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In this lesson, you will learn how to create beautiful and durable hair sticks. They are not only decorative, but hold the hair quite well.

### Materials:

- Two, 6 inch wooden hair sticks
- 12 inches, Copper Zebra wire, 26 gauge
- 12 inches, Copper Zebra wire, 26 gauge
- 8 inches, Copper wire, 16 gauge
- Aleene's Platinum Bond, Glass & Bead Slick Surfaces Adhesive (Or any adhesive that will bond the materials)
- Many, 4 to 6mm Copper and/or gold glass seed beads
- Instant, Krazy Glue, brush applicator

### Tools:

Wire cutters  
Round nose pliers  
Flat nose pliers  
Foam core  
Felt sheet for beads (a kitchen towel works also)



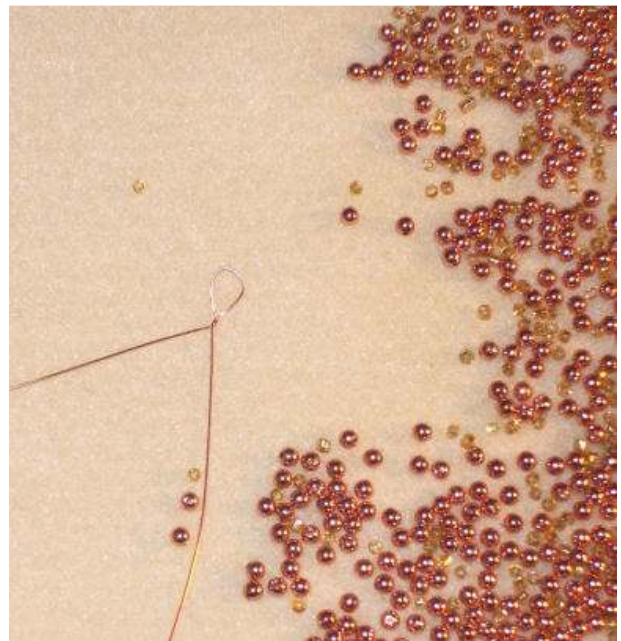
### Step1:

Gather your materials onto a surface that will prevent the beads from rolling away. You can place the seed beads onto a felt sheet as shown in the image. I find this works well as a project surface.

Precut your 26 gauge wire to a length of 12 inches.

### Step 2:

Create a simple twist loop at one end, 2 inches from the end of the wire. This helps the beads stay in place on the wire as you string them.







**Step 3:**

String your beads in a random order along the wire. Hold one end like a sewing needle and using the other hand, gently push the beads onto the wire.

After a few are in place, slide them down the wire to meet the other beads. There should be no gaps between them.

**Step 4:**

Work them onto the wire and stop once you have six inches left on the end.

Create another simple twist loop at the end of the bead line.



**Step 5:**

Before you put glue onto the hair stick, make sure you have a surface to 'hold' the hair stick in place while you work. A foam core works perfectly. They are inexpensive and can be found in the floral arrangement section of most craft stores. If not, a bowl full of dry noodles, beans or rice works well too.

I also get a scrap piece of paper handy to wipe the excess glue off the stick.

Uncap the beading glue and apply the glue to the head of the hair stick, covering 1 inch of the top surface.

Always follow instructions and precautions on the tube.





**Step 6:**

If 'lumps' of glue are messy after the application, simply roll the hair stick gently along the paper surface to 'blot' it.

**Step 7:**

Take the strand of beads and place the six inch end at the bottom of the glue line. You will be coiling the beaded wire 'up' toward the top of the hair stick.



**Step 8:**

Hold the hair stick and end of the beaded wire with one hand, placing your thumb over the loop to help hold the wire in place.

**Step 9:**

Using your other hand, gently but securely loop the beaded wire around the hair stick, moving toward the top of the hair stick. You are wrapping around the glued surface.



Don't worry too much about exact length, the drying time on the glue, while not much, does give you time to 'scotch' the beads up or down the head of the stick. The objective is to wrap the beads so that they end looping neatly around the very top edge of the stick. The excess wire (remaining inches), will be used to fill in the top after the glue has set and the beaded string is holding firmly.





#### Step 10:

As you wrap, keep the beads tightly wrapped around the stick. The natural tendency of the coil will be to loosen, so you'll have to hold onto it for a few seconds until the glue sets the bond.

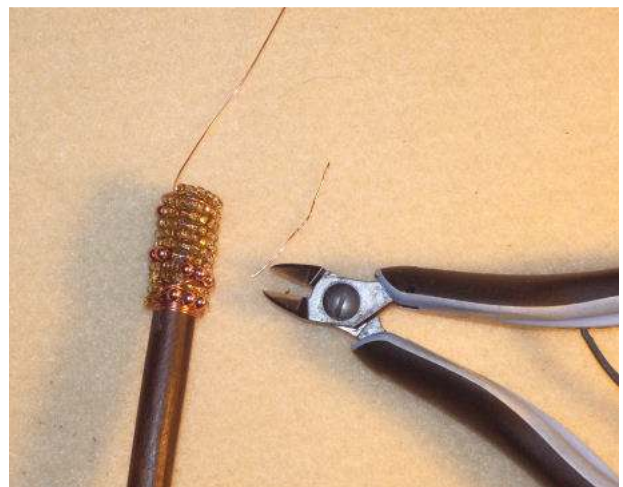
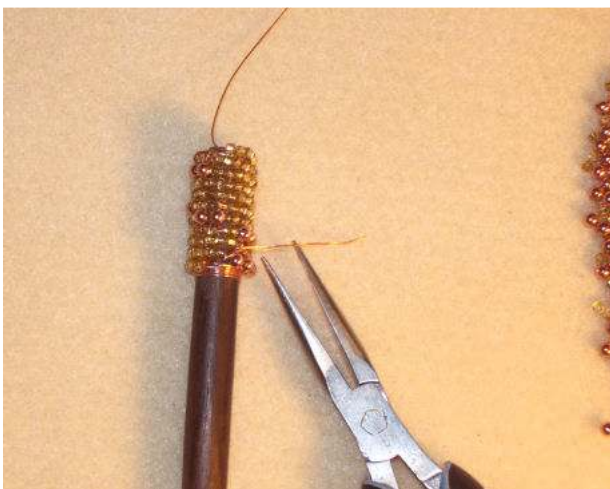
#### Step 11:

Don't worry about being a few beads 'short' near the top as we will be adding those few beads in future steps. For now, the beaded coil should reach the top edge of the hair stick or close to it.

#### Step 12:

Once the glue has set, untwist the small loop at the bottom of the copper wire. Use the flat nose pliers or your fingers and make a tight coil of the remaining wire, working 'down' the hair stick. The last six inches of wire should give you three or four bands of wire at the bottom of the beads. Keep the bands tight and hold them into place using the flat nose pliers, until the glue has set. They will uncoil slightly once you release them. You can add an additional small dab of Krazy glue along the bottom edge if needed.

Make the last wrap of the end of the copper wire, over and between the last two rows of beads. Pull the wire tight and cut off an excess. Use the round nose pliers to 'tuck' the wire edge into the bead row if needed.





**Step 13:**

Once the bottom of the wire is secured and finished, we can move onto the top of the hair stick.

If you are using a foam core, this is a great help when finishing the top.

Untwist the loop from the top of the wire. Put a dab of glue directly on the top of the hair stick surface.

**Step 14:**

Carefully add a few last beads to the wire and gently coil the wire into a spiral, over the top of the hair stick.

**Step 15:**

Use your thumb to keep the spiral tight and in place until the glue has set a bit. Once the beads are secure to the top of the hair stick, take the remaining bit of wire and push it through the center and thread it back out through the second or third row below it.

Trim the wire close and use the round nose pliers to tuck the cut end in between the beads.

Keep the hair stick aside overnight to ensure the glue is fully set before use.





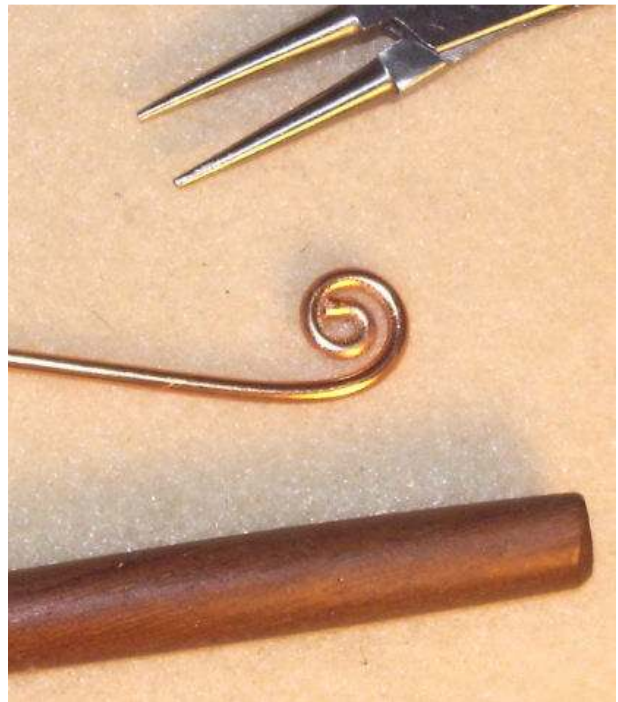


**Step 15:**

For the second design, cut an eight inch piece of 16 gauge copper wire. Use a small file at the ends to file down any sharp edge.

**Step 16:**

Using the round nose pliers, create a small loop and continue to wrap the wire into a spiral of one and a half turns.





**Step 17:**

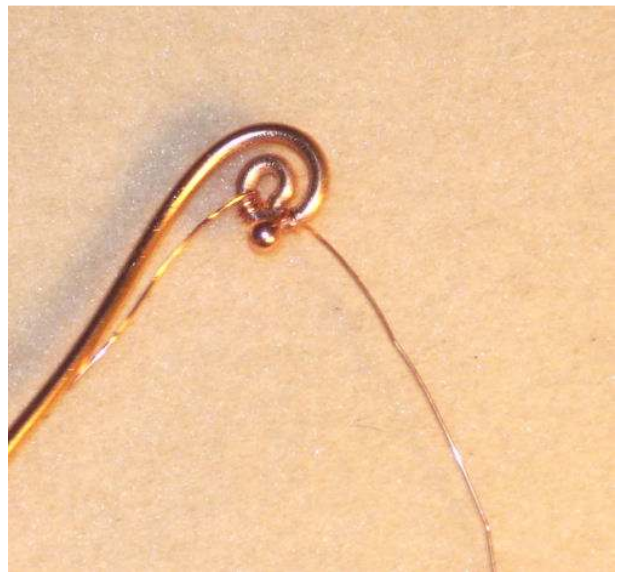
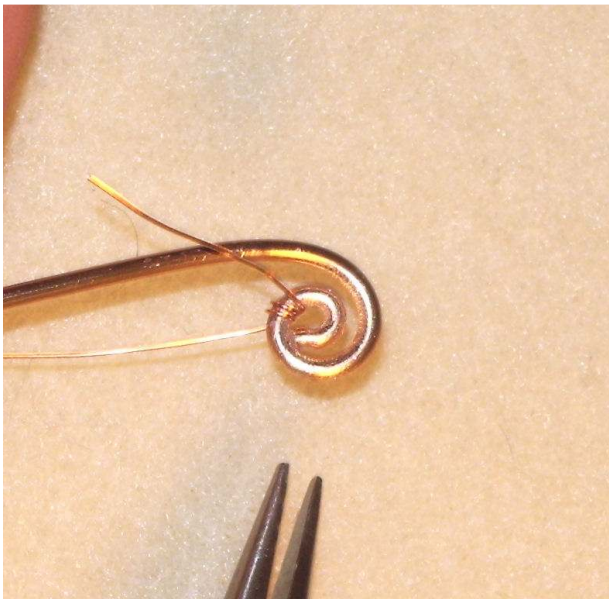
Using the second piece of 12 inch, 26 gauge wire, insert 2 inches through the center loop you just created with the 16 gauge wire.

Begin from the back side to the 'front'.

**Step 18:**

Bring the long end of the 26 gauge wire down and back up, then through the loop and pull tight. Make two complete wraps and then insert one seed bead of choice. In this case, I use small round copper beads.

Bring the bead to sit against the larger frame, then make two additional tight wraps with the 26 gauge wire to 'anchor' the bead.







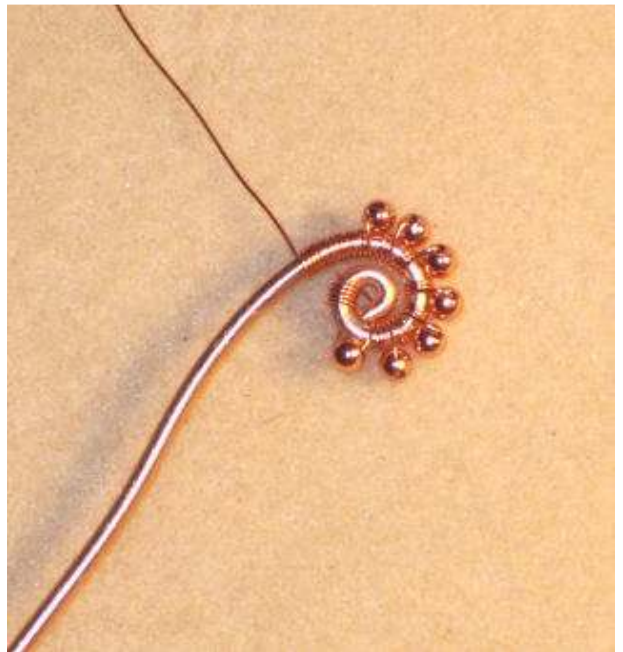
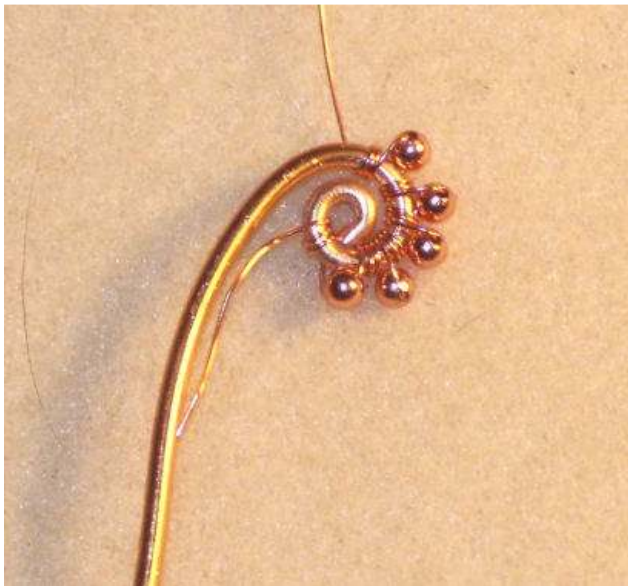
**Step 19:**

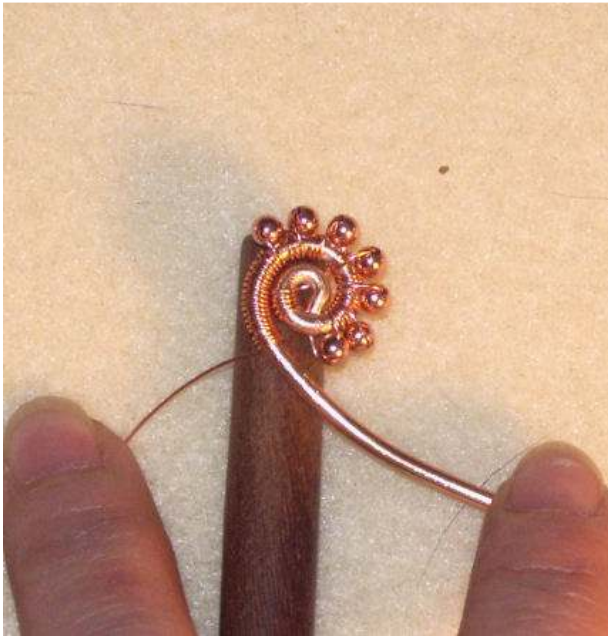
Insert another bead along the wrapping wire and repeat two tight wraps to 'anchor' the second bead.

**Step 20:**

Continue to add beads until you have seven beads on the frame. Add more or less as you desire and depending on the size of beads you are using. The idea is to cover the head of the spiral.

Continue to wrap the 26 gauge wire down along the larger wire about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch past the beads but don't trim off the wire yet.





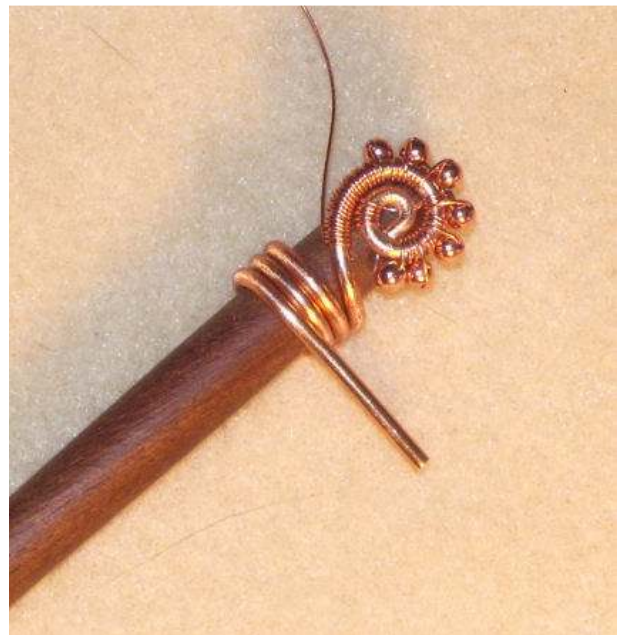
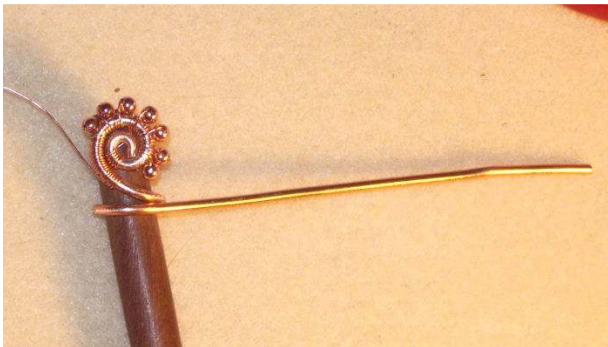
**Step 21:**

Use your fingers to 'shape' the spiral neat and tight if needed. Put the hair stick under the wire and ensure that the spiral and beads sit neatly in proportion to the head of the hair stick.

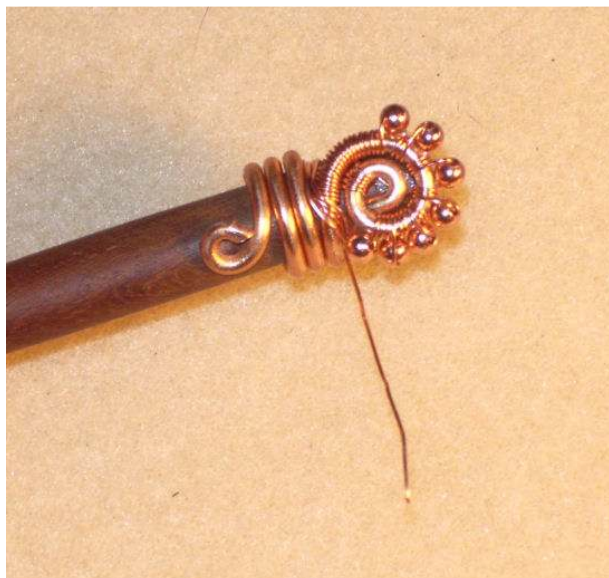
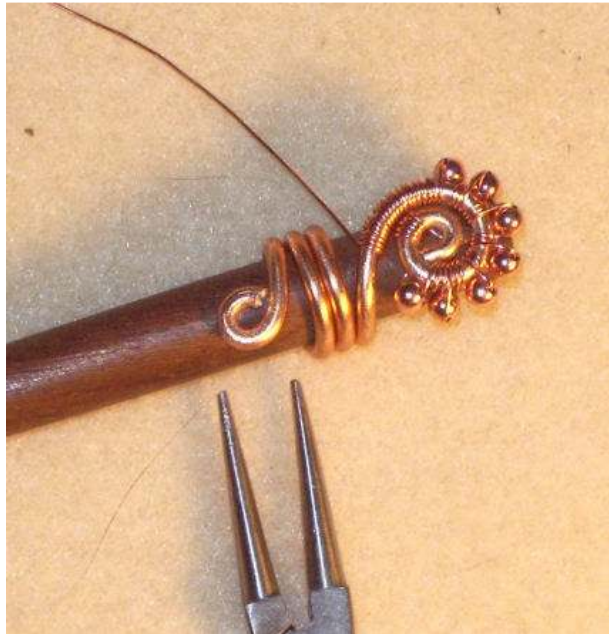
**Step 22:**

Make one complete wrap around the hair stick while keeping your thumb over the spiral and beads to keep them positioned vertically.

Make two or three additional tight wraps around the hair stick, leaving approximately half an inch at the end.







### Step 23:

Using the flat nose pliers, grasp the end of the wire and create a small tight, closed loop. Use your fingers to press the loop tight up against the hair stick if needed.



### Step 24:

Turn the hair stick over and apply a dab of glue to the top edge of the wire. Use your flat nose pliers to hold onto the 26 gauge wire and wrap it tightly and neatly around the top of the hair stick, three or four times. Make the wraps neatly against each other, working in an 'upward' direction toward the top of the hair stick.

### Step 25:

Turn the stick over and tuck the end of the wire under and back out from the thicker wire. Hold onto the end for a few seconds to keep the coil tight against the glue, allowing it some time to set. Trim the wire neatly and close. Use the round nose pliers to tuck any sharp edge.



**Step 26:**

Set the hair stick aside overnight to allow the glue to fully set before use.

Additionally, you can also add a clear coat of gloss or matt finish to the wood using a wood lacquer or even quick dry, hard nail polish clear coat.

That's it! Enjoy and get creative with other type of Zebra wires, colors of beads, metals, fabric cords! The ideas are endless and I hope you have a great time with these.

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I'm happy to take suggestions and comments on how to improve my tutorials. I'm also happy to help answer any questions of something in the tutorial is not clear.

My thanks!