

Name Your Necklace

By Jen Cushman

Working with wire is so exciting and the designs that you can do are simply amazing. You are only limited by your own creativity. With this “written” wire necklace, think of all the things you can write. Even your favorite quote can become an entire necklace! Have fun and be creative.



Materials List

- 16 gauge dead soft wire (can be silver, brass, bronze or copper. Copper is the softest wire and the easiest to work with as you're learning. The brand Artistic Wire has a good selection of choices at great prices).
- Jump ring, chain and clasp (if you plan to make a necklace)

Tool List – Don't forget Safety Glasses!

- Wubbers Classic Round Nose Pliers
- Wubbers Classic Flat Nose Pliers
- Wire Snips
- Hammer
- Bench block
- Sharpie marker
- Safety glasses
- Piece of scrap paper

Step 1

Use a Sharpie marker to draw a word or name onto a piece of paper. Make the word as big or as small as you wish to fit the project you have in mind. For example, if making a word pendant, you might wish to scale it to what's comfortable for jewelry for you. If you're nailing it to an assemblage, you might want it larger to take up more visual space.



Tip: Use cursive lettering and be sure to add loops to the top corners if you want to make a necklace pendant of it.

Step 2

Use the round nose jewelry pliers to make a loop at the beginning letter so you have an attachment. Use your fingers to free-form manipulate the wire with your fingers to match the word you've written on the piece of paper.



Step 3

Gently hammer the wire word so the loops that are crossing each other lay a bit more flat. This also work hardens your wire so if you are wearing it, the word stays in place and does not twist and bend too much.



Step 4

Attach jump rings to the loops at each end of the necklace using the flat nose pliers. Attach the chain to the jump rings, and attach these to the end of the chain on either side.



Step 5

Attach a lobster clasp to one jump ring for closure.



Review Questions

- 1) You should add loops to the beginning and end of the first and last word...
 - a) To make it more feminine.
 - b) Triple-click the second answer.
 - c) To make the necklace longer.
 - d) For a “finding” to which you may attach the necklace.

- 2) You should hammer the wire when you have made the word because...
 - a) It will work harden the wire.
 - b) It will allow the wire to lie flat.
 - c) Both a and b.

- 3) The best pliers to use for the curves are...
 - a) Wubbers Classic Chain Nose Pliers
 - b) Wubbers Classic Round Nose Pliers
 - c) Wubbers Looping Pliers