

Branch Wire Necklace



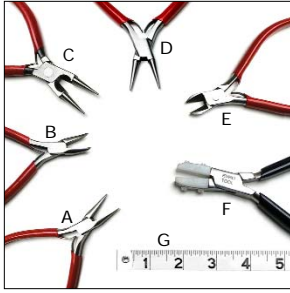
Skill Level: All levels

Prerequisite: Wire-wrapping experience beneficial

Project Time: 2-3 hrs.

Feel like the queen of the forest with this willowy necklace. Let us show you the art of twisting wire to create branches of beads and gemstones. Although delicate looking, this unique design is stronger than it looks. Like nature, the tree you create will grow naturally and always be a vision of beauty.

Ingredients for the Branch Wire Necklace



TOOLS NEEDED

- A. Needle-nose chain pliers
- B. Bent-nose chain pliers
- C. Rosary OR
- D. Round-nose pliers
- E. Wire cutters
- F. Wire straightener
- G. Tape measure

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

PART 1

- Making Your First Branch
- Adding the Bead Units
- Making and Connecting More Branches
- Putting It All Together
- Design Ideas

PART 2 -- Technique Reviews

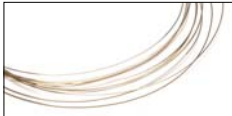
- Learning to Wire-Wrap a Head Pin
- Learning to Wire-Wrap Bead Units



- 20-40 Beads of various sizes and colors
Be sure to choose a bead for your centerpiece.



- 1 Sterling silver or gold-filled 2" head pin



- 10 ft 26-gauge Sterling silver or gold-filled wire and
1 ft 24-gauge Sterling silver or gold filled wire



- 12-18in. Sterling silver or gold-filled chain of your choice



- 1 Sterling silver or gold-filled clasp of your choice

Making Your First Branch



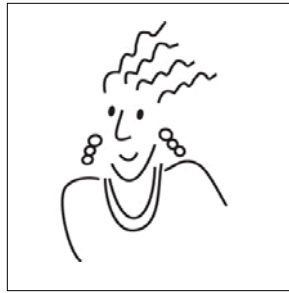
Let's begin by making your first branch of the necklace along with a centerpiece bead unit.



Step 1
Slide your desired pattern of beads onto a 2" head pin to form your centerpiece drop.



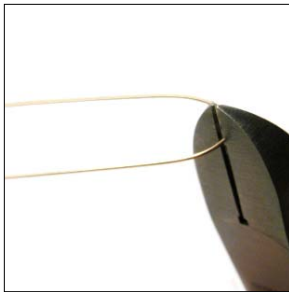
Step 2
Finish it by creating a wire-wrapped loop at the top.



Step 3
Refer to pages 8 and 9 for a Technique Review of Wire-Wrapping a Head Pin.



Step 4
Take approximately 36" of 26-gauge wire.



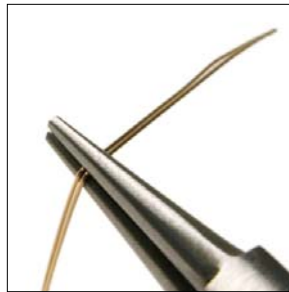
Step 5
Cut the wire in half, leaving two 18" pieces.



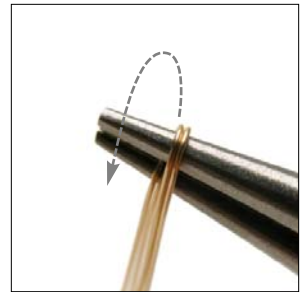
Step 6
Switch to your needle-nose chain pliers and grab the two pieces of wires together approximately 1" from their tip.



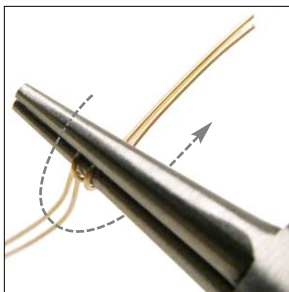
Step 7
Make a right angle bend against the plier.



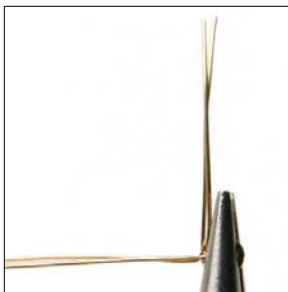
Step 8
Switch to your round-nose pliers and grab the flat part of the right angle bend.



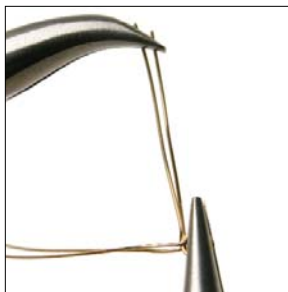
Step 9
Wrap the two wires around the top of the plier leg.



Step 10
1. Rotate your pliers so the lower plier leg is now on top.
2. Finish the loop around the lower plier leg.



Step 11
Switch back to your needle-nose chain pliers and grab onto the loop.



Step 12
Start wire-wrapping around the stem with a pair of bent-nose chain pliers.



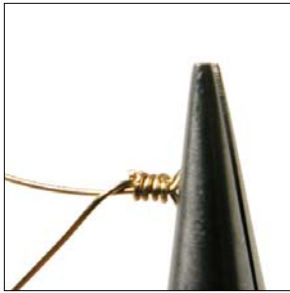
Step 13
Continue wrapping around the stem 3-4 times.



Step 14
Snip the excess wires.



Step 15
Using the bent-nose chain pliers, tuck in the tips of the wire-wrap so they are not sharp.



Step 16
Start bringing one of the two wires over the other.



Step 17
Twist the wires so they become interwine. Repeat until you get about 1/2-1" of twisted wire.



Step 18
Slide a bead onto one of the wires, 1/2-1" away from the main branch.



Step 19
Bend the wire back around towards the main branch.



Step 20
Pinch the wires together above the bead so they can be twisted again.



Step 21
Twist until you reach the main branch.



Step 22
Continue twisting, but now with both wires of the main branch. Twist them 1/4-1/2" together.



Step 23
Slide another bead onto the longer of the two wires.



Step 24
Repeat steps 18-21.



Step 25
Continue twisting another inch up the main branch.



Step 26
Repeat steps 18-25 to add additional beads.



Step 27
When you have approximately 3" of wire left, twist 1/2-1" of the two wires together. Start a wire-wrapped loop and leave it slightly open.



Step 28
Slide the center piece into the open loop.



Step 29
Finish the wire-wrap.

Adding the Bead Units



Step 30
Start a wire-wrapped loop and leave the loop slightly open.



Step 31
Slide the other end of your finished branch of the necklace into the open loop.



Step 32
Complete the wire-wrapped loop. Refer to page 10 for a Technique Review of Learning to Wire-Wrap Bead Units.



Step 33
String on one of your beads.



Step 34
Finish off the second wire-wrapped loop to complete your first bead unit.



Step 35
Begin another wire-wrap loop and slide it into your first bead unit.



Step 36
Complete the wire-wrap and slide on a bead of your choice.



Step 37
Finish the wire-wrap loop to complete your second bead unit.



Step 38
Repeat steps 35-37 to add another bead unit.

Making and Connecting More Branches



Step 39
Repeat steps 4-27 to make two branches of wire.



Step 40
Connect one on each side of the center drop by wire-wrapping to the bead units.



Step 41
Make a bead unit and attach it to the loop at the end of the branch. Repeat on other side.



Step 42

Repeat steps 4-27 and add a second branch on each side of the necklace.

Note

Your necklace should now look similar to the above photo and you are now ready to add a length of chain to the end of each branch to complete your necklace.

Putting It All Together



Step 43

Begin by adding a bead unit at the end of your second branch, as in steps 30-33. Before wire-wrapping the second loop closed, slide on a length of chain, about 6".



Step 44

Close the loop securely by wire-wrapping.



Step 45

Repeat steps 43-44 to add a length of chain to the opposite branch.



Step 46

Measure the necklace around your neck to check for length. Take into consideration the length of your clasp. Cut off excess chain.



Step 47

Using 24-gauge wire, wire-wrap a bead unit at the end of your chain. Before closing off the second loop with a wire-wrap, slide on your clasp.



Step 48
Close the loop by completing the wire-wrap.



Step 49
Repeat step 47 to add the other part of the clasp to the other side.

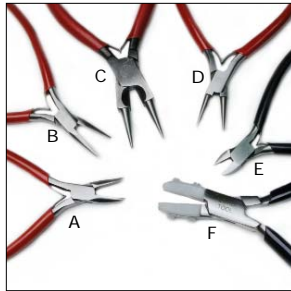


Step 53
Complete the wire-wrap.

Design Ideas



Wire-Wrapping a Head Pin



TOOLS NEEDED

- A. Bent-nose chain pliers
- B. Needle-nose chain pliers
- C. Rosary OR
- D. Round-nose pliers
- E. Wire cutters
- F. Wire straightener



1 Pair of sterling silver ear wire or equivalent (to make earrings)



A length of chain if you are wire-wrapping to chain (optional)



2" Sterling silver head pins with silver balls at the end or equivalent



12mm Faceted coin gemstones or equivalent



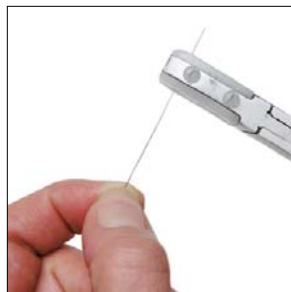
10mm Faceted oval gemstones or equivalent



Imagine the wire-wrapped loop is the head of a little person and the wrap is a scarf. The head and scarf sit on the shoulders of the bead. The first thing you have to do is form the head!



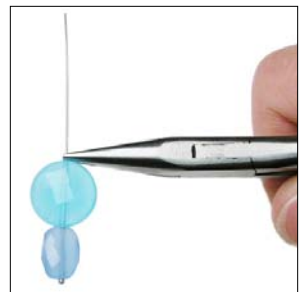
Step 1
To stiffen and straighten the head pin place it inside the nylon jaws of the wire straightener.



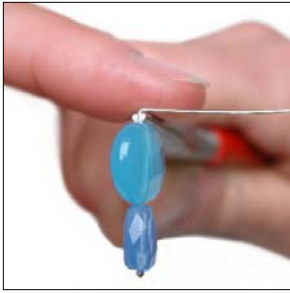
Step 2
Pinch the head pin. Run the closed wire straightener down the length of the head pin.



Step 3
Slide a 10mm gemstone onto the head pin. Follow it with a 12mm gemstone.



Step 4
Use the needle-nose chain pliers to grab the head pin just above the gemstones.



Step 5
Use your finger to push the wire over and make a 90 degree angle.

Note that the plier legs are side-by-side.



Step 6
Switch to the rosary or round-nose pliers. Place the tips of the pliers above and below the longer wire, at the right angle.



Step 7
Bend the wire over the top plier tip.



Step 8
Rotate the bottom plier tip to the top of the loop.



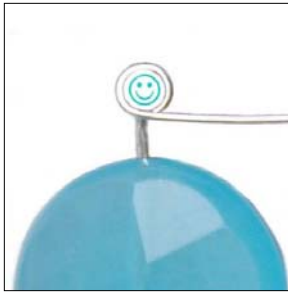
Step 9
Continue bending the wire around the bottom plier tip.



Make sure that you see the neck 'cause I'll need it for the scarf!



Step 10
When the loop's circle is complete you have finished the head.



Step 11
Now its time to hook me up to the ear wire, and wrap the scarf around my neck!



Step 12
To open the loop, lift it out of its plane. Do not pull the loop open sideways or you will distort its round shape.



Step 13
Slide the ear wire or chain into the loop.



Step 14
Use the needle-nose chain pliers to close the loop.

WRAPPING THE SCARF AROUND THE NECK



Step 15
Use the bent-nose chain pliers to hold the loop (or head) securely. Grip the end of the wire with the needle-nose chain pliers.



Step 16
Wrap the scarf around the neck down to the shoulders of the gemstone.



Step 17
Use the wire cutters to clip off excess wire.



Step 18
Use the bent-nose pliers to tuck in the sharp wire end. Use caution! You can damage the bead with too much force.



We hope you enjoyed this project. I certainly enjoyed teaching you how wire-wrap using a head pin.

Send your comments and suggestions to me at: info@beadshop.com

The Bead Shop™

LEARNING TO MAKE WIRE-WRAPPED BEAD UNITS



To practice this link, you will need:

- Bent-nose chain pliers
- Needle-nose chain pliers
- Round-nose pliers or rosary pliers
- Wire cutter

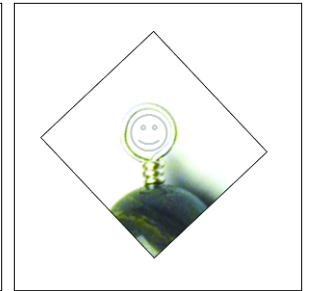
For supplies gather:

- 5" 24-gauge round wire
- 2 Small spacer beads
- 4 8mm Beads

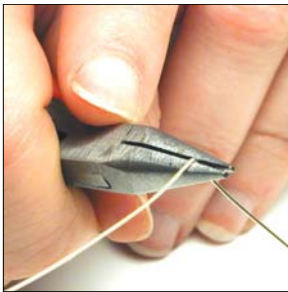
Example of one end of a wire-wrapped bead unit.



Imagine that the wire-wrapped loop is the head of a little person like me, and the wrap has to do is form my scarf.

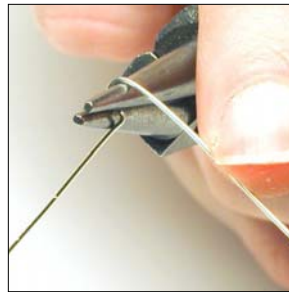


The head and scarf sit on the shoulders of the bead. The first thing you have to do is form my head!

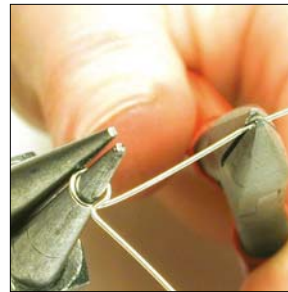


Step 1
Holding the needle-nose chain pliers grab the wire about one inch from the end.

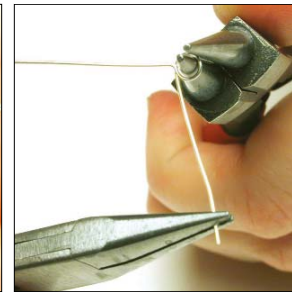
Using your finger, bend the short end of the wire at a right angle. Switch to rosary pliers.



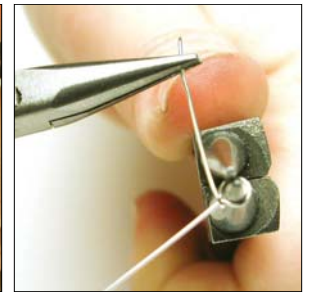
Step 2
Place the tips of the rosary pliers above and below the short wire at the right angle. Use your finger to begin pushing the short end of the wire over the top plier cone.



Step 3
Switch the rosary pliers to your non-dominant hand. Use the needle-nose chain pliers to complete the round loop.



Step 4
Center the loop on top of the long wire.



Step 5
Starting at the base of the loop, begin wrapping the short wire around the long wire. Complete three full turns of the wire.



Step 6
Using the wire cutters, clip off excess wire. Using the bent-nose chain pliers, press down the end of the wire so it isn't sharp.



Step 7
Slide beads onto the wire.



Step 8
Use the tip of the needle-nose chain pliers to grab the wire against the bead. Use your finger to push the wire into a right angle. Switch to rosary pliers. Repeat steps 2-4 to complete loop and create a finished bead unit.



Step 9
To link units together, slide one loop into the other.



Don't forget to link wire wraps together before completing the second wire-wrap.



Step 10
Hold the loops steady with the needle-nose chain pliers. Starting at the bottom of the loop, begin wrapping the short wire around the long wire. Continue wrapping until you've reached the bead.