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beadshop LIVE:

2.6.19 The Wire Olympics



*With Kate Richbourg and Emily Miller on beadshop LIVE
Product photography by Karen Marshall
Episode Notes by Drea Carbone*

Welcome one and all to the Wire Olympics! Three spools of wire, a collection of Czech Glass, and the tools of the trade...what will our dynamic duo create? With Kate and Emily coming to us LIVE from the 2019 Tucson Gem shows, anything CAN and WILL happen...including losing the live feed (oops), so please join us for both [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#)! Our Notes this week are going to be short and sweet, and photos this week are simply screen shots from the show, since we didn't have our usual setup or extra help this week...thanks for bearing with us!!

If you'd like to skip the chit chat and get right into the learning, simply skip to Part **[Part 1- Minute Marker 5:00](#)** to learn about the products we're using today, and **[Part 1- Minute Marker 15:40](#)** to get to the wire work... enjoy!

Part 1- Minute Marker 5:00

Let's take a peek at what the ladies have brought to Tucson to work with today...

Czech Glass Hibiscus, 21mm flower-shaped beads

Czech Glass Rollers, 6x9mm faceted beads with large holes

Czech Glass English Cuts, 8mm or 1mm irregularly-faceted beads

Czech Glass Rondelles, 5mm or 8mm "squished round" faceted beads

ParaWire Non-Tarnish Titanium colored wire in 20G, 22G, and 24G



Part 1- Minute Marker 15:40

Emily's up first in our Olympics... she starts it off with one of the most basic wire skills: loops! Wire-wrapped loops (right) and rosary loops (left). To create these, pick up your Round Nose Pliers yo make those perfectly rounded loops. Check out our Skill Builders right here: How to Wire Wrap a Bead Unit How to Make Rosary Loops With Beads



Part 1- Minute Marker 22:30

Next up? Two ways of creating a pendant (or earrings!) with the Hibiscus flowers. First is a variation on a briolette wrap, bringing the wire through the hole of the bead and then up and around the outside edge to meet at the top and wrap closed with a closed and wire-wrapped loop. Second? A variation on using a head pin or eye pin, where Emily has created her own "head" by spiraling the wire into a flat coil which will sit below the bead and act as a stopper.



Watch as Emily work-hardens her wire using a pair of [Nylon Jaw Pliers](#). This not only stiffens the wire but also helps to straighten it out. Just a few swipes and you're ready to work. With her [Chain Nose Pliers](#), Emily slowly but surely brings her wire around and around on itself to work it into a flat spiral. You can create a round spiral or work on an elongated one, a "leaf shape," as Emily calls it. Slide a bead on above the spiral, bend the wire at 90°, and trim your wire. Roll it back onto itself with Round Nose Pliers to create a perfect loop



Skill Builders:

[How to Wire Wrap a Briolette](#)

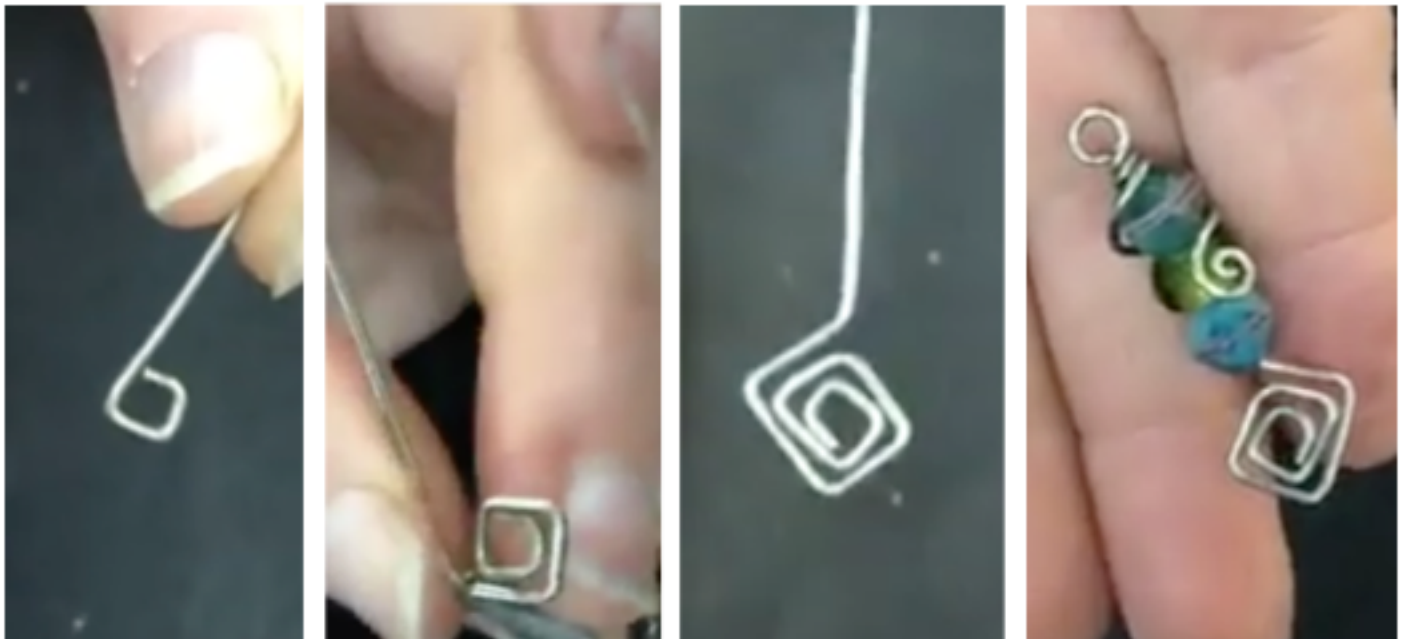
[How to Wire Wrap Using a Headpin](#)

At this point, Kate and Emily realize we're losing our connection, so start up the second video:

[The Wire Olympics Part 2](#)

Part 2- Minute Marker 2:00

And we're back! Let's see what Kate's about to make...with a length of 18G wire, Kate uses chain nose pliers to create a square spiral. How cool is that? With just the tips of the pliers she creates a series of 90° angles, increasing her square with each turn. She finally bends at a corner to create a diamond shape for the "head" of her handmade headpin. Add beads and a wire-wrapped loop...and a spiral? Tada!



Part 2- Minute Marker 8:00

Kate demonstrates again, this time making bends to create a triangular spiral. She creates a second triangle from the opposite end of her wire, ending up with a really cute component that would make a great addition to an earring.





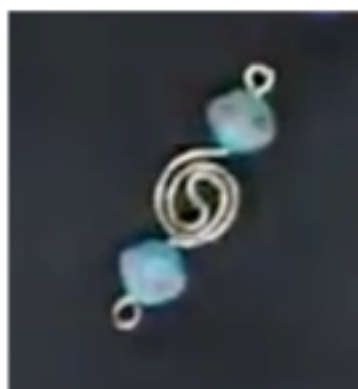
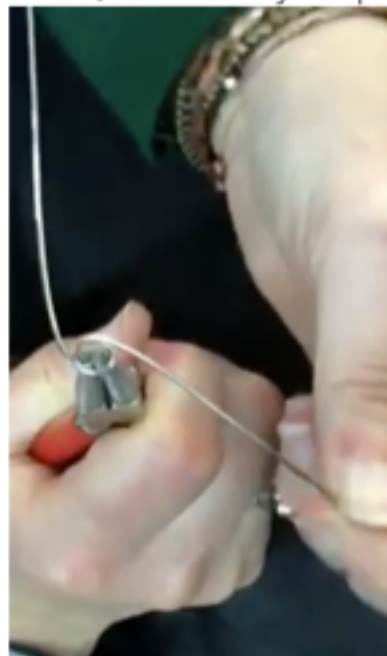
10:00

With a Hibiscus bead at the center of a similar component, Kate shows another variation on her triangle component. With large, open, hand-formed spirals, this one is super cute. Just look at these beauties!



Part 2- Minute Marker 13:00

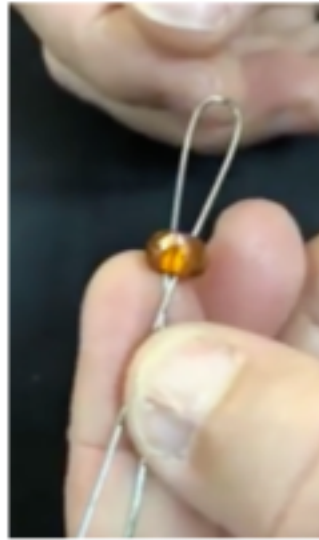
Watch Kate work out this cool double-spiral at the center of her next component. Adding beads on either side, with rosary loops...component complete!



Part 2- Minute Marker 17:00

Emily's back to show what she's calling a "Double Spiral Loop Link," inspired by

another artist's display she had seen. With 18G wire, she bends it using the largest part of her round nose pliers. She slides a roller bead onto both ends of the wire and brings it up towards her bend until her wires cross below the bead. She pulls the cross wires out a bit so they stay in that crossed position and hold the bead in place. She flush-cuts the ends of each tail and then creates a spiral on each. Cute!



Part 2- Minute Marker 22:20

One more lesson with Kate...with two three inch lengths 20G wire in hand, Kate makes an off-center rosary loop on the ends of each. See how they are shaped a bit like a lowercase "b" this time? Next she grabs a pen and uses it as a jig to create an earwire. She slides the wire right underneath the pen cap's clip to hold it in place, then bends the wire around the pen, creating a nice open curve. She holds them side-by-side to cut the ends, then bends the tips just a bit with chain nose pliers. She suggests filing the ends to remove any roughness or sharp edges on the wire. Perfecto!



Part 2- Minute Marker 26:00

Two more 3" pieces of 20G wire, and Kate creates a pair of spiral-end headpins, adding an English Cut bead and some 24G wire in a decorative spiral and coils

adding an English cut bead and some 24G wire in a decorative spiral and cone around it all. Using the pen as a mandrel she creates an earwire right out of this same wire, making an all-in-one earring.



And that's all, folks! What a great episode! We've gotten some great ideas for new components and some quick and easy ways to make them. Each one of these ideas worked up in just a matter of minutes, and each was simple but with major impact.

We'll see you next week, back in the office, and back with better photos...I promise!

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Links to This Week's Ingredients...

Czech Glass Beads

Czech Glass Hibiscus

[Beige Picasso Turquoise](#)

[Violet Brown Wash](#)

[Sea Green Picasso](#)

Czech Glass Rollers

[Orange Copper-Lined](#)

[Fuchsia Silver-Lined](#)

[Kelly Copper-Lined](#)

Czech Glass English Cuts

[8mm Blue Green](#)



ParaWire

[Titanium 20G](#)

[Titanium 22G](#)

[Titanium 24G](#)

Tools

[Chain Nose Pliers](#)

[Round Nose Pliers](#)

[Nylon Jaw Pliers](#)

[Maxi-Shear Flush Cutters](#)

