

## Spring Links

By Sharilyn Miller

"Spring Links" are bold, chunky wire links that look great with rustic beads and pendants like my handmade ceramic pieces pictured above. I like using spring links because they're quick and easy to make and add a lot of length to necklaces and bracelets without using too much wire.

### Materials List

- 3 ft of 14 gauge round, dead-soft copper wire (18, 16, 12 gauge also works, in any metal, including colored craft wire)

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

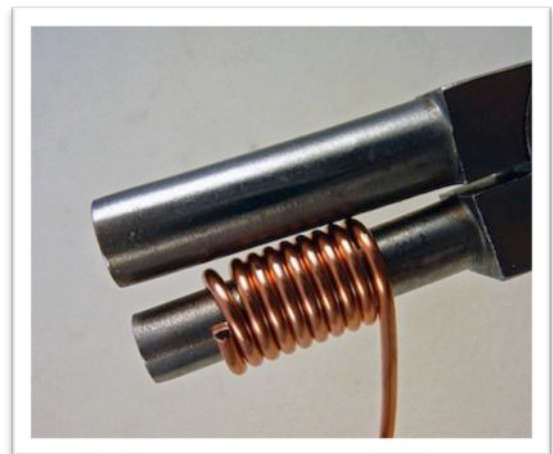
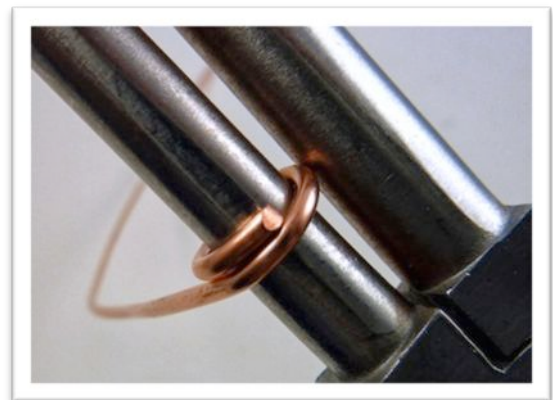
- Wubbers Large Round Mandrel Pliers
- Flush cutter (Tronex No. 5612)
- Optional: Steel bench block
- Optional: Texture hammer

### Project Steps

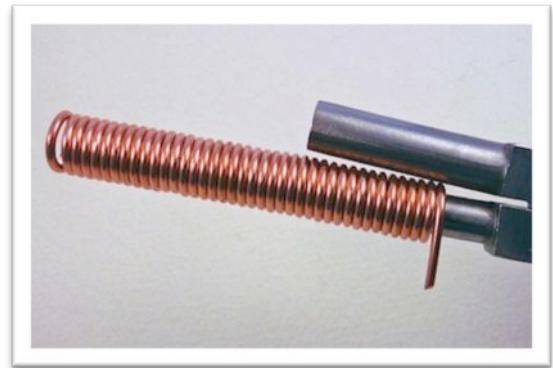
To begin, clean three to four feet of wire using 0000-steel wool or a polishing cloth. Flush-cutting the wire is not necessary at this stage. Begin to form a coil of wire on a tool such as round-nose pliers or—my personal favorite—[Wubbers Large Round Mandrel Pliers](#).

Note in the picture that the long end of the wire is coming over to the right of the cut end of the wire.

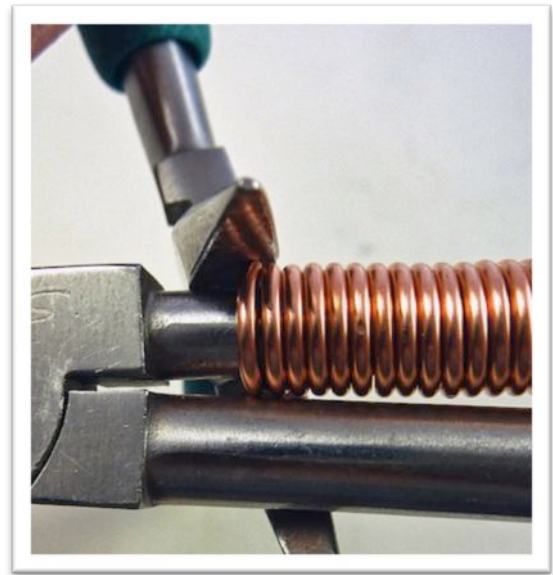
This is very important, because it will cause you to form the coil to the right, or toward the box-joint on the tool.



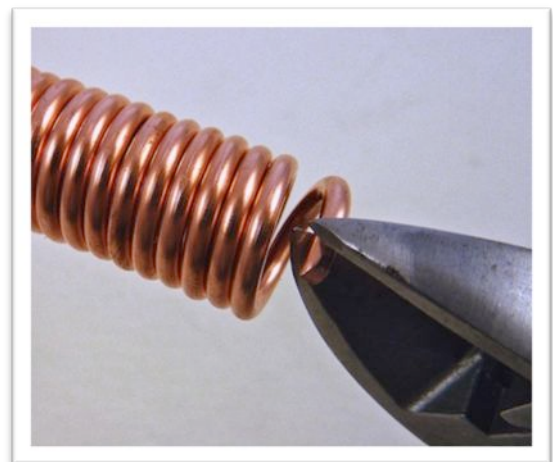
As you can see in the picture, forming the coil to the right causes it to "grow" to the left, or toward the tip of the tool. You could coil any length of wire you choose this way, and never run out of mandrel to form the coil.



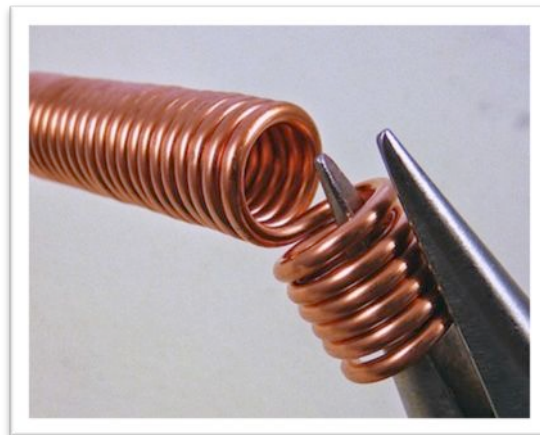
The last half-inch or so of straight wire will have to be pressed down firmly against the mandrel using either Wubbers Classic Flat Nose or Chain Nose Pliers.



Next, flush-cut one wire end using large, heavy-duty cutters such as the [Tronex \(number 5612\)](#) flush cutter.



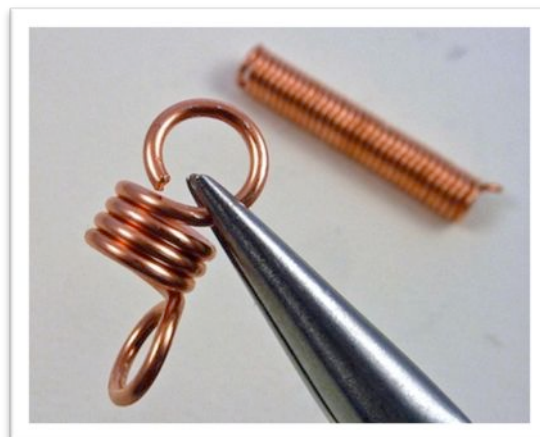
Use your Wubbers Classic Chain Nose Pliers to help count off six links in the coil, and then crank the wire back.



Flush-cut this short length of coil.



Use Wubbers Classic Chain Nose Pliers to bend up one loop on each end of the short coil.



Continue flush-cutting short coils off the long coil, and bend up a loop on each end to make lots of spring links.





Optional: Hammer the rounded edge of each loop on your spring links to add some character.



Notice that some spring links have loops that are on the same plain (bottom link shown below) and some are at right angles to each other. There's a use for each type of spring link, and it really depends on how you wish to design your jewelry.

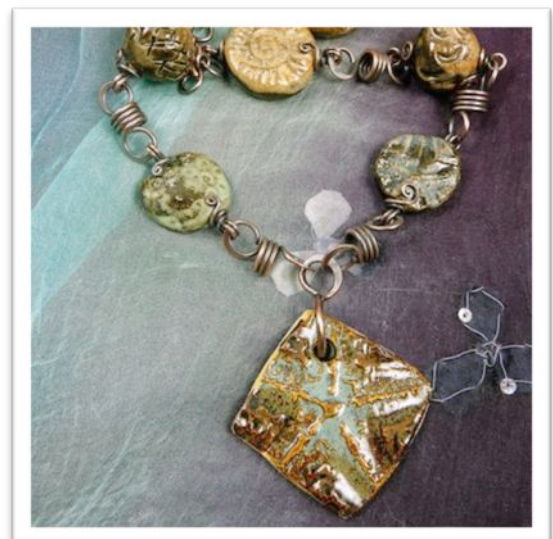


Variations on this link include:

- Making coils of different diameters
- Making coils longer or shorter
- Using different gauges of wire
- Using different metal colors; i.e. copper, silver, gold-filled or brass

I hope you've enjoyed this free tutorial! If you like having your instructions on video, I offer four very popular instructional DVDs in [my Etsy store](#) ([www.etsy.com/shop/SharilynMillerDesign](http://www.etsy.com/shop/SharilynMillerDesign)).

Happy wrapping!



## Review Questions

- 1) Which Wubbers tools were used in this tutorial?
  - a) Wubbers flush cutters
  - b) Wubbers Large Round Mandrel Pliers
  - c) Wubbers Classic Chain Nose or Flat Nose Pliers
  - d) Both b) and c)
  
- 2) True/False. Hammering the ends of each Spring Loop adds character.
  - a) True
  - b) False
  
- 3) Each link has how many loops?
  - a) 3
  - b) 4
  - c) 5
  - d) 6
  
- 4) True/False. This technique can be used with different gauges of wire.
  - a) True
  - b) False