

beadshop.com

Since 1982



Sweater Weather

by Drea Carbone

Crazy-easy, super-quick, and looks fab?

Yes, please!

It's holiday gift-giving time and this is just what we need.

All you need is memory wire, 0.5mm leather, and 5mm rondelles. Don't be afraid to change this up! Try other cords, other sizes, other beads!! For the purposes of this project and handout, we're sticking with my original recipe.

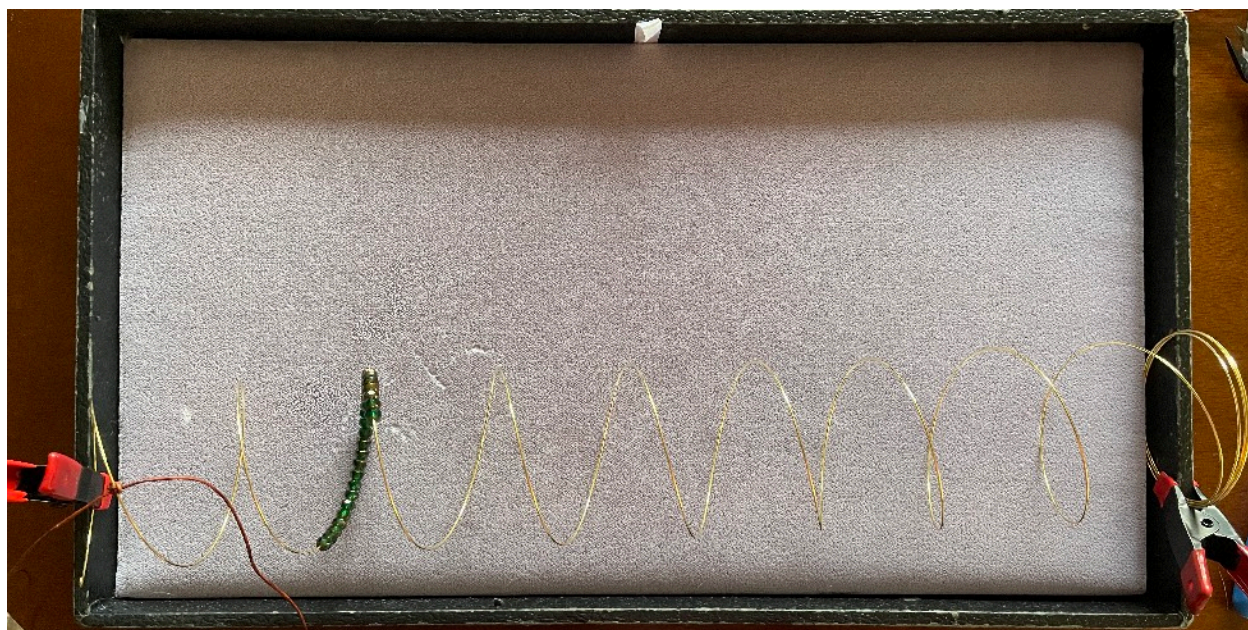
For tools you will want memory wire cutters, a round nose plier, flush cutters for the leather, and zap glue. A project tray with an insert and clampers will help tremendously.



Each bangle is simply macramé and rondelles for about 2 loops of memory wire. Make them longer if you like, it's entirely up to you. I kept mine short at two loops because a) I'm selling them and b) I like to stack!

I started by closing one end of the memory wire in a loop with my round nose pliers, but you can end it with a glued on bead or a glued on memory wire end cap, too—use the technique that you like best.

Next, add your rondelles. Stretch your coil across a project tray and clamp in place. As you work, adjust your coils. Be careful here...you don't want to twist or overwork your memory wire, kinks will not come out, and if you pull the wire straight it likely will not re-coil itself properly. I am working from left to right, so most of my loops are off to the right to start.



Notes on ingredient quantities:

My measurements and handout are specifically for the ingredients I used, but remember, **there is no one way to make these**—have fun! Larger beads or thicker leather will take up more space, adjust accordingly.

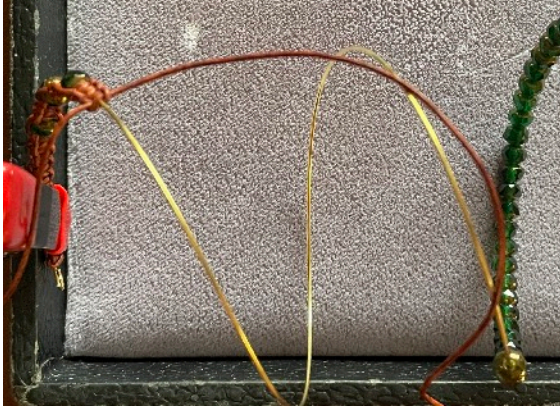
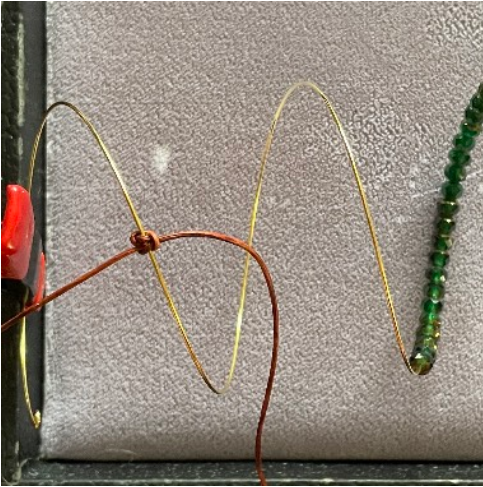
1 Package of Memory Wire has 12 loops, you can get five 2-loop bracelets out of one package. The reason why it's not six bracelets is because of the space you leave in between each bracelet to finish the ends. Make your last one 3 loops or make a single at the end.

1 Strand of 5mm Rondelles has 30 beads, I used 15 beads per 2-loop bracelet. So, one strand of Rondelles nets you *two* bracelets.

4 Yards of 0.5mm leather will macramé for 2 loops. This includes using the rondelles—remember, they take up space, too. Since we sell leather by the yard, I used it in 4-yard increments, after 2 loops you'll have about 1ft leather left per tail—save your scraps! This is not an exact science, since your macramé knots may be tighter or looser. As a very general guide, 1 FOOT of 0.5mm Leather nets about 1.5" of macramé.

Back to the technique!

With your Memory Wire set up on your tray, bring the center of your leather around the wire and begin to macramé. I started a few inches down the wire since the end was clipped to the tray. When you're ready, slide a rondelle into place and bring the leather around the bead. Continue to macramé below the bead. Macramé for a few inches, then un-clamp and push your completed knots up to the end where your looped end is. Clamp back in place—the macramé knots can slide easily and will turn to the side where you clamp.



Adjust your coils as you macramé. No one wants to knot upside down! Simply macramé along the top of the coil, then unclamp-adjust-reclamp... keep going!



Broken leather? Remember, 0.5mm leather can snap! It happens. Don't sweat it...you'll hardly notice ending one leather and starting anew. Add a dab of Zap Glue to the underside of the last completed knot, let dry, and snip the tails. Simply start a new length of leather beneath that final knot and push up so the old and new macramé touch. Can you see it?



Finished with your first bracelet? Don't cut it yet! Add a dab of Zap glue to the underside of your last knot, let dry, and trim the tails just as described above. This time, start your next bracelet and *keep* the space between your leather.

I work on the entire 12 coils at once, leaving about half an inch of space between the end of one bracelet and beginning of another. Once I'm finished all my bracelets I go back, cut the memory wire in the middle of that space, then use the round nose pliers to finish the ends.



Again, there is no one way to make these. Make them single loops. Make them triple. Make an epic 12-wrap! Pattern them however you see fit...I did a variety, as you can see. Try all sorts of color combinations. Use more beads or different beads or no beads. Work with different sizes of leather, or Surfer Cord, or Chinese Knotting Cord. Add charms or tassels to your loops. Use multiple colors of leather in one bangle. The world is your oyster!