An Intermediate to Advanced Wire Project

The Elegant Ear
Wire Wrapped Earring Tutorial

by Perfectly Twisted Jewelry

Supplies: All wire is round, dead soft

Two, 10mm, flat, round beads, drilled
Six, 9 inch lengths of 22 gauge wires
Two, 2.5 feet lengths of 30 gauge wires
Two, 1.5 feet lengths of 30 gauge wires
Two, 3.5 feet lengths of 30 gauge wires
Two, 2.5 inch lengths of 20 gauge wires

The 22 gauge wires will be called the 'frame' wires throughout the tutorial.

The 30 gauge wires will be called the 'weaving' wires throughout the tutorial.

The two, 20 gauge wires are used for the earring hooks.

Tools:

Wire cutters
Round nose pliers
Flat nose pliers
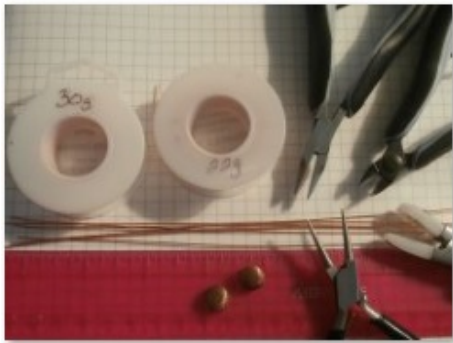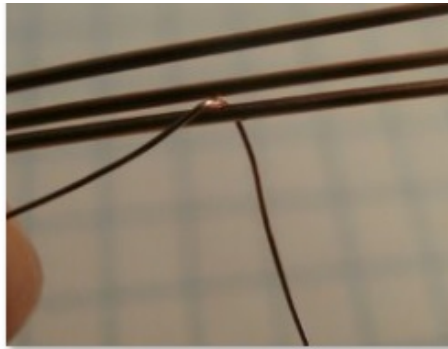Nylon jaw pliers (optional)
5mm x 5mm grid paper (optional)

To begin: Cut six, 9 inch lengths of 22 gauge frame wires.
Use nylon jaw pliers or your fingers to straighten them as much as possible. Take care to not over harden the wires.
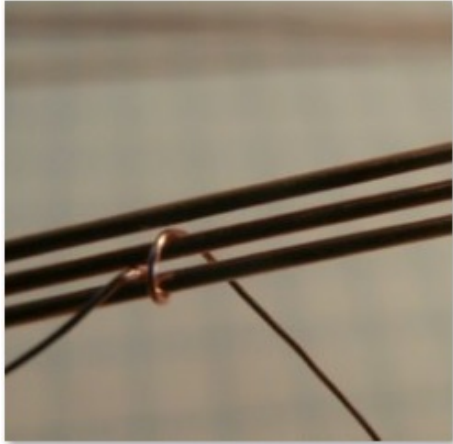**Cut a 2.5 foot length of 30 gauge weaving wire**. You will be instructed to cut additional lengths of weaving wire throughout the tutorial.
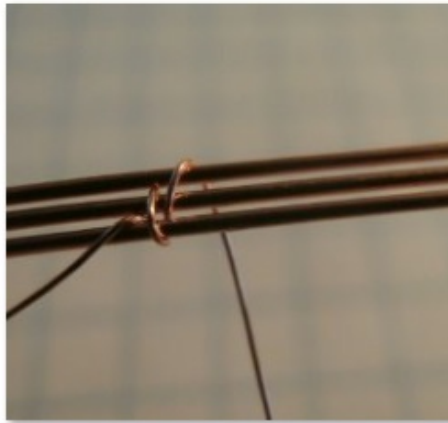
Step 1
Hold three frame wires slightly fanned out, with edges even. **They will be referred to as 'bottom', 'center' and 'top'** throughout the weaving steps.

Begin your weaving wire **3.5 inches** from the left edge of the frame wires.

Drape a 2 inch tail of weaving wire on the bottom frame wire. Hold onto it and the frame wires and work moving toward the right. *Image 2*
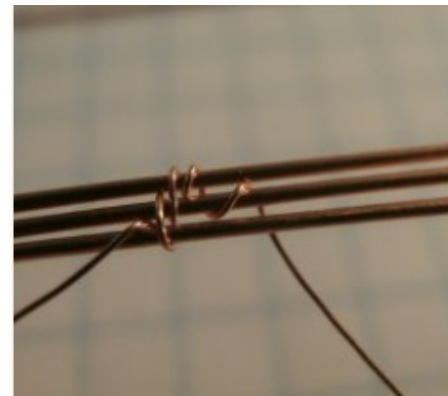
Step 2
Bring your weaving wire over the bottom and center frame wires. *Image 3*

Make a complete loop around the center frame wire and move the weaving wire up and over the top frame wire. *Image 4*
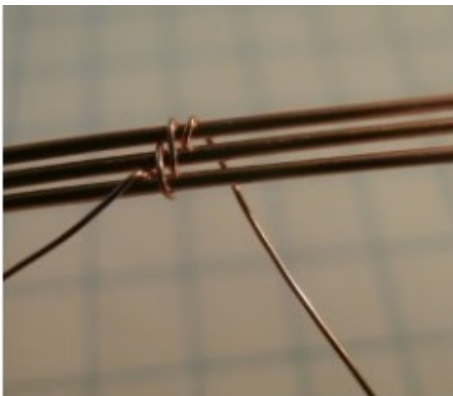
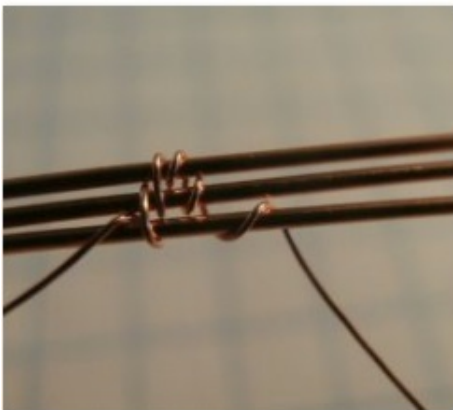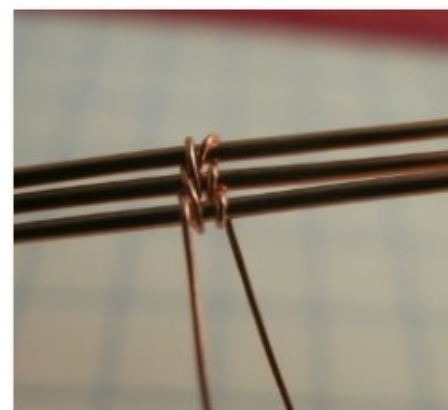

Step 3
Make a complete loop around the top frame wire. *Image 5*

Bring the weaving wire down and make a complete loop around the center frame wire. *Image 6*

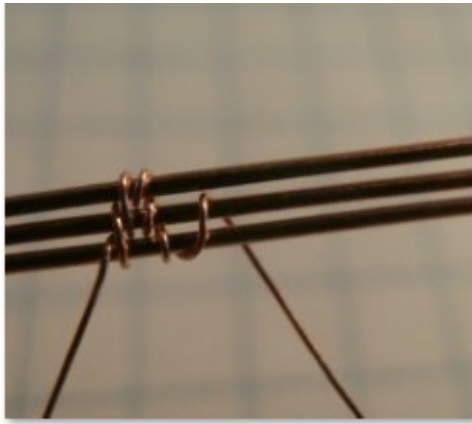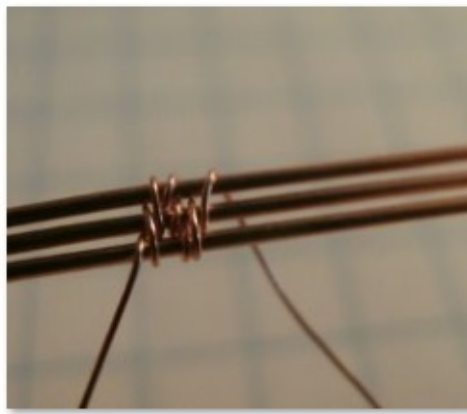Bring the weaving wire down again and make a complete loop around the bottom frame wire. *Image 7*

Use your fingers and push the two columns of weaved wires snug up against each other. *Image 8*

As you weave, keep your loops close and neat against the frame wires. Avoid overlapping the previous column of weaved wires.
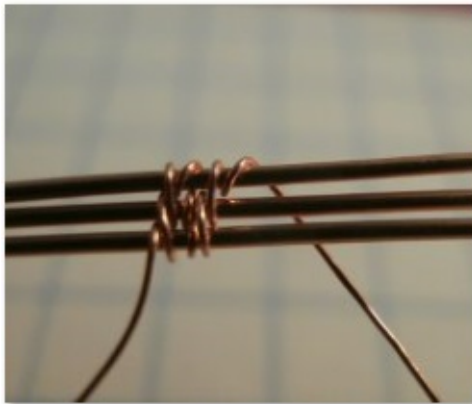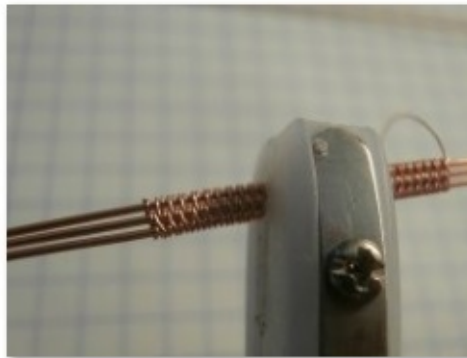
Avoid kinking the weaving wire.

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Step 4
Bring the weaving wire up and over the bottom and center frame wires. *Image 9*

Make a complete loop around the center frame wire and bring the weaving wire up and over the top frame wire. *Image 10*

There are now three columns of weaved wire.

Make a complete loop around the top frame wire. *Image 11*

Continue this pattern until you reach **1 inch of weaved wires or approximately 60 columns.**

Every four or so columns, use your fingers to gently push the columns of wire close together.

Use flat nose or Nylon jaw pliers to gently tap the surface of the weaved wires flat and neat against the frame wires. *Image 12*

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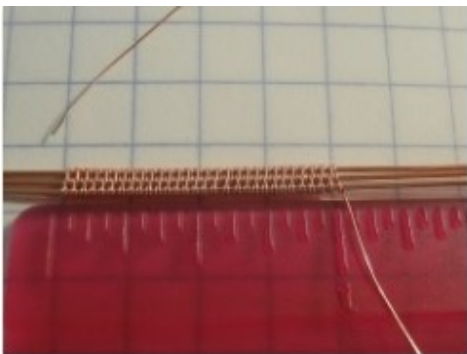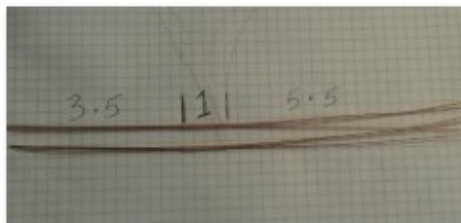
Step 5
Trim the short 'tail' of weaving wire but do not cut off the long working length of weaving wire. *Image 13*
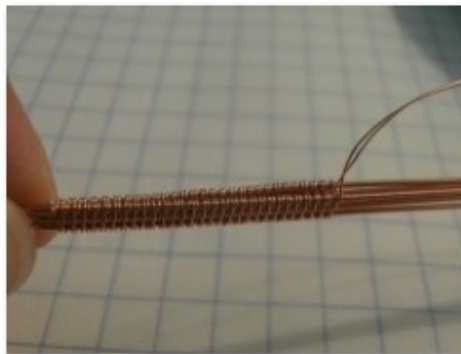
Set this first earring frame aside.

Use the next set of three, 9 inch, 22 gauge frame wires and **cut a fresh 2.5 foot length of 30 gauge weaving wire.**

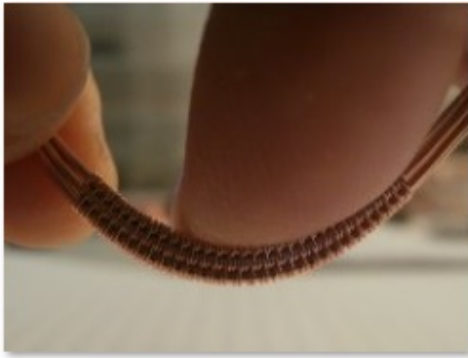**Begin the second earring frame by repeating steps 1 thru 4.**

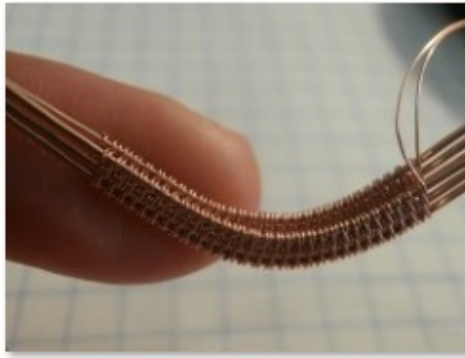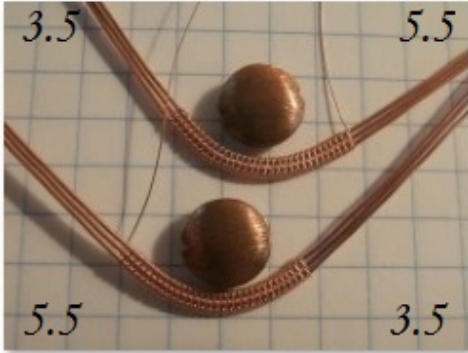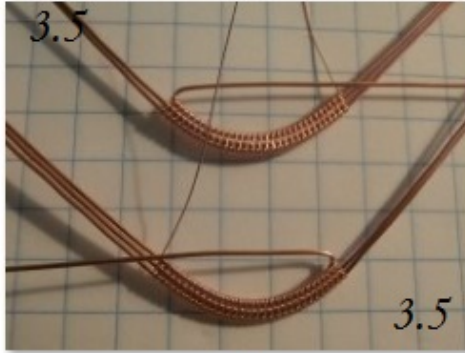Check that both frames are fairly even. *Image 14, 15*

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18

3.5   5.5

5.5   3.5
19

3.5

3.5
20

21

22

23

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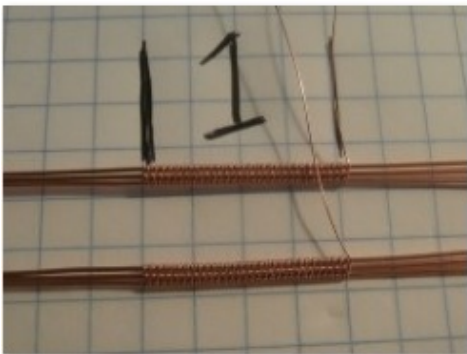
Step 6
After you have completed two weaved frames, hold them so that the weaved portions are flat together and the weaving wires are on 'top'. *Image 16*

Use your finger to make a gentle curve in both wires, at the center of the weave. *Image 17, 18*
The weaving wires should be on the 'inside' of this curve.

Doing them together is an easy way to create matching curves on each frame.

Step 7
Flip one frame over so that it is opposite from the other. *Image 19*

Make a sharp bend across the curve, using the 3.5 inch, inside frame wire. Make it meet the weaving wire on the opposite side. *Image 20*
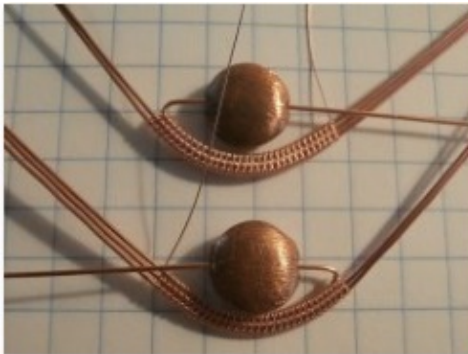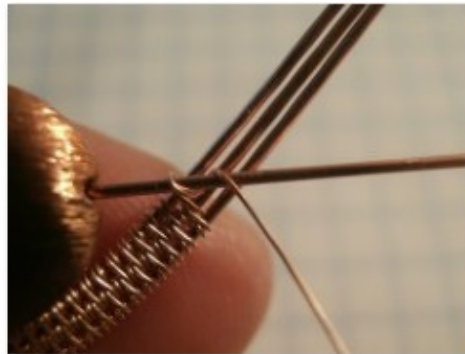
Step 8
Thread each bead. *Image 21*

Hold the beaded wire close to the frame and use the excess weaving wire to make three tight coils on the beaded wire. *Image 22, 23*

This locks the beaded wire into place across the frame.

Trim the excess weaving wire. *Image 24*

Do this for both earring frames. *Image 25*

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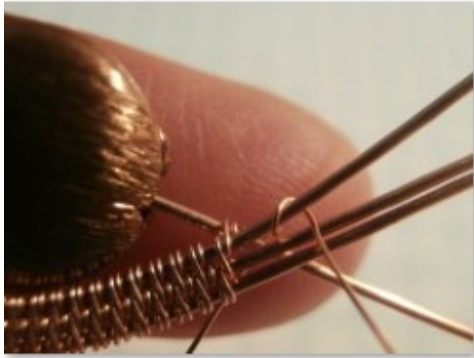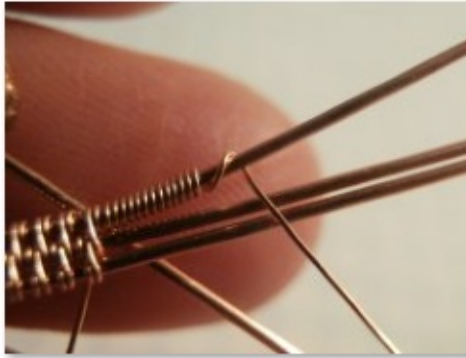
Step 9
Turn the frames over so that the beaded wire is to 'the back'. *Image 26*

Work on the side of the earring frame where there are three unweaved wires.

Cut a fresh piece of 30 gauge wire, 1.5 feet long.

Insert a 2 inch tail along the top frame wire, closest to the bead. *Image 27*
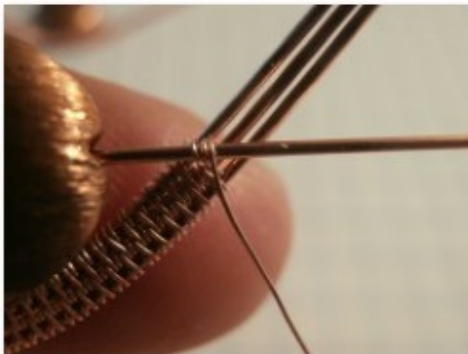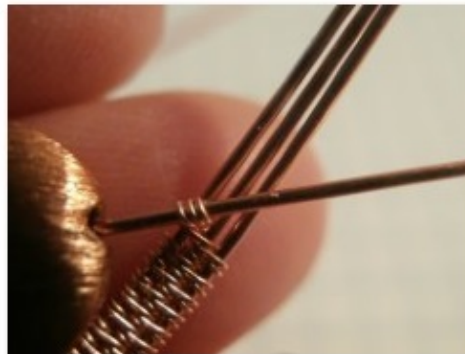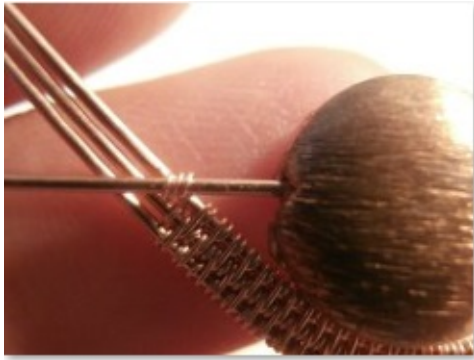
Hang onto the tail and begin coilling the weaving wire along the frame wire. Make your loops neat and close to the previous. *Image 28*

Every few coils, use your fingers to gently push the coiled wire tight against itself if needed.

Create approximately **120 coils, or 35mm** (approximately 1.5 inch). *Image 29*

After the first coil is completed, set this earring frame aside.

Cut a fresh piece of 30 gauge wire, 1.5 feet long and repeat this for the second earring frame. *Image 30, 31*
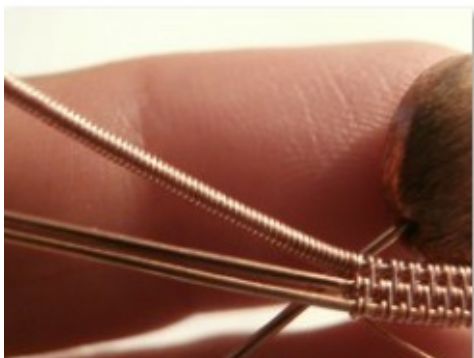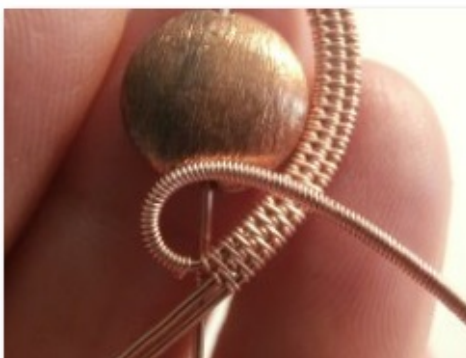
Step 10
You will use these coiled wires to create a decorative loop and arc around the bead. Look ahead to image 40.

Curve the coiled wire up toward the bead and over, to begin a loop. *Image 32*

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Continue to curve the coiled wire attractively around the bead until the coiled end meets the opposite side of the bead. *Image 33.*
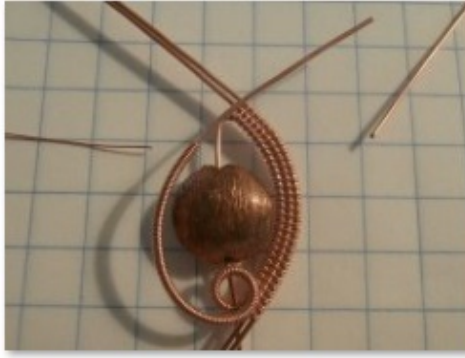
Add or remove coils if needed then trim away the weaving wire ends.

Also trim away some of the coiled frame wire, leaving about 1 inch of the uncoiled portion. *Image 34*

This will make it easier to work with in the next step.

Step 11
Thread the end of the coiled wire in between the beaded frame wire and the weaved curve. *Image 35*

Make a sharp bend in the coiled wire, bringing it around the beaded wire. *Image 36*

The bead should be sitting just above the coiled loop and the end of the coiled wire should meet the top of the bead. *Image 36*

Trim away the excess wire leaving approximately 4mm. *Image 37*

Use round nose pliers to bend the end of the coiled wire completely around the beaded wire. This locks the coiled arc into place. *Image 38, 39*
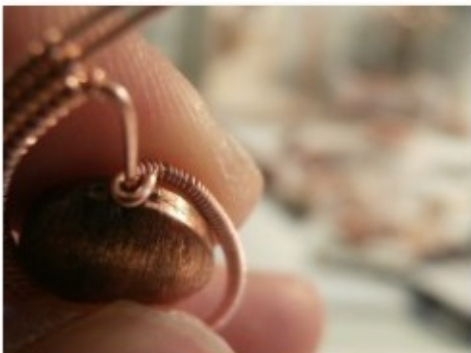
If needed, use your fingers to manipulate the coiled arc so that it is smooth and attractive. *Image 40*

Set this earring frame aside.

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Step 12
Repeat this process with the second earring frame.

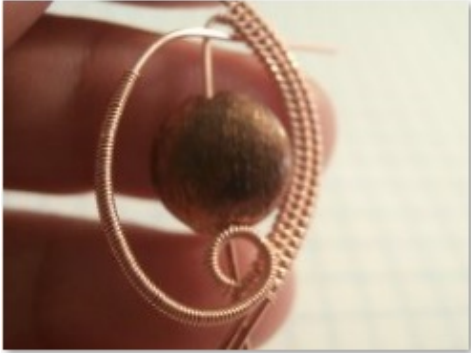Bring the coiled wire up toward the bead and over to begin a loop. *Image 41*

Continue to curve the coiled wire attractively around the bead until the coiled end meets the opposite side of the bead. *Image 42*

Add or remove coils if needed then trim away the weaving wire ends.

Also trim away some of the coiled frame wire, leaving about 1 inch of the uncoiled portion. *Image 43*

Step 13
Thread the end of the coiled wire in between the beaded frame wire and the weaved curve. *Image 44*

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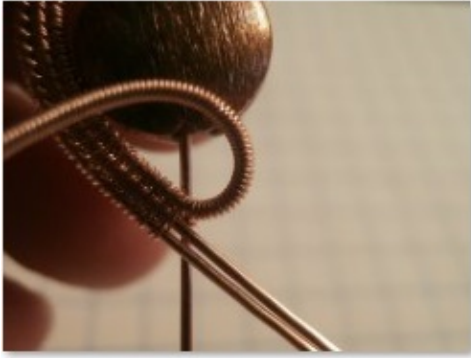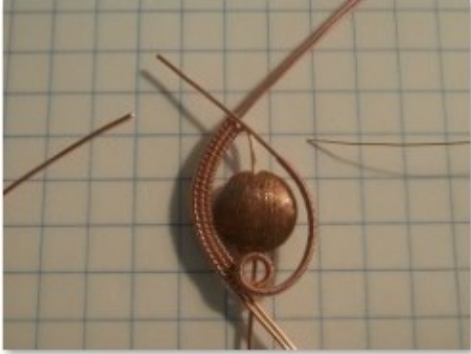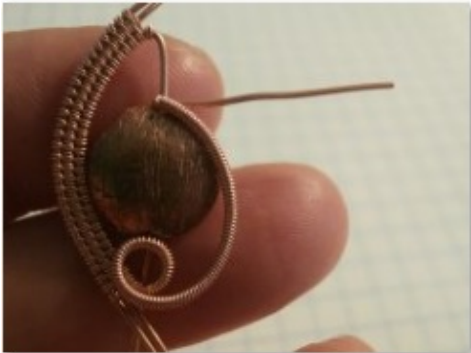Make a sharp bend in the coiled wire, bringing it around the beaded wire. *Image 45*

Trim away the excess wire leaving approximately 4mm. *Image 46*

Use round nose pliers to bend the end of the coiled wire completely around the beaded wire. This locks the coiled arc into place. *Image 47, 48*
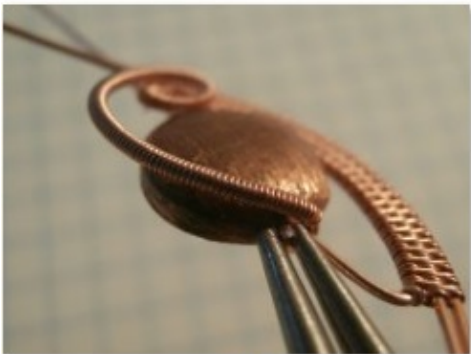
If needed, use your fingers to manipulate the coiled arc so that it is smooth and attractive.

Set both earring frames side by side. Ensure that they are fairly even and that the coiled arcs are similar. *Image 49*

This is where grid paper is a very helpful visual aid. ;))

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Step 14
Cut a fresh length of 30 gauge wire, 3.5 feet long.

Work with the two frame wires just below the coiled loop.

Start with a 2 inch tail on the weaving wire and hang onto it while you make five coils around the 'top' frame wire.
Image 50, 51

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After five coils, make three loops around both frame wires.
Image 52

Make your coils and loops neat and snug against the previous.

Avoid overlapping the previous coils and loops while you work.

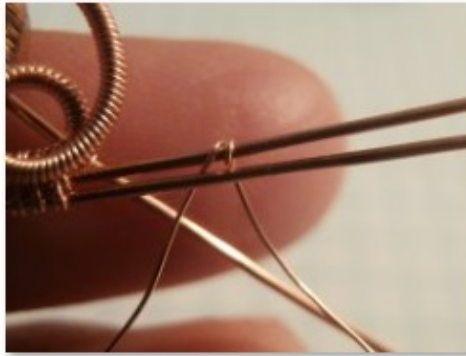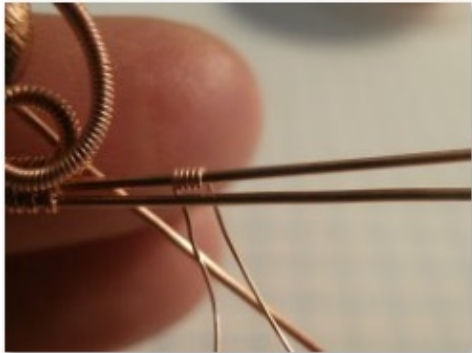Make five more coils on the top frame wire. *Image 53*
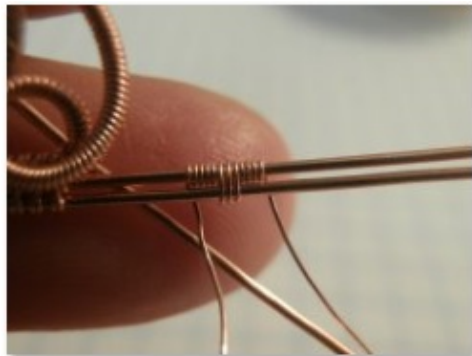
53
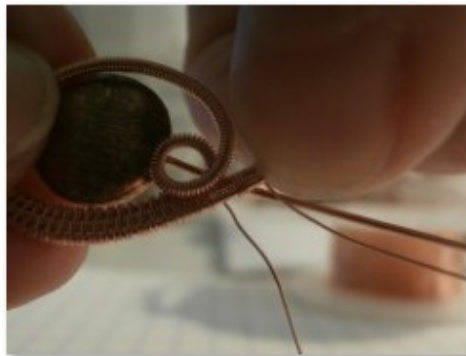
54

Use your thumb to push this set of coils and loops back against the weaved frame.
Image 54

Make another three loops around both frame wires and then five more coils….
Image 55, 56

Use your fingers to push the coils and loops neatly against the previous as you work.
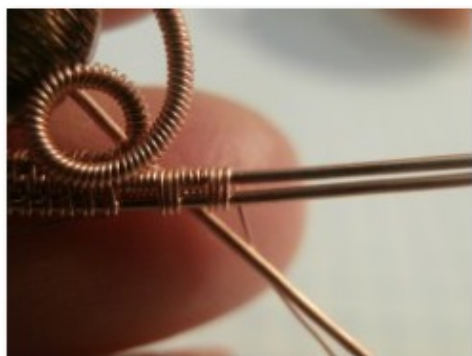
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Use nylon or flat nose pliers to tap the surface of the weaved wire flat and neatly against the frame wires. *Image 57*

Continue to work in this weave pattern until you reach **17 sets of coils and loops or approximately 40mm.**
Image 58

Do not cut away the weaving wire. You will continue to work with it in future steps.

57

17 wraps
40mm
58

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Step 15
After you've reached 17 sets of coils and loops (approx. 40mm), make a bend in the weaved wire, at the base of the coiled arc. *Image 59*

Gently curve the wires around the bead, just to the outside of the coiled arc. *Image 60*

The coils and loops should intersect the opposite side of the weaved curve. *Image 60*

Add coils and loops if needed.

In the next step, you will be threading these two wires plus the weaving wire in between the beaded wire and weaved curve.

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Step 16
Pull the coiled and looped wires back and away from the bead.

Make as gentle of a bend on the wires as possible and thread the wires through the beaded frame wire and weaved curve. *Image 61*.

Make sure to also thread the weaving wire through with them.

Using your fingers, gently push and pull the wires as you reshape them along the side of the bead. *Image 62, 63*

Work slowly and carefully.

Straighten the two wires after they are threaded. *Image 64*

Use nylon jaw pliers or your fingers and rub once or twice down their length to remove warping from the wires. *Image 65*

Set this earring frame aside.
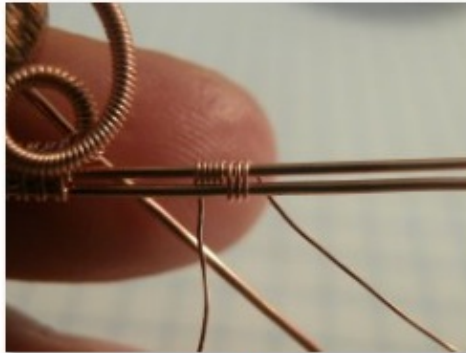
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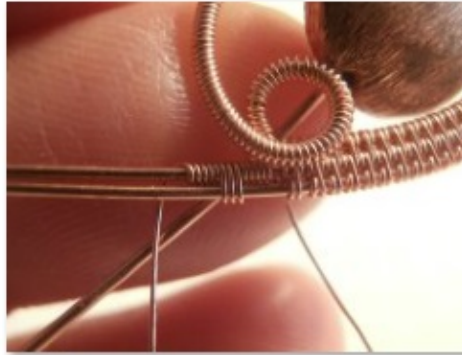
68

Step 17
Repeat this process with the second earring frame.

Cut a fresh length of 30 gauge wire, 3.5 feet long.

Work with the two frame wires just below the coiled loop.

Create five coils on the 'top' frame wire, three loops around both frame wires, then five more coils. *Image 66*

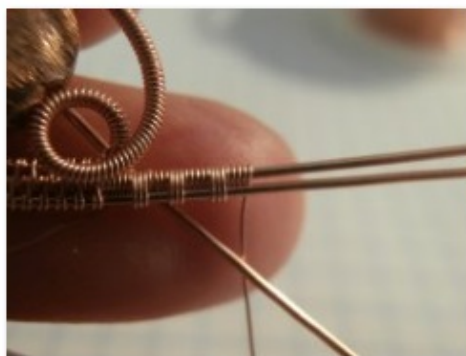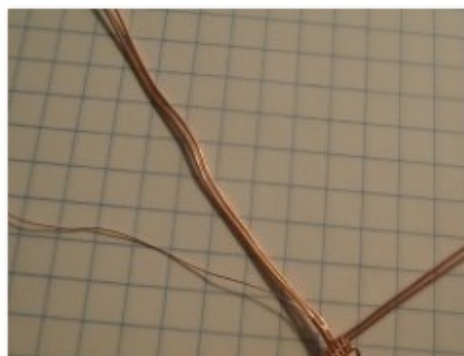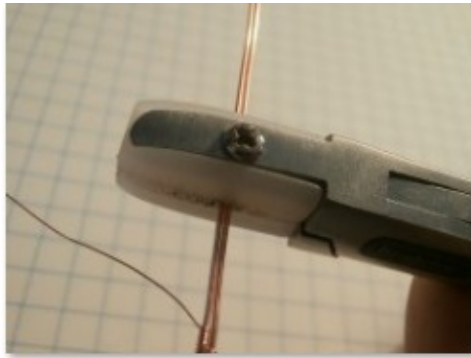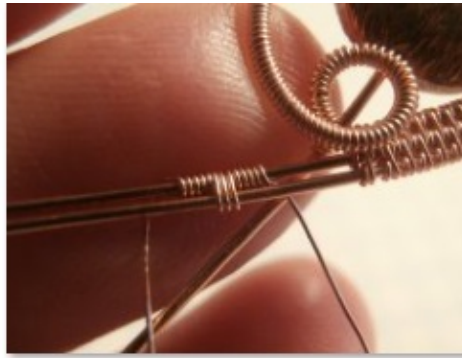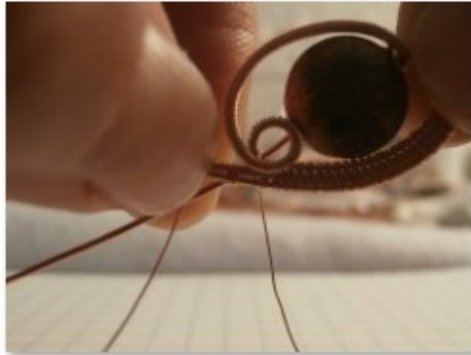Use your thumb to push the set of coils and loops back against the weaved frame.
Image 67, 68

Continue to work in this weave pattern until you reach **17 sets of coils and loops or approximately 40mm.**
Image 69

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72

Step 18
After you've reached 17 sets of coils and loops (approx. 40mm), make a bend in the weaved wire, at the base of the coiled arc. *Image 70*

Gently curve the wires around the bead, just to the outside of the coiled arc. *Image 71*

The coils and loops should intersect the opposite side of the weaved curve. *Image 71*

Add coils and loops if needed.

Step 19
Pull the coiled and looped wires back and away from the bead.

Make as gentle of a bend on the wires as possible and thread the wires through the beaded frame wire and weaved curve.
Image 72

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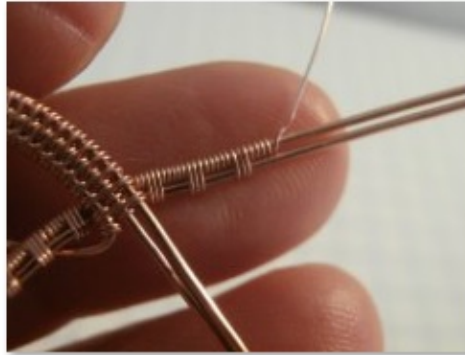
76

Make sure to also thread the weaving wire through with them.
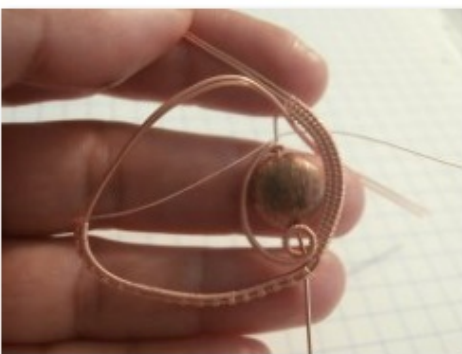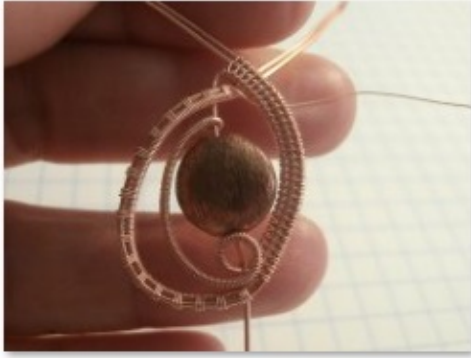
Using your fingers, gently push and pull the wires as you reshape them along the side of the bead. *Image 73, 74*

Work slowly and carefully. Straighten the two wires after they are threaded and use nylon jaw pliers or your fingers to smooth the wires and removing any warping.

Put both earring frames next to each other to ensure that they are similar in size. *Image 75*

Step 20
Continue weaving five coils and three loops along the wires. *Image 76*

In the previous steps, you created 17 sets. **Create an additional 15 sets.** *Image 77*

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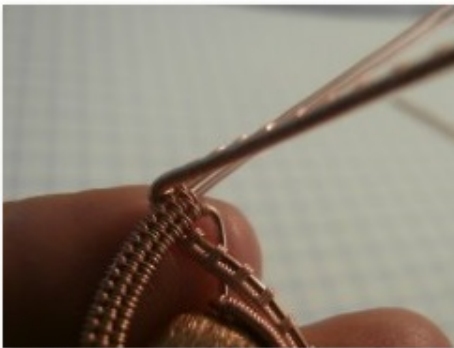
Step 21
Once you have an additional 15 sets of coils and loops, create a sharp bend in these wires, folding them over the weaved intersection. *Image 78, 79*

Use your fingers and create a gentle curve in the wires following just to the outside of the previous layer of wires. *Image 80*

The end of the coils and loops should reach the 'bottom' of the earring frame.

Add additional coils and loops if needed.

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Step 22
Bring the two wires behind the beaded frame wire at the base of the earring. *Image 81*

The curve should be smooth and attractive along the side of the earring frame.

The end of the coils and loops should reach the beaded frame wire. *Image 82*

Add additional coils and loops if needed, then cut away the excess weaving wire.

Hold the two wires in place and create a sharp bend around the beaded frame wire. *Image 83*

Bring the wires completely around the beaded frame wire. *Image 84*

This locks the coiled and looped wires into place.

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Use nylon jaw pliers or your fingers and rub once or twice to create a gentle upward curve in these two wire ends.
Image 85, 86

Set this earring frame aside.

Step 23
Repeat this process with the second earring frame.

Continue to weave an additional 15 sets of coils and loops along the two frame wires. Image 87

Once you have an additional 15 sets of coils and loops, create a sharp bend in these wires, folding them over the weaved intersection. *Image 88, 89*

Use your fingers and create a gentle curve in the wires following just to the outside of the previous layer of wires. *Image 90*

89

90

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92

The end of the coils and loops should reach the 'bottom' of the earring frame.

Add additional coils and loops if needed.

Step 24
Bring the two wires behind the beaded frame wire at the base of the earring. *Image 91*

The end of the coils and loops should reach the beaded frame wire.

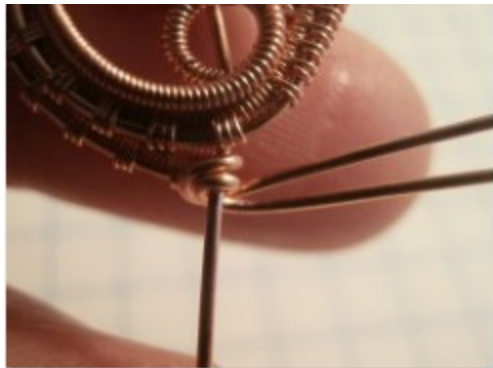Add additional coils and loops if needed, then cut away the excess weaving wire.

Hold the two wires in place and create a sharp bend around the beaded frame wire. *Image 92*
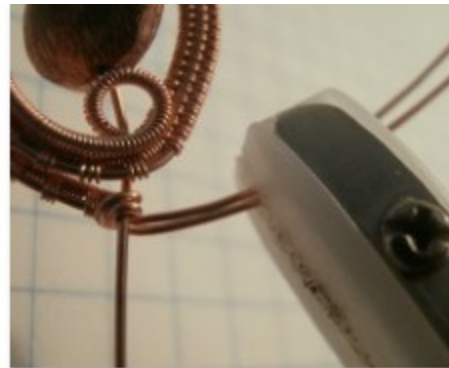

93

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95

96

Bring the wires completely around the beaded frame wire. *Image 93*

This locks the coiled and looped wires into place.

Use nylon jaw pliers or your fingers and rub once or twice to create a gentle upward curve in these two wire ends. *Image 94*

Place both earrings next to each other and check symmetry. *Image 95*

Step 25
Cut away the excess ends of the two wires. The 'top' wires should be approximately ¾ inch long and the bottom wires should be approximately 1 inch long. *Image 96*
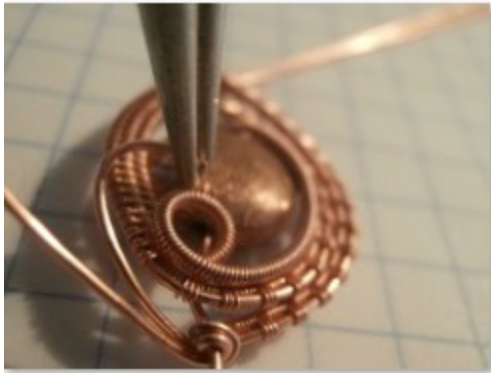
In the next steps, you will be making decorative curves using these two wires. **Look ahead to image 104 for the result.**

97

98

99

100

Step 26
Use round nose pliers and make a gentle curve on the inside wire, bringing it up and toward the coiled loop. *Image 97*

It might be easier for you to hold onto the earring frame while making this bend.
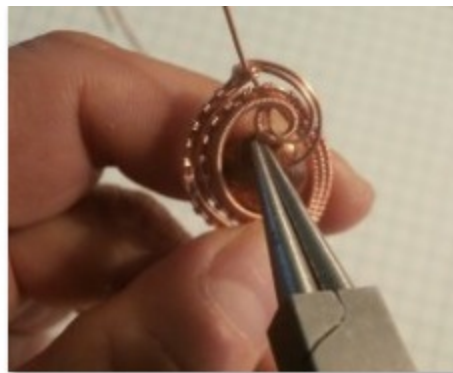
After making the gentle curve, make a sharp turn at the very end of the wire and tuck it into the center of the coiled loop. *Image 98*

Use your fingers to tuck the wire closer into the loop if needed. *Image 99*

Use your finger to gently press the wire close and flat against the frame. *Image 100*

101

102

103

104
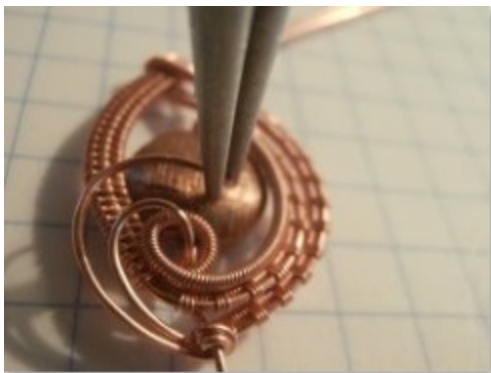
Step 27
Use round nose pliers and create a gentle curve in the second wire, bringing it over and around the first one. *Image 101*
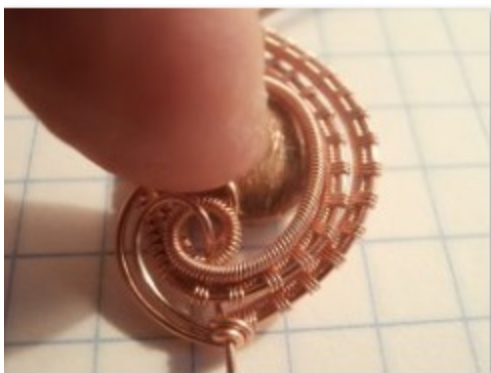
It might be easier to hold the earring frame in your hand while making this curve. *Image 102*

After the gentle curve is made, create a sharper bend at the end of the wire and tuck it under the coil and between the bead. *Image 102*

Use your finger to push the curved wire tighter into place if needed. *Image 103*

The two curves should be smooth and have attractive spacing between them. *Image 104*
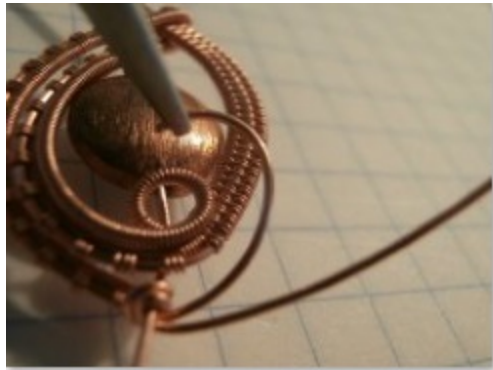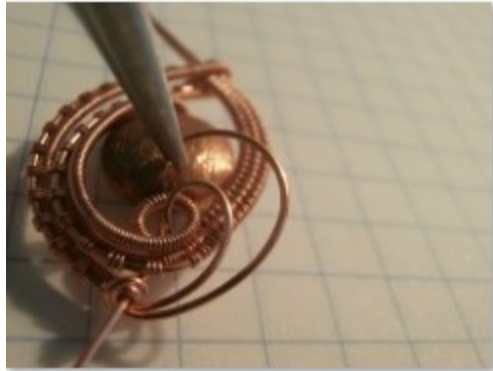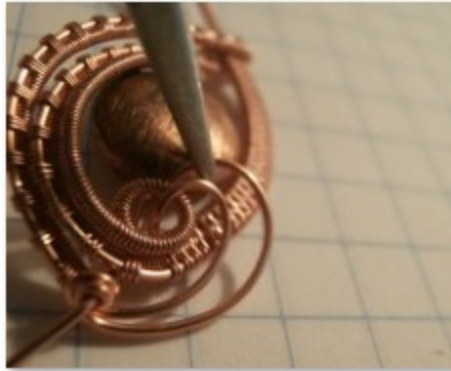
Put this earring frame aside.

105

106

107

108

109

110

111

112

Step 28

Repeat this process with the second earring frame.

Use round nose pliers and make a gentle curve on the inside wire, bringing it up and toward the coiled loop.
Image 105

After making the gentle curve, make a sharp turn at the very end of the wire and tuck it into the center of the coiled loop.
Image 106

Use your fingers to tuck the wire closer into the loop if needed.

Use round nose pliers and create a gentle curve in the second wire, bringing it over and around the first one. *Image 107*

After the gentle curve is made, create a sharper bend at the end of the wire and tuck it under the coil and between the bead.
Image 108

Use your finger to push the curved wire tighter into place if needed.

The two curves should be smooth and have attractive spacing between them.
Image 109

Place both earring frames side by side and check symmetry.
Image 110

Now….

Flip the earrings over so that the decorative elements are on the 'top'. SURPRISE! This is actually the top of the earring. Image 111

That's right, you've been working on them upside down.

How Perfectly Twisted is that! :))

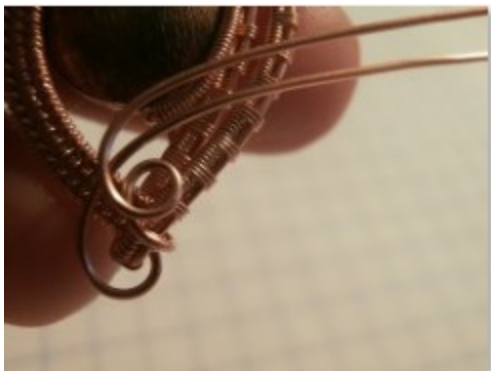You're almost done, hang in there. You're doing great!
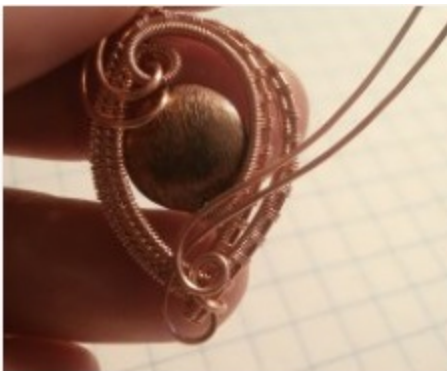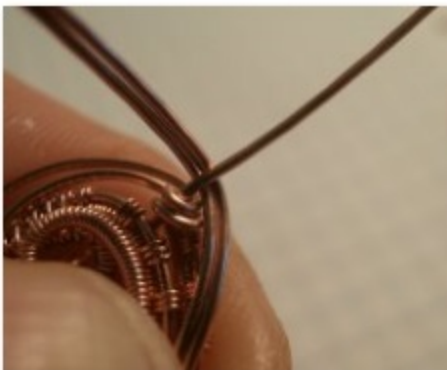
113

114

115

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119

120

Step 29
Using the two remaining frame wires, you are about to make the final decorative elements.

Take the 'top' frame wire and make a sharp bend so that it is opposite the other wire. *Image 112*

Bring it up toward the bead and over to begin a loop. *Image 113*

Continue to loop the wire back up and over itself again so that the end points toward the coiled arc. *Image 114, 115*

Now make an attractive curve on the second frame wire and move it under the loop you just made. Leave a bit of a decorative space at the bottom of this wire. *Image 116, 117*

Use your fingers and stroke the wires so that they have a gentle curve that starts to flow toward the bead. *Image 118*

Hold onto the wire ends and continue to curve them following the curve of the coiled arc. *Image 119*
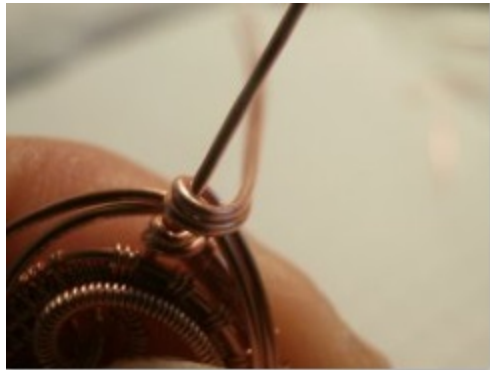
Bring the wires behind the beaded frame wire. *Image 120*

The curve in these wires should be smooth and attractive. Work with them until you are satisfied with where they are laying upon the face of the earring.

When you are ready, you will be locking them into place by wrapping them around the beaded frame wire. *Image 120*

121

122

123

124

Wrap the two wires completely around the beaded frame wire.
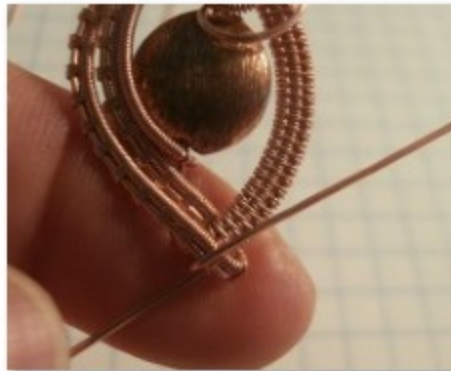*Image 121, 122*

Set this earring aside.

Step 30
Repeat this process with the second earring.

Take the 'top' frame wire and make a sharp bend so that it is opposite the other wire.
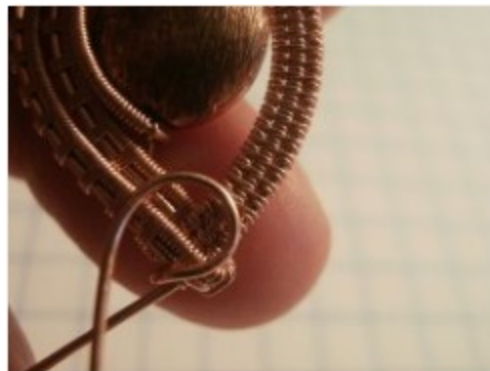*Image 124*

Bring it up toward the bead and over to begin a loop.
Image 125

125

126

127

128

Continue to loop the wire back up and over itself so that the end points toward the coiled arc.
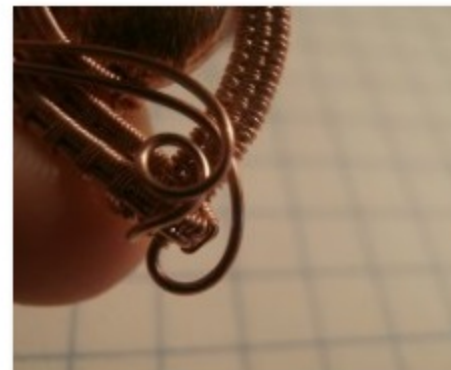*Image 126*

Now make an attractive curve on the second frame wire and move it under the loop you just made. Leave a bit of decorative space at the bottom of this wire.
Image 127, 128

Use your fingers and stroke the wires so that they have a gentle curve that starts to flow toward the bead.

Hold onto the wire ends and continue to curve them following the curve of the coiled arc.
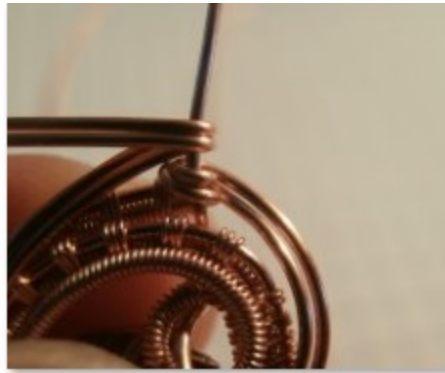*Image 129*

129

130

131

132

The curve in these wires should be smooth and attractive. Work with them until you are satisfied with where they are laying upon the face of the earring.

Wrap the two wires completely around the beaded frame wire. *Image 130, 131*

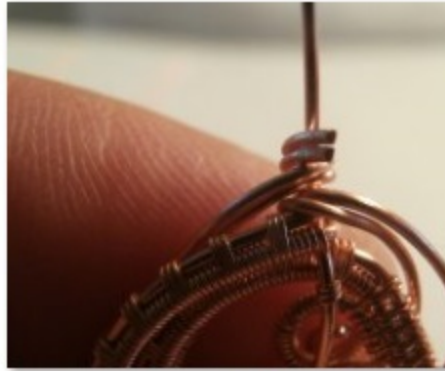This locks the wires into place.

Step 31
Turn the earrings over and using wire cutters, make a close and neat cut to trim the wires away. *Image 132*

Use flat nose pliers and tap the cut ends close to the beaded frame wire. *Image 133*
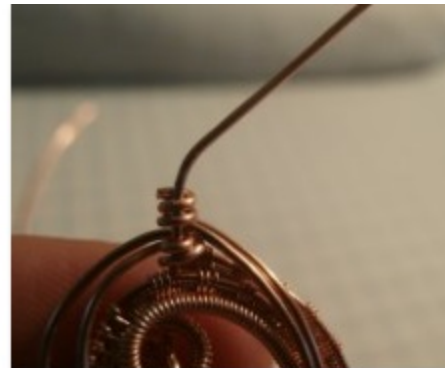
Do this for both earrings.

133


134

135

136

Step 32
The last step is to create a closed loop where you will attach the earring hooks.

Working with the last wire, the beaded frame wire, create an angled bend. *Image 134*

The bend should point in the opposite direction of the weaved curve you made in the first steps. It should point toward the wires with the five coils and three loop weave.

Using round nose pliers, create a loop in the wire. *Image 135*

Hold onto the loop with flat nose pliers and bring the wire end completely around the neck of the loop. *Image 136, 137*
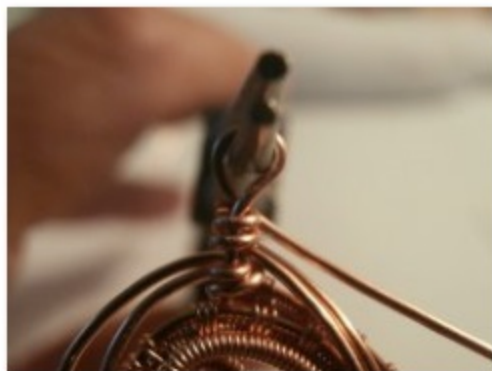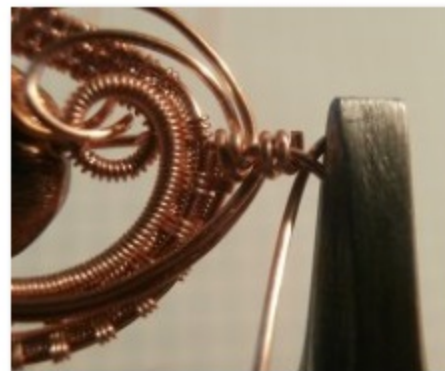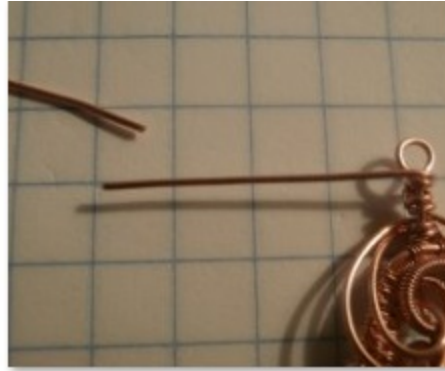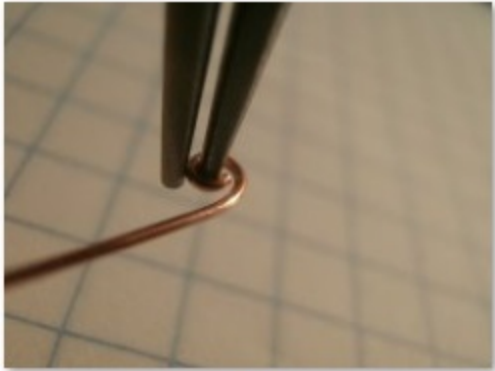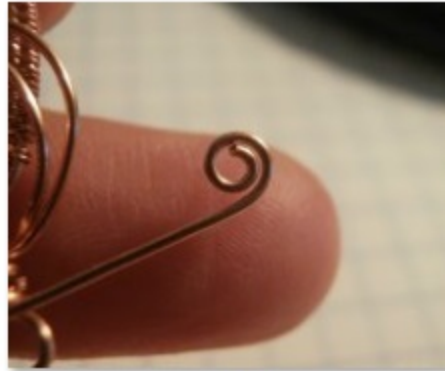
137

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140

Step 33
Cut away the end of the wire leaving approximately 1 inch to work with. *Image 138*

Use round nose pliers and create a tight spiral moving in the 'downward' direction, toward the bead. *Image 139, 140*

Use flat nose pliers and grab the spiral by the side and continue to spiral it toward the neck of the earring and over the frame. *Image 141, 142*

This completes one earring!!

Set this earring aside and repeat this process with the second earring.

141

142

143

144

Step 34
Working with the last wire, the beaded frame wire, create an angled bend.
Image 144

Use round nose pliers and create a loop in the wire.

Hold onto the loop with flat nose pliers and bring the wire end completely around the neck of the loop. *Image 145*

145

146

Cut away the end of the wire leaving approximately 1 inch to work with. *Image 146*

Use round nose pliers and create a tight spiral moving in the 'downward' direction, toward the bead.

147

148

Use flat nose pliers and grab the spiral by the side. Continue to spiral it toward the neck of the earring, over the frame. *Image 147*

This completes the second earring!!!
Image 148

149

done

Your beautiful earrings are now finished!

Follow the next few steps to create handmade earring hooks or add machine made copper earring hooks to complete the look.

Wear them as they are, or if you used natural bare copper as shown in the tutorial, then you can optionally add a patina to the wire for a lovely antique finish.

I hope you've enjoyed this project! Please feel free to email me with any questions or comments. IzzyzGumbo@gmail.com

I hope to see you back in my store for more wonderful wire jewelry tutorials!
https://www.etsy.com/shop/PerfectlyTwisted

Please visit my blog for inspirational ideas, a glance at my gallery and links to free jewelry video projects!
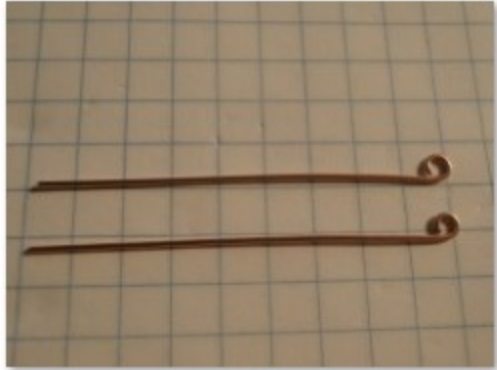http://perfectlytwistedjewelry.blogspot.com/

The earring hooks are described below!

Thank you for your business! Enjoy your beautiful earrings!
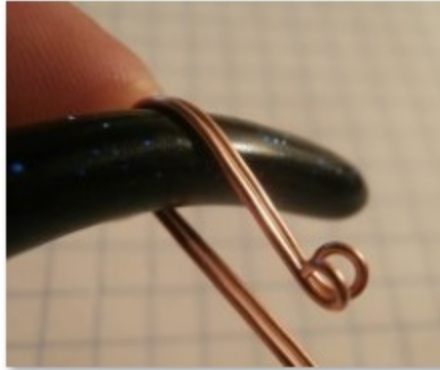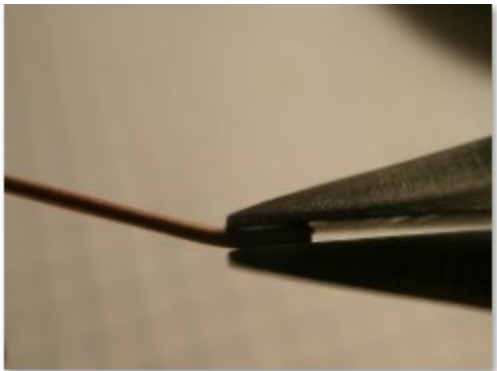
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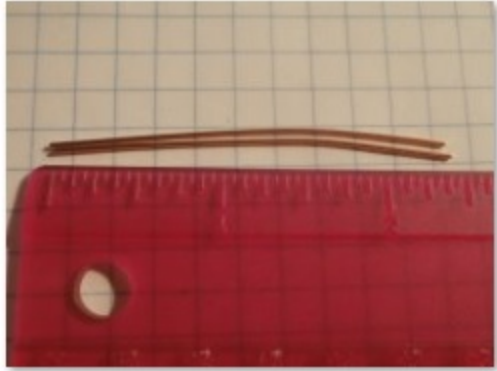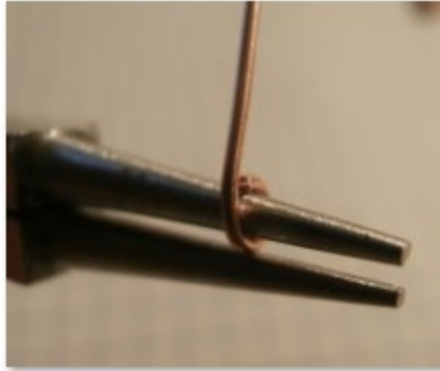
Earring Hooks

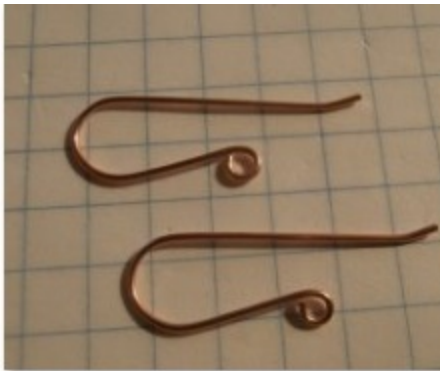Cut two lengths of 20 gauge wires, 2.5 inches long.
Image 1

Use round nose pliers and create a loop at one end of each wire.
Image 2, 3

Use a jewelry file to smooth the unlooped ends.

Create a round bend midway down the wires using a dowel, a pen or even the rounded end of your pliers. Image 4

Use flat nose pliers and create a small bend at the end of each wire. Image 5

Your earring hooks are complete! Insert them into the neck of each earring and enjoy your wonderful and beautiful new jewelry!