

Making Wire Jewelry:
6 FREE
wire designs *from* beadingdaily



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Making Wire Jewelry: 6 FREE wire designs *from* beadingdaily

When I first learned how to create wire-wrapped loops, I reluctantly bought a 20-foot spool of craft wire for practicing. My local bead shop convinced me it was a good deal, but I still had my doubts. I drove home thinking, *I will never use this much wire in my entire life.*

Boy, was I wrong! Every night I pulled out my pliers and my spool of wire and started creating: Dangly charm bracelets with dozens of wrapped loops. Pairs and pairs of chandelier earrings. Beaded chain. Wire-wrapped links. Crazy coiled and spiraled pendants. Soon I was hammering the wire, twisting it, oxidizing it, and generally inflicting massive amounts of wire abuse—all in my quest for beautiful wire jewelry.

Years later, I can't help smiling when I think of that first spool of wire that disappeared so quickly. Now I have an entire drawer for all the different types of wire I've managed to collect: copper, sterling silver, craft wire in a rainbow of colors, dead soft, half hard, every gauge and shape imaginable . . .

Whether you've just bought your first spool of wire or have an entire drawer, you're sure to enjoy this collection of six wireworking projects of all types. Cerulean Falls, an easy necklace by *Stringing* editor Danielle Fox, requires just wrapped loops and jump rings for sweet and stylish results. In Full Bloom shows you how to combine wrapped loops and pearls to create beautiful beaded chain. With Gypsy Wire Bangle, you'll learn to create a custom wire bracelet covered with coils for a free-spirited look. Use up wire scraps with the dainty Dancing Spirals earrings or showcase your precious gemstones using wire frames with Freeform Wire Earrings. Finish your wire workout with a classic wire-wrapped Ring-a-Ding Ring that's sized perfectly just for you. Enjoy!

Michelle

Michelle Mach
Beading Daily editor

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MAKING WIRE JEWELRY:
6 FREE WIRE DESIGNS FROM
BEADING DAILY

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Cerulean Falls

design by Danielle Fox

Originally published in *Beadwork*, February/March 2008.

This necklace is marked by a mixture of bluish gray stones cascading down a piece of chain that ends in a pretty flower pendant. And it's as simple as it is stylish—just form six wrapped loops and open and close four jump rings—that's it!

MATERIALS

- 1 smoky topaz 4×2mm rondelle
- 2 labradorite 12×10mm faceted briolettes
- 2 kyanite 8–10×12–15mm nuggets
- 1 chalcedony 15×22mm faceted nugget
- 1 Thai silver 27×40mm flower pendant
- 1 Thai silver 13mm irregularly shaped ring
- 1 sterling silver 7×17mm marquis-shaped lobster clasp
- 1 Thai silver 22-gauge 2" flower-end head pin
- 2 sterling silver 22-gauge 2" ball-end head pins
- 1 sterling silver 24-gauge 2" ball-end head pin
- 4 sterling silver 6mm jump rings
- 16" of sterling silver 5×9mm oval chain
- 6" of sterling silver 22-gauge wire

TOOLS

- Wire cutters
- Chain-nose pliers
- Flat-nose pliers
- Round-nose pliers

TECHNIQUE

- Wireworking

FINISHED SIZE

15½"



Ann Swanson

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Step 1: Use 1 jump ring to attach one end of 1" of chain to the pendant. Repeat to attach the other end of the chain to the irregularly shaped ring.

Step 2: Use 1 jump ring to attach one end of 14½" of chain to the irregularly shaped ring. Repeat to attach the other end of the chain to the clasp.

Step 3: Use the 24-gauge head pin to string the chalcedony nugget; form a wrapped loop that attaches to the first link of the chain above the pendant.

Step 4: Use a 22-gauge ball-end head pin to string 1 kyanite nugget; form a wrapped loop that attaches to the next chain link. Use 3" of wire to form a wrapped-loop bail with 1 labradorite briolette that attaches to the same link.

Step 5: Repeat Step 4, attaching the kyanite dangle to the next chain link, and the labradorite dangle to the jump ring that joins the link to the irregularly shaped ring. Use the flower-end head pin to string the smoky topaz rondelle; form a wrapped loop that attaches to the link with the last kyanite dangle. ♦

RESOURCES

Check your local bead shop or contact: Labradorite: Anil Kumar, (510) 498-8455. Kyanite: Elan, ellenwells@mac.com. Chalcedony: Desert Gems, (303) 426-4411, www.desertgemsinc.com. Thai silver pendant, ring, and flower-end head pin: Shiana, www.shiana.com. Clasp: Fusionbeads.com, (888) 781-3559. Chain: Beading House, (877) 496-8663, www.beadingshouse.com.



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In Full Bloom

design by Ricky Talmage

Originally published in *Stringing* online.

This necklace of aquamarine and pearl pays tribute to summer's lingering blooms.

MATERIALS

- 28 white 4×3mm button pearls
- 1 white 6mm potato pearl
- 14 aquamarine 8mm faceted rounds
- 1 teal 10×20mm ceramic flower charm
- 1 teal 25×45mm ceramic 3-loop flower pendant
- 28 sterling silver 4mm daisy spacers
- 1 sterling silver 8×25mm hook-and-eye clasp with soldered 6mm jump rings
- 14 sterling silver 4×6mm oval jump rings
- 22½" of sterling silver 26-gauge wire

TOOLS

- Wire cutters
- Chain-nose pliers
- Round-nose pliers

TECHNIQUE

Wirework

FINISHED SIZE

17¾"



Ann Swanson

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Step 1: Use 1½" of wire to form a wrapped loop that attaches to the ceramic charm. String the potato pearl and form a wrapped loop that attaches to the bottom loop of the pendant.

Step 2: Use 1½" of wire to form a wrapped loop that attaches to one of the top loops of the pendant. String 1 button pearl, 1 daisy spacer, 1 aquamarine round, 1 daisy spacer, and 1 button pearl; form a wrapped loop. Repeat entire step, using the other top pendant loop.

Step 3: Use 1½" of wire to form a wrapped loop. String 1 button pearl, 1 daisy spacer, 1 aquamarine round, 1 daisy spacer, and 1 button pearl; form a wrapped loop. Repeat entire step eleven times for a total of 12 links.

Step 4: Use 1 oval jump ring to attach one of the free wrapped loops from Step 2 to one end of 1 link.

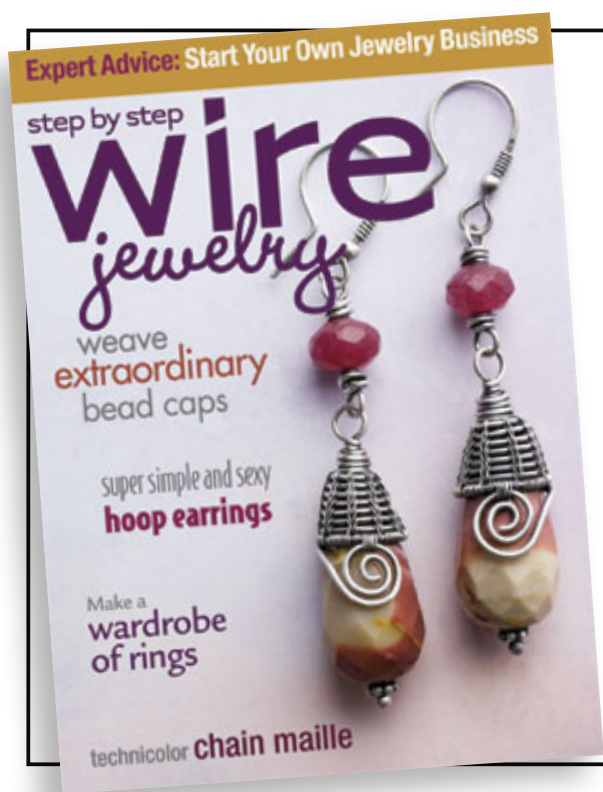
Step 5: Use 1 oval jump ring to attach the free end of the previous link to one end of 1 link. Repeat four times for a total of 7 attached links.

Step 6: Use 1 oval jump ring to attach the free end of the previous link to one half of the clasp.

Step 7: Repeat Steps 4–6 for the other half of the necklace, attaching the last oval jump ring to the other half of the clasp. ♦

RESOURCES:

Check your local bead shop or contact: Pearls and aquamarine: Park Ave Beads, (516) 221-7167, www.parkavebeads.com. Ceramic pendant and charm: Earthenwood Studio, (248) 548-4793, www.earthenwoodstudio.com. All other beads and findings: Fire Mountain Gems and Beads, (800) 423-2319, www.firemountaingems.com.



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Step by Step Wire Jewelry is the only magazine devoted to bringing you the very best in wire! In every issue you'll find expert advice from premier wire artists, 12–15 original jewelry projects with full-color step-by-step photographs, and the newest wire trends and designs.

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Gypsy Wire Bangle

design by Janice Berkebile

Originally published in *Beadwork*, April/May 2006.



Joe Coca

This bracelet was made using a figure-eight technique borrowed from coiled-wire basketry and applied to large-gauge wire. The base wire is wrapped with coils of fine silver wire and loops are formed along the way from which a multitude of pearls and crystals dangle for movement and sparkle.

MATERIALS

33 foil-lined 6–8mm dichroic glass rounds
5 green 9×10mm pressed-glass ovals
38 assorted silver bead caps
12" of sterling silver 14-gauge wire
6' of fine silver 18-gauge wire
38 sterling silver 1" ball-end head pins or 76" of fine silver 22-gauge wire to make your own head pins
Cup of cool water
Liver of sulphur or blackening solution

TOOLS

Round-nose pliers
Chain-nose pliers
Long round-nose pliers
Butane torch (if making your own head pins)
Solderite pad
Tweezers
Chasing hammer
Pounding block and pad
Marker
Measuring tape
Jeweler's rouge and buffing tools

TECHNIQUE

Wirework

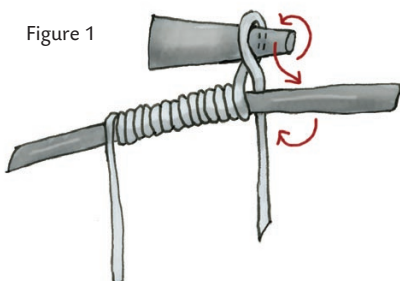
FINISHED SIZE

7½"

Step 1: Base wire. Use the widest section of the jaws of the long round-nose pliers to form a simple loop at the very end of the 14-gauge wire. Use the marker to mark 11 points on the wire, one every 1/2".

Step 2: Coils. Leaving a 1 1/2" tail at the start next to the simple loop, coil the 18-gauge wire tightly around the base until you reach the first mark, about 13 coils.

Step 3: Loops. Hold the round-nose pliers at the top of the base wire, so the coiling wire is about 3/4" from the tip. Coil the wire in the opposite direction all the way around one jaw of the pliers; continue around to the other side of the base wire, forming a figure eight (Figure 1).



Step 4: Work coils and loops for about 6". Bend the coiled base wire into a circle and fit it around your wrist to test the size; keep in mind that the clasp will take up about 3/4" from the ends of the coils. If in doubt, make the bangle smaller—you can always add jump rings to extend it.

Step 5: Clasp. With the coil tight to the first base loop, use the chain-nose pliers to make a 90° bend at the other end of the base wire to lock the coil in place. Use the widest point of the round-nose pliers to turn the end of the base wire into a simple loop that will interlock with the first loop (Figure 2). Cut off the beginning tail and the excess coiling wire.

Figure 2



Step 6: Pound each base-wire loop with the head of the chasing hammer, then flip the hammer over to use the peen side to distress the metal.

Step 7: Head pins. Set up the torch on a noncombustible solderite pad. Cut 2" of fine silver wire for each head pin. Hold the wire with tweezers as you place one end of the wire into the flame until it balls up. Place in water until cool. Repeat for all 2" pieces of wire.

Step 8: Use 1 head pin to string 1 bead and 1 bead cap; form a wrapped loop that attaches to one of the coiling-wire loops. Repeat to attach three bead danglers to each loop. Add an additional pressed-glass oval/bead cap dangle to every other coiling-wire loop.

Step 9: Place the bracelet in a liver of sulphur or blackening solution. Rinse and buff. ♦

RESOURCES

Check your local bead shop for any of these materials or contact: All materials: Beads & Beyond, (425) 462-8992.

Bling is in!

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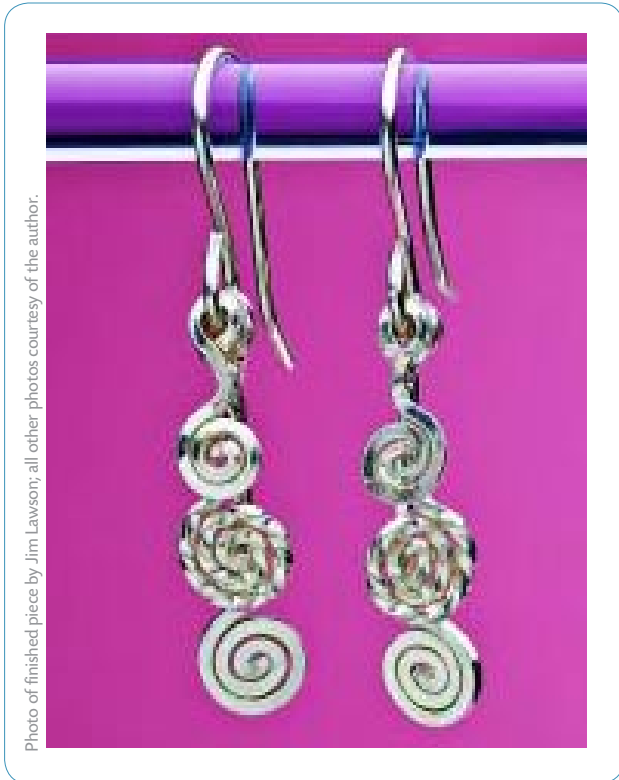
Available as a download or DVD at Interweavestore.com



Dancing Spirals

design by Heather Trundle

Originally published in *Step By Step Wire Jewelry* online.



These down-to-earth earrings have a wonderful surprise ... they dance! As you stand still, the earrings line up in a stack of spirals. When you move, the spirals dance around! Simple to create and best of all—the longest piece of wire you'll use is only 2". These earrings are a great project for all the scrap wire that is lying around your beading surface.

MATERIALS

20-gauge square soft sterling wire, 9"
Pair of sterling earwires

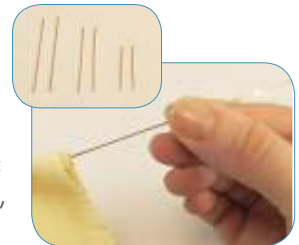
TOOLS

Flat-nose pliers
Round-nose pliers
Chain-nose pliers
Flush cutters
Ruler
Pin vise
Ultra-fine marker
Polishing cloth

TECHNIQUES

Wirework, coiling, twisting

Step 1: Take the 9" piece of wire, and run it through a polishing cloth to straighten and clean. Cut the wire into the following lengths: two pieces at 1", two pieces at 1.5", and two pieces at 2".



Step 2: Decide if you want to twist any of the wires for the spirals. For this tutorial, the middle spirals (1.5") will be twisted. To twist the wire, insert 1/8" of the wire into the tip of the pin vise, and tighten down so the wire will not slip out.



Step 3: With chain nose pliers, grab the tip of the wire with the tip of the pliers, and put some tension between the pin vise and pliers.



Step 4: Twist the pin vise while holding the chain-nose pliers still. Twist until you have achieved the desired tightness. Repeat on the other piece of 1.5" wire.



Step 5: With each piece of wire, create small simple loops by grabbing the tips of the wire with the tips of the round-nose pliers.



Step 6: Take the smallest length of wire (1" piece), grab the wire just beneath the loop with chain-nose pliers, and bend the length of wire 90° at that point.



Step 7: With the tips of the round-nose pliers, grab the tip of the wire, and create a small loop. With flat-nose pliers, close the loop as much as you can.



Step 8: With flat-nose pliers, start rolling the wire until you reach the 90° bend creating a spiral. This will create the top spiral for the earrings. Repeat Steps 6-8 for the other 1" piece of wire.



Step 9: Take a medium length wire (1.5" twisted piece), and place it in front of one of the first spirals that you made, matching up the loops. At the point where the medium length wire extends past the spiral, mark that spot with the ultra-fine marker.



Step 10: At the mark, use flat-nose pliers to create a 90° bend. Create a spiral, until you reach the bend. Repeat Steps 9-10 for the other 1.5" twisted piece.



Step 11: Using the medium spiral you have just created, take the longest length of wire (2"), and match up the loops. At the point where the longest length of wire extends past the spiral, mark the spot with the ultra-fine marker.



Step 12: At the mark, use flat nose pliers to create a 90° bend. Create a spiral, until you reach the bend. Repeat Steps 11- 12 for the other 2" piece.



Step 13: Open one of the earwires, and thread on the longest spiral, the medium spiral, and the smallest spiral. Close the earwire. Check to ensure which way the spirals are oriented, and orient them all in the same direction for each earring. Repeat for the other earring, ensuring that the spirals are oriented in the opposite direction. ♦



RESOURCE:

Pin vises can be found at www.findingking.com.

Freeform Wire Earrings

design by Leeza Khoury

Originally published in *Step By Step Wire Jewelry* online.



Earrings Version 1: right (brown), Earrings Version 2: left (purple).

Photo of finished piece by Jim Lawson; all other photos courtesy of the author.

Two versions of beautiful framed earrings, with stones and crystals.

Leeza designed these earrings while working at Turquoise-String Beads in Fall River, Massachusetts. The owner of the store, Nancy Valentine, had some gorgeous semiprecious beads and asked Leeza to use them in a funky, freeform wire earring. These are hot sellers at their store.

MATERIALS

Version 1 Earrings:

22-gauge round sterling wire, 18"
15mm×20mm rectangular semiprecious stones, 2
Sterling earwires, 1 pair
Sterling head pins, 2
4mm crystal bicones, 4
4mm sterling daisy spacers, 2
1mm×1mm sterling microcrimps, 4
6mm crystal bicones or donuts, 2

Version 2 Earrings:

22-gauge sterling round wire, 16"
18mm×25mm rectangular semiprecious stones, 2
Sterling earwires, 1 pair
Sterling head pins, 2
4mm crystal bicones, 4
6mm crystal bicones or donuts, 2

TOOLS

Chain-nose pliers
Round-nose pliers
Flush cutters
Microcrimping pliers

TECHNIQUES

Wirework, coiling, twisting

VERSION 1 EARRINGS

Step 1: Cut the wire into two 9" pieces. Take one piece, and make a wrapped loop about 1¼" down from the end of the wire. Trim the excess wire from the loop, leaving a long tail. Add one semiprecious stone, and wrap another loop on the other side of the stone, but this time DO NOT cut off the excess.



Step 2: Making sure the end of the wire is parallel the top horizontal line of the stone, place the chain-nose pliers about ¼" away from the stone, and make a 90° angle.



Step 3: Continue this process along the side and bottom of the stone, and wrap around the wrapped loop once to anchor the wire, then go up the other side of the stone.



Step 4: When bending the wire, going back up toward the top, add a microcrimp, a 4mm crystal, a daisy spacer, a 4mm crystal, and microcrimp. Use the top slot ONLY of the microcrimping pliers to secure the microcrimps so everything is lined up halfway up the stone.



Step 5: Make a 90° angle, bring the wire up parallel to the top of the stone where you first started, and anchor it around the wrapped loop. Snip off the rest of the wire and tuck in any sharp ends.



Step 6: Attach the earwire to the top loop. Place a 6mm bicone or donut onto a head pin, wrap a loop, and attach it to the bottom loop of the earring. Repeat Steps 1-6 for the other earring, making sure it is a mirror image of the first earring.



VERSION 2 EARRINGS

Step 1: Cut the wire into two 8" pieces. Take one piece and make a wrapped loop about 1¼" down from the end of the wire. Trim the excess from the loop, leaving a long tail. Add on a semiprecious stone, and wrap another loop on the other side, but this time DO NOT cut off the remainder of your wire.



Step 2: End the wire in front of the stone, and put one 4mm crystal bicone onto the wire. Place the bicone close to the top of the stone, and hold it in place. Note: It is easier to twist the wire around the stone "in the air," then up against the stone.



Step 3: Twist the wire around the bicone three times.



Step 4: Form the wire into an S-shape and add the second bicone. Place this bicone closer to the bottom of the stone and twist the wire around the bicone in the other direction to complete the S-shape.



Step 5: Twist the wire around the bicone three times. Anchor the wire around the bottom loop.



Step 6: Place the 6mm bicone or donut onto a head pin, wrap a loop, and attach it to the bottom loop of the earring. Attach the earwire to the top loop. Repeat Steps 1-6 for the other earring, making sure it's a mirror image of the first earring ♦.



Ring-a-Ding Rings

design by Martha Umberger

Originally published in *Step By Step Wire Jewelry* online.

Photo of finished piece by Jim Lawson; all other photos courtesy of the author.



In Step by Step Wire Jewelry's Spring 2008 issue, you learned how to make the Ring-a-ding swirly ring. In part two, learn how to make the basic plain ring. It's a stunning ring on its own, without the extra embellishments. This project assumes some prior knowledge of basic wire-wrapping techniques.

MATERIALS

20-gauge square half hard wire, (color of your choice), 24"

8" square half hard wire for outside wires

18-gauge half round half hard wire (color of your choice), 18"

TOOLS

Round-nose pliers—marked in the middle

Chain-nose pliers

Pin vise or wire-twisting machine

Ring mandrel

Quilter's tape or blue painter's tape

Ruler

Extra-fine point marker

File

Polishing cloth

Flush cutters

TECHNIQUES

Wire wrapping, wirework

Step 1: Clean and straighten the wire. Cut five 3" sections of 20g for middle bundle—you may twist two sections if you'd like. Arrange the wire as follows making sure both ends are evenly blunt cut: Flat square wire, twisted wire, flat wire, twisted wire, and flat wire. Place the 8" square half hard wire (in this example, shown in silver) on the outside of this bundle and tape each end together. Mark the center of the wires. Place a mark $\frac{3}{16}$ " on each side of the center mark.



Step 2: With 5" of square wire, make 6–10 wraps between the three marks. One side will have two straight wires, and the other side will have the twisted wire. Make sure all ends of the five center wires are blunt cut across both sides.



Step 3: Mark $\frac{1}{2}$ " on each end of the wraps toward the end of wire. Untape the ends, and hold your thumb on the top side of bindings. Bring one side of the outside wires straight up to a 90° angle. At the $\frac{1}{2}$ " mark, make three bindings ending on bottom with 7" of wire. DO NOT CUT THE WIRE. Bring the outside wires down so they are even with the other five wires, bind four more times ending on bottom, and cut the wire. Repeat on the other side. One side of the outside wire is round, and the other has open-ended wires.



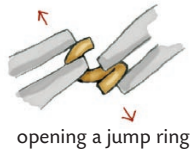
Step 4: Mark $\frac{3}{16}$ " from the last bindings on each side. Starting with the rounded side, and with 10" of wire, wrap from the mark toward the loop. When you get to the end of the inner bundle, wrap the wire around one side of the loop, and bind off. Cut off the leftover wire.

On the open-ended side, using the center mark of your round nose pliers, shape either side of the straight wire toward the center, and make a loop by bending across to the outside of the other wire. Mark and cut the straight wire $\frac{1}{16}$ " from the center bundle mark. These two cuts will butt up against each other like one solid wire. Wrap the bundle as you did on the other end and bind off. Place the center wire around the mandrel on one size smaller than your finished ring size. Equally bring the sides straight up. Slightly pull the unfinished side of the ring to the side, so the ends of the ring lie side by side. Gently and slowly work the unfinished side of the ring around the mandrel to complete your ring size. ♦



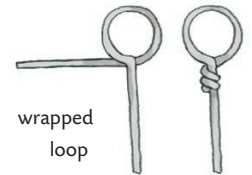
Basic Techniques

Jump rings connect holes and loops. Open a jump ring by grasping each side of its opening with a pair of pliers; don't pull apart. Instead, twist in opposite directions so that you can open and close without distorting the shape.



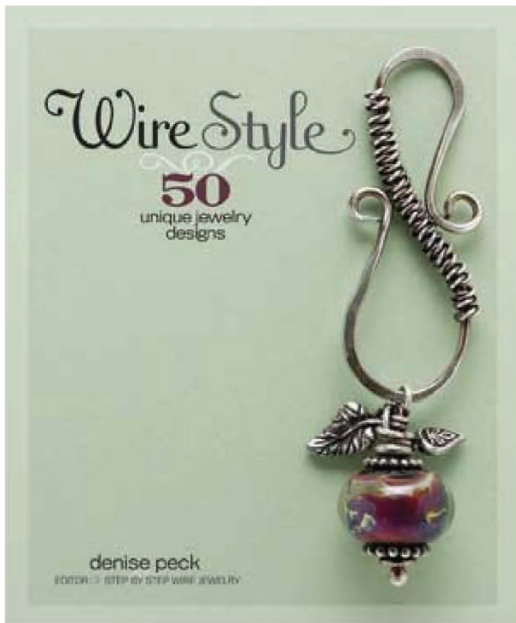
opening a jump ring

To form a wrapped loop, begin with a 90° bend at least 2" from the end of the wire. Use round-nose pliers to form a simple loop with a tail overlapping the bend. Wrap the tail tightly down the neck of the wire to create a couple of coils. Trim the excess wire to finish. Make a double-wrapped loop by wrapping the wire back up over the coils, toward the loop, and trimming the wire tail at the loop.



wrapped loop

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