

# How to Make Teardrop Earring Findings

By Heidi Henke

In this class I will show you how to create teardrop earrings using Wubbers Round Mandrel Pliers.

With five different sizes of Wubbers Round Mandrel Pliers, you can have a wide range of sizes of teardrop shapes that lends itself well to jewelry designs.

The advantage of using Mandrel Pliers is that your findings will be consistently sized, which is especially important when making matching earring findings.



## Materials List

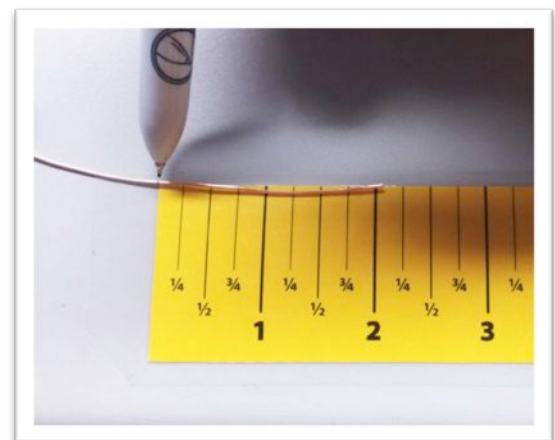
- 20-gauge wire (copper shown)

## Tool List

- Wubbers Jumbo Round Mandrel Pliers
- Your choice of a smaller set of Wubbers Round Mandrel Pliers (I would suggest X-Large or Large) to create the teardrop shape
- Wubbers Classic Round Nose Pliers
- Wubbers Classic Medium Flat Nose or Chain Nose Pliers
- Wubbers Small Round Mandrel Pliers
- Wire Cutters
- Ruler
- Permanent marker
- Acrylic nail file or metal file
- Jewelry tumbler set up (optional)

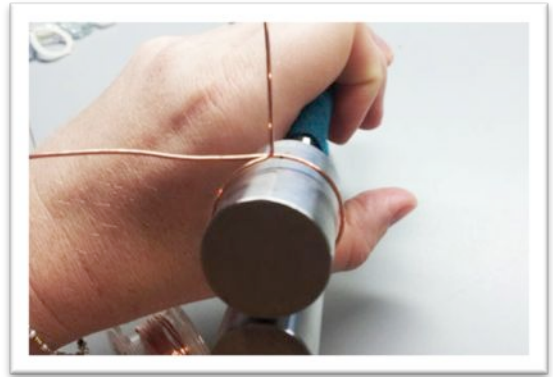
## Step 1

Measure out 2" of the 20-gauge wire and mark with a permanent marker.



## Step 2

Wrap the wire around the larger side of the Wubbers Jumbo Round Mandrel Pliers to form a loop. Find where the mark of the permanent marker is on the loop; make a 90° bend in the other wire at the point of the mark.

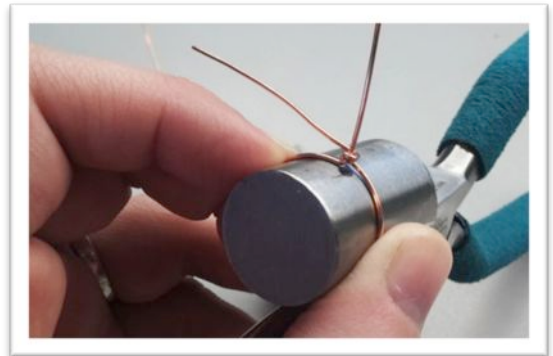


## Step 3

Next, wrap the “tail” twice around the wire that was bent 90°. Don’t wrap too many times, or there may not be enough wire left to create the loop for the dangle.

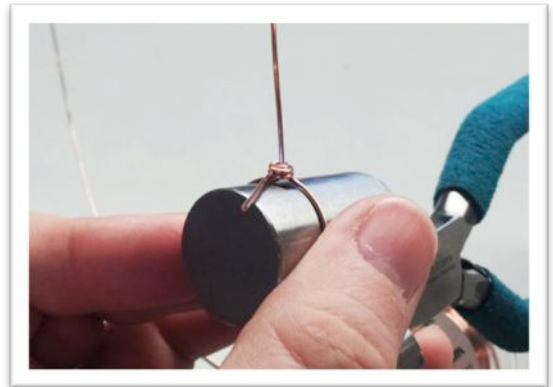
For the findings without the extra loop for a dangle, trim the wire after wrapping twice.

Use your thumb and forefinger to hold the wire against the mandrel as you wrap. Keeping the wire tight will ensure that the teardrop shapes will be the same size.



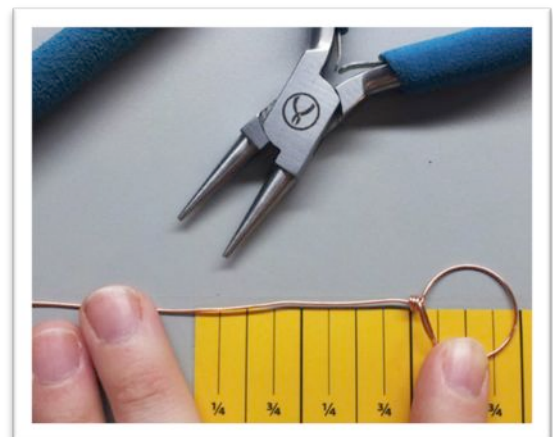
## Step 4

Now, bring the wire down and wrap over the two wraps completed in the previous step.



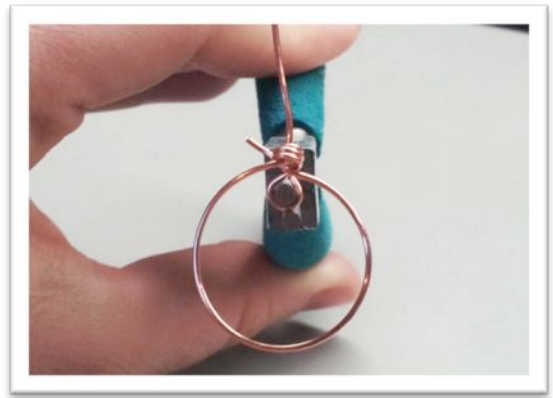
## Step 5

If you are working from a coil and it is difficult to maneuver, trim the wire that goes through the ear to 2” in length. Keep it straight at this point.



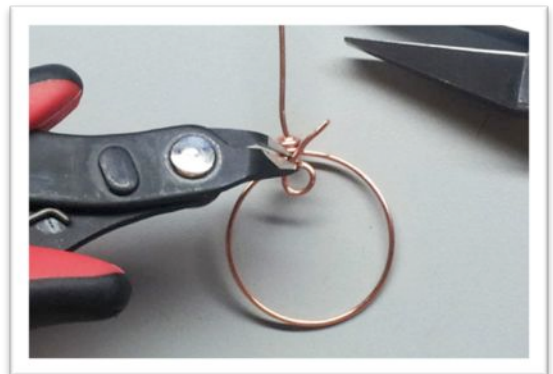
### Step 6

Wrap the short “tail” around the jaw of the Wubbers Small Mandrel Pliers to form a loop.



### Step 7

Trim any extra wire. Bend the loop to a 90° angle away from the coil. This will keep the small loop out of the way as we form the teardrop shape in the next step.



### Step 8

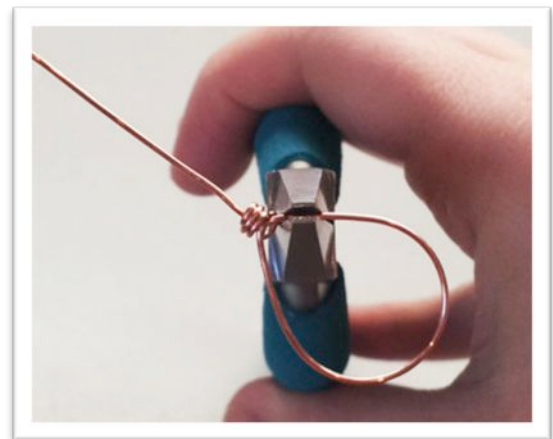
Decide on the size of the teardrop. A smaller mandrel will produce a longer, skinnier teardrop. A larger mandrel will make a shorter, wider teardrop. In the photo, I am using the smaller jaw of the Wubbers Jumbo Round Mandrel Pliers.

Put the loop onto the desired mandrel, then using either the Wubbers Classic Chain Nose Pliers or Wubbers Classic Medium Flat Nose Pliers, grasp the straight wire and pull up firmly. Stretch the wire into a teardrop shape.



### Step 9

The top of the teardrop is still slightly curved near the coil. Use the Wubbers Classic Medium Flat Nose Pliers to gently and carefully straighten the wire adjacent to the coil to refine the teardrop shape.



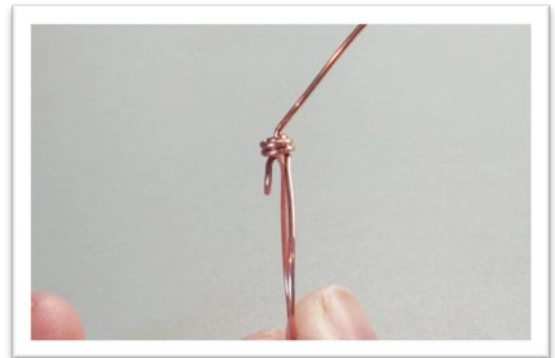
### Step 10

Bend the small loop back into place.



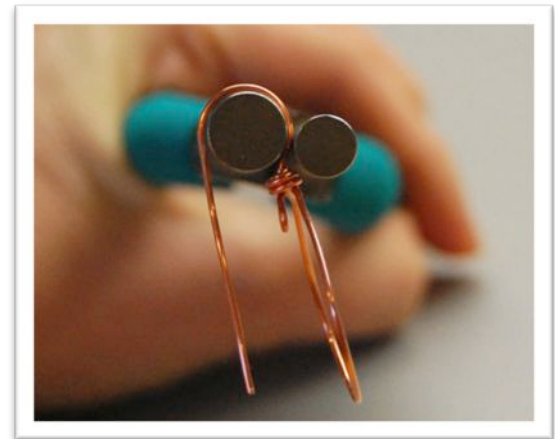
### Step 11

For the ear wire, make a 45° bend in the wire with the Wubbers Classic Chain Nose Pliers.



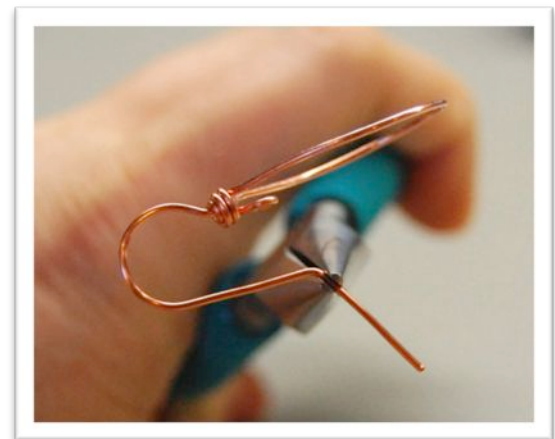
### Step 12

Wrap the wire around the larger jaw of the Wubbers Large Round Mandrel Pliers.



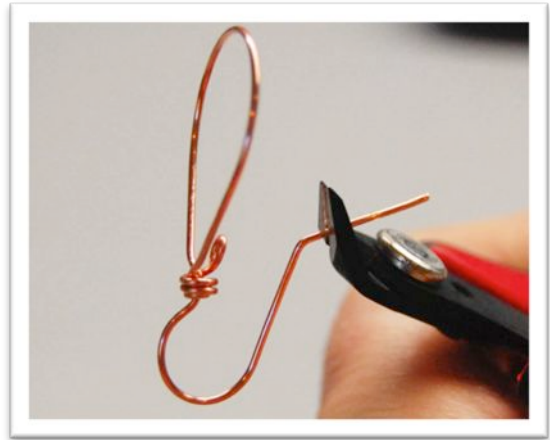
### Step 13

Use the Wubbers Classic Chain Nose Pliers or Wubbers Classic Medium Flat Nose Pliers to create a bend in the wire.



### Step 14

Trim to length with flush cutters. File the end of the ear wire with the acrylic nail file or sandpaper to remove the sharp edges.



### Step 15

The teardrop shape is now complete.



Repeat the steps to make a matching ear wire finding. Tumble the ear wires to work-harden the metal. If you are new to tumbling jewelry, you can learn how in our class [Tumbling Magic 101](#) under the **Tips & Tricks** category.

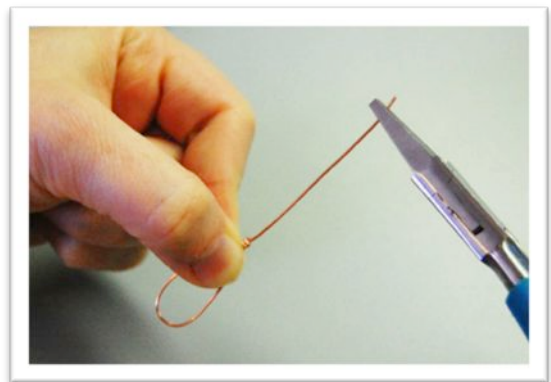
Alternatively, you can hammer the teardrop and the bend in the ear wire lightly to work-harden the metal with a rawhide mallet on a steel bench block.



### Helpful Tip

If you do not have a tumbler or rawhide mallet, here's another way to work-harden the wire that goes through the ear.

Holding the teardrop firmly, grasp the end of the wire with Wubbers Classic Medium Flat Nose Pliers. Twist the wire several times in a back-and-forth motion. This movement will harden the wire, making it hold its shape after bending it into an ear hook shape.



Attach beads to the center loop, and embellish as desired.

You can learn how to wire wrap the outside loop in my class that builds upon this one, **Wire Wrapped Teardrop Earrings**.

Enjoy!



### Review Questions

- 1) What gauge wire is best for earrings?
  - a) 14-gauge
  - b) 20-gauge
  - c) 30-gauge
  - d) 8-gauge
- 2) The first loop, made around the large jaw of the Wubbers Jumbo Round Mandrel Pliers, doesn't need to be tight.
  - a) False. This loop will become the teardrop shape. To ensure a consistent size, you should hold the wire tightly against the mandrel when coiling the wire to create the loop.
  - b) True.
- 3) If you want to create a long, skinny teardrop shape, you should choose a smaller sized mandrel to stretch the teardrop into shape.
  - a) True. The smaller the mandrel, the skinner the teardrop shape will become when you stretch it into shape.
  - b) False.
- 4) To finish the portion that goes through the ear, you should use what size of Wubbers Round Mandrel Pliers?
  - a) Jumbo
  - b) Large - The larger jaw of the Large Mandrel Pliers is the perfect size for creating comfortable ear wires.
  - c) Small