The Bead Shop ™

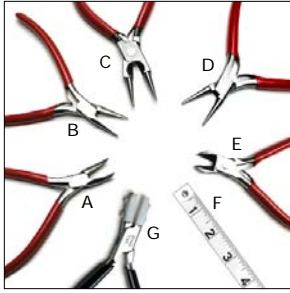Wire-Wrapped Bead Bezel

Skill Level: Intermediate
Project Time: 1 Hour

Wire-wrapping a bead bezel around a favorite bead is so much easier than it looks. We're sure you will receive ''ooohh's'' and ''aaahh's'' from all your beading friends. Tell them it's magic!

TOOLS NEEDED

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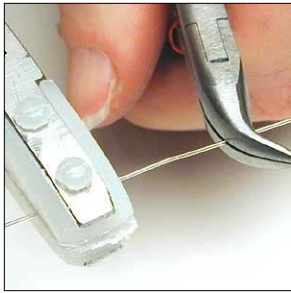E. Wire cutters
F. Tape measure or ruler
G. Wire straighteners

4' Sterling silver wire, 28-gauge (extra in case you need some for practice) and
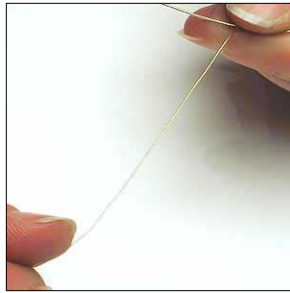2' Sterling silver wire, 24-gauge

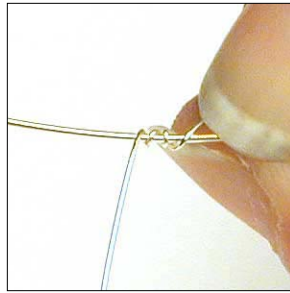1 — 10mm pearl or other smooth, round bead
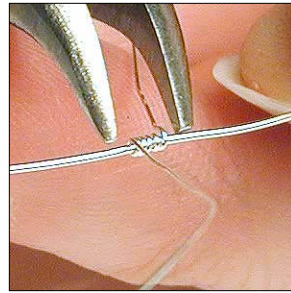
Making the Wire-Wrapped Bead Bezel

Step 1
Cut 12'' of 24-gauge wire. Hold the wire with your pliers and run the wire straightener jaws along the wire in the direction away from you, removing any kinks. This is the base wire that you will coil around.

Step 2
Cut 20'' of 28-gauge wire. This is the wire that you are going to coil with around the base wire. Use the wire straighteners, if necessary, to smooth out this wire also.
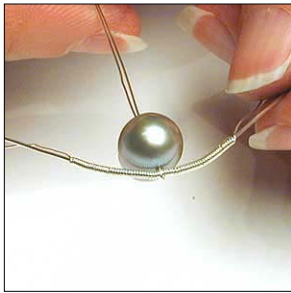
Step 3
Hold both wires in one hand and smooth them together. To begin coiling the 28-gauge around the 24-gauge base wire, find the spot 4'' from one end. Start coiling the fine gauge wire around the 24-gauge wire.

Step 4
Make neat, even coils close to each other. If necessary, use the bent chain nose pliers to bring them closer together.

Step 5
Continue to wrap until there is enough coiled wire to fit around the diameter of your bead. Stop and test the length, as needed.

Step 6
Cut a piece of 28-gauge wire 18'' long. Gently fold it in half and center around the middle of the coil. Feed the ends of this wire through the hole of the bead.

Step 7
Bunch all of the wires together and choose the longest 28-gauge wire to do the weave.

Step 8
Start by wrapping all wires together to form the bail. Leave some open space above the bead before beginning the wrap.

Step 9
Wrap around the bunched wires with the longest wire, (approx. 1/2-3/4''). Gently curve the wires around a round nose pliers to form the bail.

Step 10
Curve the wires in slightly, using your round-nose pliers. Leave out one of the longest wires to weave with. Below this curve is where the remaining wire swill be clipped away.

Step 11
Wrap the wire several times around all wires to secure the loop.

Step 12
Weave the end of your wire in and around the center wire going in a figure 8. Alternate on each side going back around the center wire.

Make the weave as neat and as tight as possible. This will make your bezel look its best.

Step 13
Continue to fill the space on top of the pearl by weaving. To finish, wrap the wire along the side wire at the end and tuck the end of wire along the coil on the side of the bead to hide it. Cut any excess wire using wire cutters. With practice, you can use 26-gauge (replacing 24) and 30-gauge (replacing 28). We hope you've enjoyed this project. Happy Beading!