

Playing the Angles

With Emily Miller

Play with your wire! Discover how the angles you can make with wire can be filled with beads. Emily will show you some cool wire working tricks to craft a frame and fill with beads. We'll start with a rectangle so you've got the basics—remember, this is just the beginning of the fun you can have making and filling shapes!



Supplies

[Ear Wires](#)

[18g Wire](#)

[26g Wire](#)

[4-6mm Pearls](#) or [Beads](#)

[Miyuki Spacers](#)

Tools

Round Nose plier

Chain Nose plier

Flush Wire Cutter

Parallel Flat Nose Plier

Nylon Jaw Plier

Ruler

Skill Builders

These skills are great to have in your skillset before embarking on these earrings. They are not exact to these earrings, but you'll get a lot of help if you already know these techniques first!

[-How to Make Rosary Loops](#)

You'll make a single loop at the top of your wire frame.

[-How to Wire Wrap a Bead Unit](#)

You'll string beads along your wire and use coils similar to this technique.

[-How to Open and Close Jump Rings Securely](#)

The same technique applies to opening and closing the loops on your ear wires.

Creating the frame

Use the sides and edges of the plier jaws to form the bends in the wire. Only grip wire with pliers that have a flat interior surface. Gripping wires with round nose pliers will leave tool marks on the wire.

Step 1

Cut two 5.5" pieces of 18g wire. Using the Nylon jaw plier, straighten the wire by pulling it through the plier.

Step 2

One piece of wire at a time, grasp the wire in the center, (or nearly!) with the parallel plier and bend the wires upward 90° until they are just *past* parallel to each other.

Step 3

Hold the wire against a ruler, and at about 1.5" grasp the wire in the parallel plier and bend the wire inward to a 90° angle, creating the top of the frame.

Step 4

Grasp the other side of the frame's wire, again at 1.5", and repeat Step 3.

Step 5

Using chain nose pliers, grasp one of the wires, and bend it up at a right angle to the top of the finding. You want this bend to hit at the center of the top of the frame.

Step 6

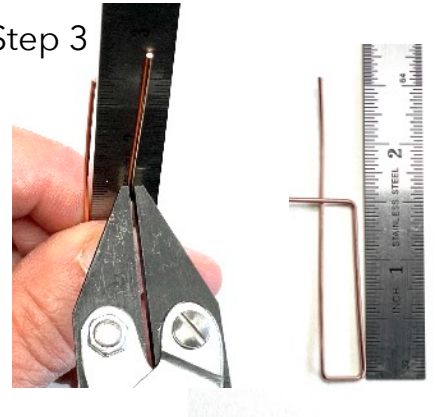
Grasp the frame with the parallel plier, just below the top bends, and wrap the second wire around the first, almost a complete wrap. Cut off excess. Leave first standing straight up, we'll make this a loop later.

Make a pair or more! The first one or two created may not match perfectly, so make a few, then look for good matches.

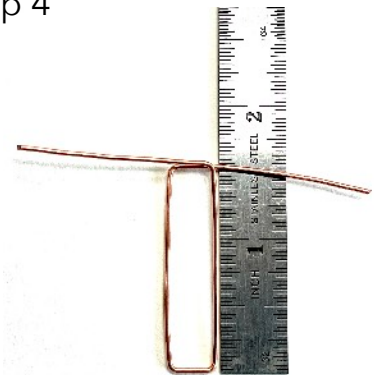
Step 2



Step 3



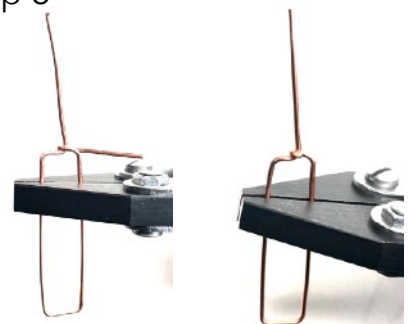
Step 4



Step 5



Step 6



Filling the Frame

These modern frames could be finished at this point, for an architectural design, but they really stand out with a filling of beads! Pearls look especially amazing and the Miyuki spacer beads add a bit of color. Using a neutral color pearl allows for almost any color of spacer.

Step 1

Cut a piece of 26g wire about 18" long and straighten with the nylon jaw plier.

Step 2

Secure at the bottom of the frame with 2-4 wraps of wire. *Tip: it's easiest to push a loop of the wire through the frame rather than holding the end and 'stitching' it through. It is less likely to kink.*

Step 3

String on pearls and spacers, enough to reach nearly to the top of the frame. Due to the variable size of beads, "audition" your beads to see what fits best!

Step 4

Wind the 26g wire around the 18g wire connection at the top of the frame, and make a few wraps as if closing a wrapped loop. Trim the excess 26g wire.

Step 5

Grasp the wraps at the top of the frame with the chain nose plier and bend the 18g wire over the jaw of the plier at a 90° angle.

Step 6

Trim off excess wire and create a simple loop. Grasp the end of the wire in the jaws of the round nose plier and bend around the jaws, curling up and over to create the loop.

Step 7

Repeat all steps for second earring and add ear wires.

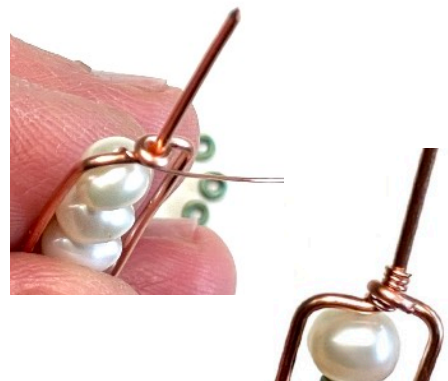
Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



Step 5



Step 6

