

Gift-Wrapped Earrings



Bridal Shower
Peach, ivory and pink freshwater pearls with sterling silver.



Holiday Surprise
Green freshwater pearls with sterling silver.



Golden Anniversary
Bronze-colored freshwater pearls with gold-filled.

Skill Level: Intermediate-Advanced
Project Time: 2-4 hours

In this project, delicate wire is carefully wrapped around luminous, freshwater pearls. Your biggest decision with this project will be whether or not to give these earrings as a gift or keep them for yourself. We have the perfect solution, do both!

Our earring design is shown in both warm and cool pearl palettes. Choose gold-filled or sterling silver wire to enhance your personal style. Mix and match colors and other types of beads. See our fabulous selection to choose from at www.beadshop.com. The possibilities are infinite! We hope you find learning with us fun and valuable.

GIFT-WRAPPED EARRING RECIPE

Hi! I'm BettyBead.™ I will be your guide throughout this project. This wire technique is meant for intermediate-advanced level. However, if you are a beginning beader, please start with our Step-By-Step instructions for Learning to Make Rosary Loops and Wire-wrapped Loops. Once you are comfortable with both techniques, gather your materials and begin the Gift-wrapped Earrings. You may want some extra wire, for practicing or just in case you need to start again.

Good luck! Don't hesitate contacting me with your questions and comments. I can be reached by email: info@beadshop.com.



Ingredients for One Pair of Gift-wrapped Earrings



TOOLS NEEDED

- Bent-nose chain pliers
- Needle-nose chain pliers
- Rosary pliers or
- Round-nose
- Wire cutters
- Bead reamer for pearls (optional)
- Magnifiers (optional)
- Ruler

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS INCLUDE

Part 1—Technique Review

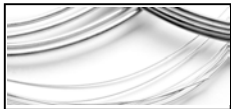
- Learning to Make Rosary Loops
- Learning to Make Wire-wrapped Loops

Part 2

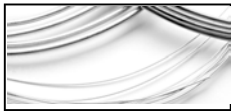
- 36 easy steps to the Gift-wrapped Earrings



- 1 Pair of sterling silver posts. Our style has inset peridot.



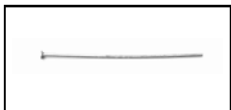
- 6" Sterling silver round wire, 24 gauge



- 48" Sterling silver round wire, 30 gauge



- 8 6mm Freshwater pearls



- 2 1" Sterling silver head pins



- 2 4mm Freshwater pearls

MAKING THE PACKAGE



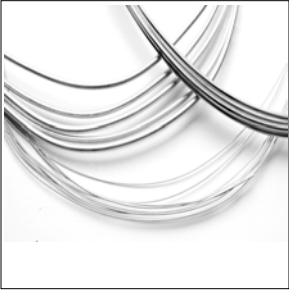
The Gift-wrapped Earring contains four pearls and a pearl dangle.



The pearls are lined up before they are formed into a square.



We will be working on one earring at a time. When you have finished the first earring, come back to Step 1 to make the second.



Step 1
Begin by cutting the 30 gauge wire in half. One half makes one earring.



Step 2
a) Slip the pearl onto one 30-gauge wire.
b) Center the pearl on the wire.



Step 3
Fold both ends of the wire up and around the pearl.



Step 4
Double one end of the wire back through the pearl hole.



Step 5
Using your hands, pull the wire tails from both ends so the loop rests against the bead.

Helpful Hint
Don't pull too hard on the 30-gauge wire or it will break.



Step 6
String the second pearl on the longer end of the wire. This will keep the string of pearls centered.



Step 7
a) Double the wire back through the second pearl.
b) Leave a little space between the pearls.



Step 8
Begin lining up the loops side-by-side.



Step 9
Place the remaining two pearls on the opposite ends of the wire. This will keep the string of pearls centered.

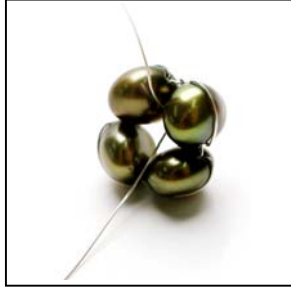


Step 10
Double one end of the wire back through the last pearl on each side.

FORMING THE PACKAGE INTO A SQUARE



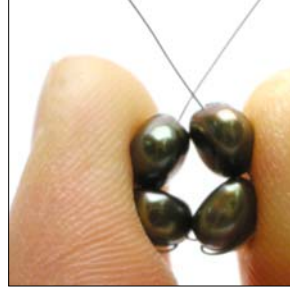
The pearls are formed into a square.



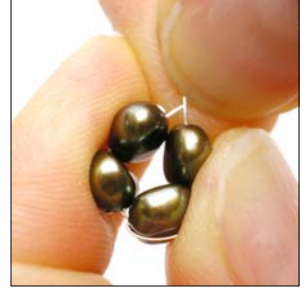
This is a close-up of the square before it has been bundled together.



Step 11
Double check that the wire loops are lined up on the outside.



Step 12
Using your fingers, gently fold the string of four pearls into a square form.



Step 13
Using your fingers, pinch the two wires together at their base.



Step 14
While continuing to hold the wires, turn the square package three whole turns, so the two wires twist together.



Helpful Hint
Be careful not to twist your wires too much. They will break off.



Step 15
a) Pull the wire ends up through the center of the opening.
b) Allow the twist to follow into the opening.



Step 16
Using your hands, separate the two wires down to the twist.

CREATING THE HANGER AND DANGLE



The square package is held up by a hanger.



The hanger includes a pearl dangle.



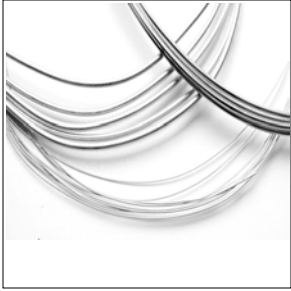
Step 17
Before we continue to wrap the package of pearls, we have to attach the dangle to the hanger.



Step 18
To make the dangle for the hanger, slide a pearl onto a 1" headpin.



Step 19
Make a rosary loop.



Step 20
To make the package hanger begin by cutting the 24 gauge wire in half.



Step 21
Use the base of the round-nose pliers to bend a u-shape in the middle of the 3" 24 gauge wire.



Step 22
To attach the dangle to the hanger, slide the pearl with rosary loop onto the u-shaped wire.

WRAPPING THE PACKAGE INTO A BUNDLE WHILE ATTACHING THE HANGER



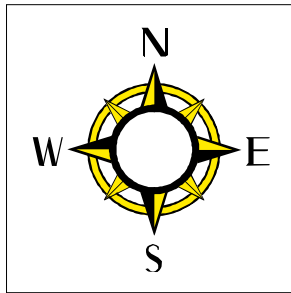
The hanger is tied onto the package.



Close-up of the hanger.



Helpful Hint
Think of your square bundle of pearls like a compass. You will be wrapping the package in two different directions.



This compass illustrates north/south and east/west directions.



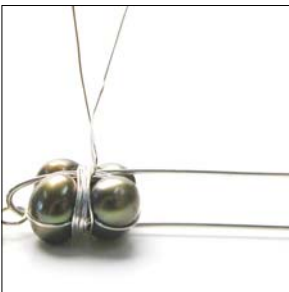
Step 23
a) Choose one of the 30-gauge ends and wrap it around the package in a north/south direction.
b) Wrap until approximately 1" is left.



Step 24
Slip the u-shaped wire with the dangle on top of the north/south wrap.



Step 25
a) Wrap the other 30 gauge wire end in an east/west direction.
b) Wrap until approximately 1" of the wire is left.



Step 26
Pull the base of both tails towards the center of the package.



Step 27
Using your fingers, pinch the two wires together at their base.



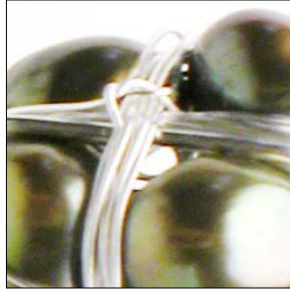
Step 28
Turn the square package three whole turns, so the two wires twist together.



Step 29
Cut the twisted ends to approximately 1/4" length.



Step 30
Using the round-nose pliers wrap the twisted ends diagonally around the center of the wire bundle.



Step 31
Check that the twisted wire end is hidden inside the bundle.

CONNECTING THE EAR POST



The hanger is attached to a post using the wire wrap technique.



Close up of the hanger and post.



Step 32
Bend the 24-gauge wires over the top of the package in opposite directions.



Step 33
a) Using the tips of your needle-nose chain pliers bend one wire up into a 90 degree angle.
b) Center the angle in the middle of the package's side.



Step 34
Wrap the second wire around the base of the first wire, one full turn.



Step 33
Close the wrap against itself.



Step 34
Begin forming the wire-wrapped loop.



Step 35
Attach the post.



Step 36
Finish the wire-wrapped loop with the attached earring post.



We hope you enjoyed this project! Send your comments and suggestions to:
elearning@beadshop.com

Now you are ready to make your second earring. See you back at Step 1!