your fingers to form the 'bowl' shape of the second spiral.



Step 11. Now place the bead back into the 'bowl'.



Step 12. Push the two halves together. You will need to space the wires evenly with the Wubbers Classic Flat Nose Pliers.



Step 13: Now we are ready to form the loops at the top and bottom of the cage. Thread a 2-1/2" (6 cm) wires thru the center of the spiral at the top, through the bead's hole and come out from the other end of the spiral. To make a small loop, leave about 3/8" (1 cm) of wire.



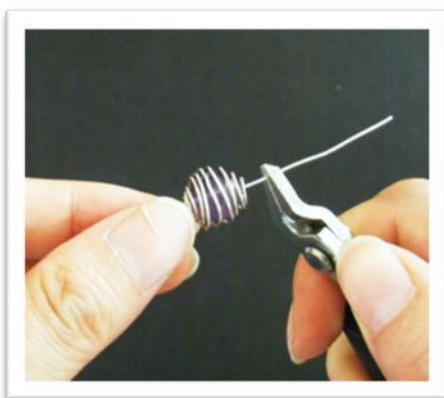
Step 14. Use your Wubbers Classic Flat Nose Pliers and press the wire to 90 a degree angle as shown in picture.



Step 15. Use the Wubbers Classic Round Nose Pliers to make a loop.



Step 16. Turn to the other side of the spiral and leave about 5/16" (8 mm) of wire. Form a loop using your round nose pliers.



Step 17. Reopen the loop slightly sideways, and place an ear wire into the loop. Close the loop.

Repeat the previous steps for the second earring.



You have just completed a pair of earrings!
I hope you have enjoyed making the jewelry...cheers!



Review Questions

- 1) To start a wire spiral, you need to use...
 - a) Wire and a pencil for winding a spiral
 - b) Wire and Wubbers Classic or Baby Round Nose Pliers
 - c) Wire and Classic or Baby Chain Nose Pliers
 - d) Either b) or c)
- 2) To space the wires evenly, you need to use...
 - a) Wubbers Classic or Baby Flat Nose pliers
 - b) A small ruler with cm/mm marking
 - c) A small planishing hammer
- 3) To form the bowl of the bead you will use...
 - a) A small dapping block and a punch
 - b) Your fingers
 - c) The round end of a chasing hammer
- 4) This technique can be used to make...
 - a) Earrings, bracelets and necklaces
 - b) Only earrings
 - c) Only a ring
- 5) True/False. Only 6 mm beads can be used in this class.
 - a) True
 - b) False