Perfectly Twisted Jewelry Tutorial - Beginner
Store:https://www.perfectlytwistedjewelry.com/classes.html
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Mini Marquise Earrings

#PerfectlyTwistedJewelry

These are wonderful using many different small beads and different gauge wires. The shapes can be altered by simply adding wire length and using larger dowels. The rest of the techniques are the same! Enjoy making many variations in all your favorite materials.

Materials:
20 gauge round dead soft wire
- Gold fill wire is used here, but these look great in Sterling Silver, Copper or Brass!
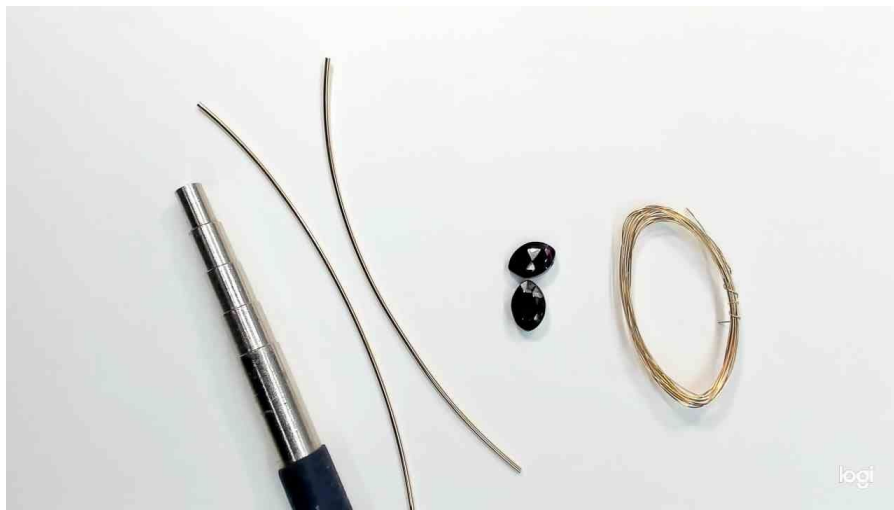
28 or 26 gauge round dead soft wire
¼ inch to ½ inch long Marquise beads, top side drilled.

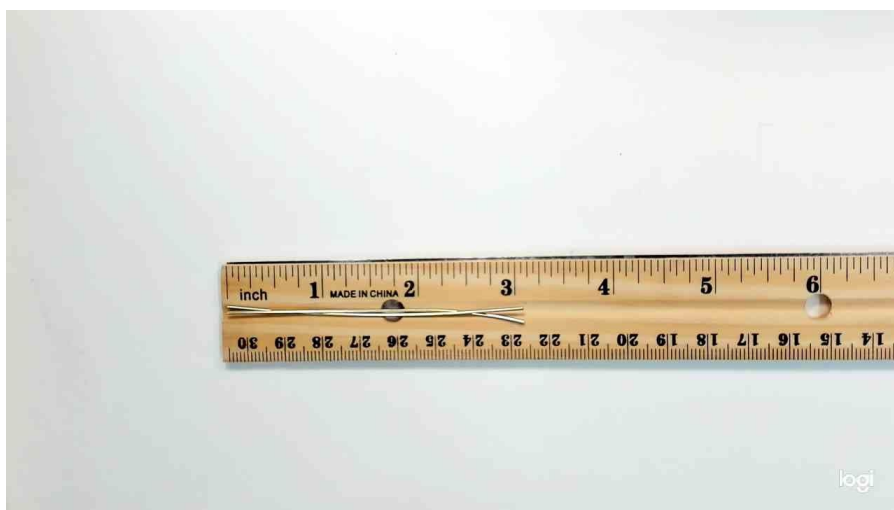**NOTE: The smaller wrapping wire of 28 or 26 gauge must fit through the drill hole in the bead.**
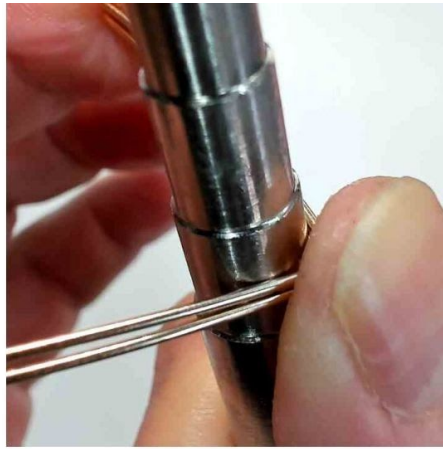
Tools:
Round nose pliers
Chain link pliers
Flush cutters
Bail Making pliers or
Wooden dowels ½ inch diameter and ¼ inch diameter
Chasing Hammer or Ball peen hammer
Steel bench block or anvil

Step 1 - Create the Frames
Prepare materials on a clean, well lit surface..

Cut 2 pieces of 20 gauge wires, 3 inches long.

Use chain link pliers or flat nose pliers and create a 90 degree bend in the center of the wires.

Holding them together helps to make each earring the same in size and shape.

Use a metal or wooden dowel, approximately ½ inch in diameter…

Nestle the dowel inside the V shape of the wires.

Use your thumb and press the tip of the V into the dowel, while using your other hand to bend both wire ends toward and past each other.

Cross the wire ends making an even teardrop shape.

Looking at the wires 'head on' will help you keep the intersection of the wires, center to the bottom of the earrings.

Gently remove the wires from the dowel. They should be very similar in size and shape.

The most important part to focus on will be the intersection where the wires cross…

Keep them even on both earrings.

Do one earring at a time here...
Use chain link pliers and squeeze that intersection.

Use your other hand to gently 'giggle' the wire ends side to side to create an upright bend in the wires at the intersection.

The wire ends will go from criss-crossed, to straight up and side by side.

Use your fingers to adjust the earring frame so that the wire ends lay fairly evenly and side by side.

Step 2 - Hammer the Frames

With a Chasing or Ball Peen hammer, gently but firmly, strike the metal at the curved sides.

Keep your hammer face as even on the metal as possible… **striking the metal 'sideways' or with the hammer slanted, might cause pit marks on the wire.**

Strike more to the center of the curve and less, moving outward toward the tip of the V shape and top straight wire.

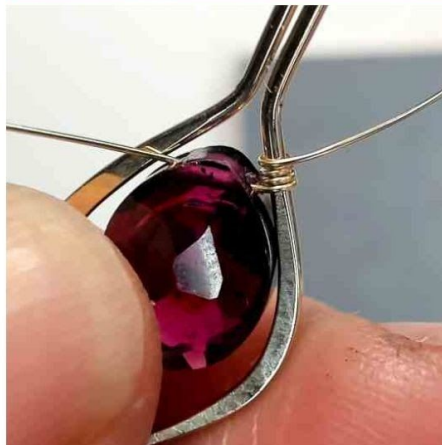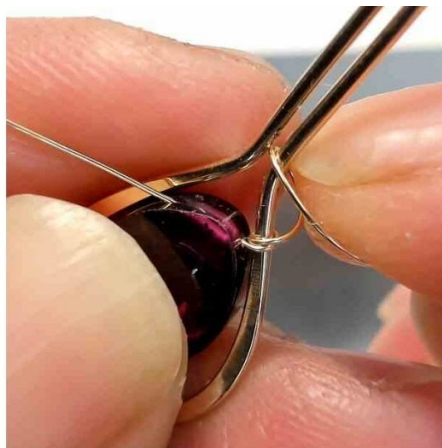This will give your wire curves a 'flare' near the centers of the curve.

Don't stress too hard, just take your time and enjoy hammering!

:)

Do both earrings, one at a time, keeping them as evenly shaped as possible.

HINT:
Before the beads are added, I like to use a fine grit sandpaper and gently sand the faces and sides of the hammered earring wires. This helps to take out or reduce any hammer marks.

It's also much easier to clean and polish your earring frame wires now, before the beads are added.

Use a polishing cloth and give both sides of the wire a nice cleaning… then add the beads.

Step 3 - Add the Bead(s)!

Cut 2 pieces of 28 or 26 gauge wire, six inches long.

Do one earring and then the other….
Insert the bead and bring it to the center of the wire.

Hold the bead against the upper part of the earring frame wire, until the holes of the bead almost touch both wire sides. The 28g wrap wire should be in front of the larger frame wire on both sides.

Hold onto one end of the small wrapping wire between your fingers, holding the bead and earring frame… (I know, but...!)... You have to hold onto the other end of the wire that goes through the bead, while you wrap, otherwise, it pulls out of the bead….

and use your free hand to make 3 tight coil wraps, moving upward along the frame.

Keep the bead held evenly against the wire frame and wrap the other side of the beaded wire.

The wire ends should finish on the side of the earring that faces you (the side you started on) and both sides should have an even count of wraps.

Do this for both earrings.

Make your wraps neat and even on both sides of the earring wire.

Keep the holes in the bead as close to the wire frame as possible while you wrap, so that there isn't 'slack' in the beaded wire.

Examine both earrings together and make sure that the bead is evenly wrapped on both earring frames.

The finished ends of the 28g wrapping wire should be facing you….

Next you will tie down the 28g ends, next to the bead holes.

Read ahead first!

Step 4 - Lock the Wrapping Wire.

Take one earring, turn it over so that the finished ends of the 28g wrapping wire are now BEHIND the frame wire and facing AWAY from you.

Hold onto the bottom of the bead with the earring frame wire, so that it doesn't travel down…

You're about to make a 360 degree loop around the beaded wire, right at the hole.

Take the end of the 28g wrapping wire, through the earring frame, between the bead and the curved portion of the frame….

Work it all the way through, neat and tight, right up to the bead hole…

Then come over the top of the bead, between the straight portion of the wires and back down against the bead hole.

I like to make 2 wraps if possible.

Do this evenly to both sides of the earring frame. Try to make the wraps as even as possible.

The ends of the 28g wrapping wire should be facing you and both should be on the same side of the bead.

Turn the earring over and make sure that the locking wraps are neat on both sides of the bead.

Use flush cutters and trim away the 28g wrapping wire ends as close as possible.

Be careful to only cut away the end and not through your other wrapped wires.

Use chain link pliers and gently tap the cut ends down if needed.

Consider this side of the earrings now, the 'back side'.

Step 5 - Loops for Hooks!

Examine both earrings from the 'front'.

The wrap wires should be neat and even on both earrings.

Use flush cutters and trim away the top of the wire ends, leaving approximately a r ½ inch from the tops of the wrapped wires, to work with.

Make the cuts neat and even on both earrings.

Use round nose pliers, grab the tip of the wire end and turn it down to align with the frame wire, just above the wrapped wires.

Try to make the loops as even on both sides of the earring frame as possible.

The hole needs to be large enough to pass the earring hook wires through.

Do this to both earrings.

Once the loops are created, use Chain link pliers, grab the earring loops from the sides and gently squeeze them together.
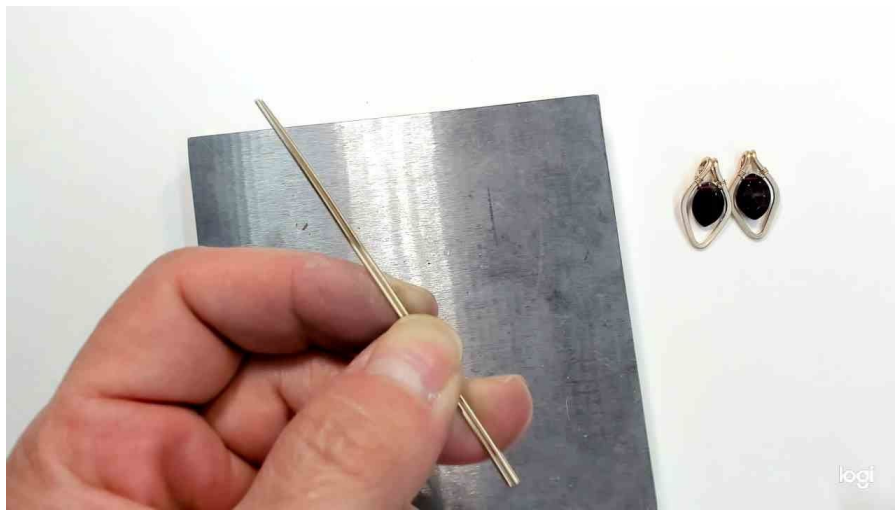
They should be even at the top.

Keep them in the pliers and gently use your other hand to wiggle them very slightly side to side.

This will cause the loops to straighten out slightly.
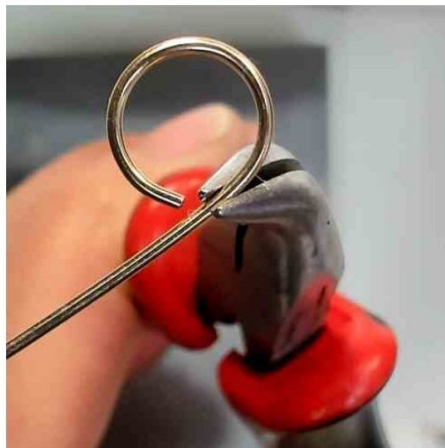
Examine both earrings.

The loops and the tops of the earrings should be fairly similar.

Step 6 - Make the Earring Hooks

Cut 2 fresh pieces of 20 gauge round wires, 3 inches long and use your finger or nylon jaw pliers to straighten them.

Make your end cuts as even and clean as possible.

Use Bail making pliers or a round dowel of approximately ¼ inch diameter.

Grab the ends of the wires and rotate the pliers until the wire end meets the rest of the wire length.

This makes a large loop at the end of the wire. Make both loops as even as possible.

Use chain link pliers, grab the wire intersection just opposite the cut end...

… bend the wire end upright from where you have the plier gripped.

Do this to both earring hook wires.

Hammer the loop in the wires slightly to harden them.

This might cause the cut end to open slightly.

Reinsert the loop into the bail making pliers and gently work the loop closed again.

Be careful not to crush the newly hammered and flatted wire in the pliers.
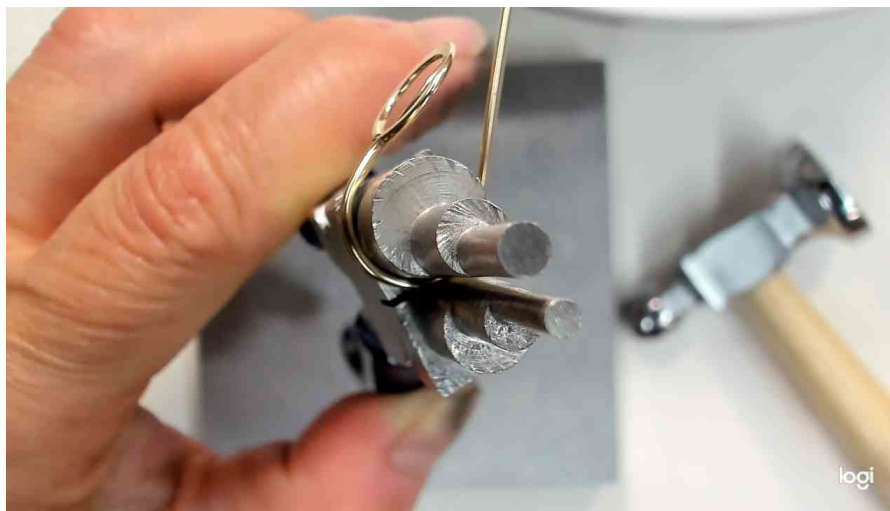

Both loops should be fairly even and similar in hammer strikes.

Hold them together so that the looped ends are aligned and so that the cuts each face each other.

Do both wires together...

Insert them into the Bail Making pliers or over a dowel of approximately ¼ inch in diameter or slightly larger..

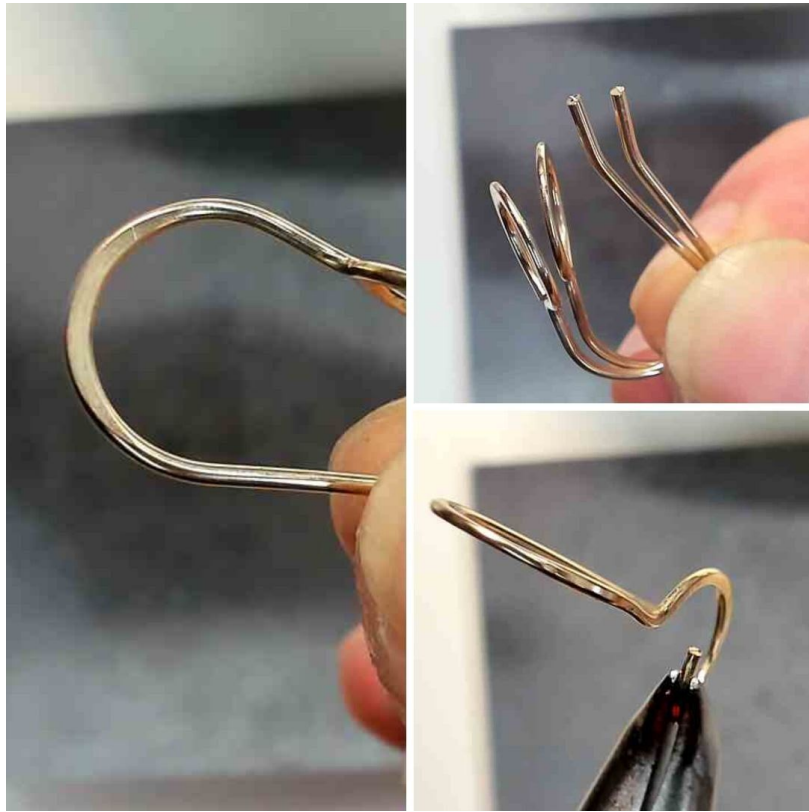Bend the wires over the Bail Maker pliers or over a dowel to create the earring hook.

The looped end should be 'face forward'.

Lay the curve of the earring hook over the side of the metal bench block or anvil and hammer the top curve of the wire.

This hardens the earring hook.

Do this to both earring hooks.

Then examine them together…

They should be of similar size and shape.

Use your hands to adjust them slightly if needed.

Examine the wire ends…
They should be smooth enough to go through the flesh of the ear.

Use an emery board or sandpaper to smooth out any rough edges at the wire ends if needed.

Use Chain link pliers to open the earring loop.

They should open like scissors, side to side. Do not pull the round loop 'out' and out of shape.
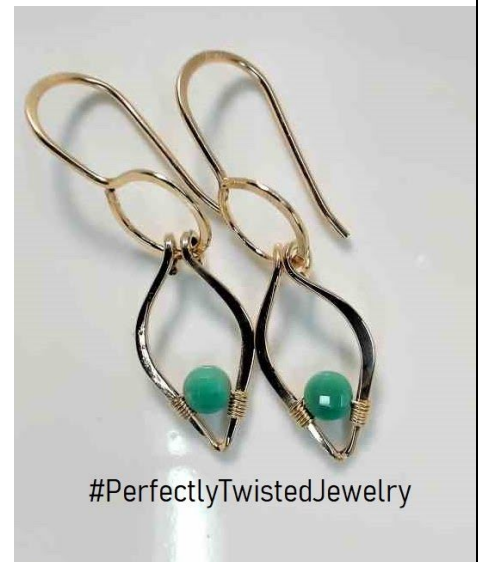
Insert the earring loops onto the earring hook. Make sure the earring is facing forward.

Use Chain link pliers and push the open end back into place.

Do the second earring and that's it!!

Congratulations! You've created a gorgeous pair of handmade earrings! Enjoy them for yourself, as a gift for friends or enjoy selling the finished earrings in your shop!

Thank you for your business!

Have fun! Find more of my tutorials and classes at the links below.

Contact me anytime with questions.
PerfectlyTwistedJewelry13@gmail.com
IzzyzGumbo@gmail.com

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