



Wire Framed Earrings

with Emily Miller



Today we show you a fun technique to add a frame around a gleaming coin pearl, dressing it up for a special occasion...or any day! This technique was originally showcased by Emily at one of our first Bead Retreats. It highlights these true jewels from the water by adding layers of wire to itself for texture and interest. This is not a difficult skill to master but the attention to detail will make all the difference in the finished product.

Tools and supplies needed:

Round Nose Plier
Chain Nose Plier
Flush Cutter
Nylon Jaw Plier

Coin Pearls
Ear Wires
22g Wire (dead soft)
26g Wire (dead soft)

Prepare your wire: Cut four 4.5" pieces of 22g wire. Using round nose pliers, bend a small hook shape into the end of **two** of the 22g wire pieces, and add a coin pearl to each.

Cut one 2 ft long piece of 26g wire, and using the nylon jaw plier gently remove any major bends or kinks.

Step 1

Take one of the pieces of 22g without pearls and lay a piece of 26g wire over the 22g, begin to wrap the 26g tightly around the 22g. Keep firm, even tension and wrap closely to each previous wrap. Make about 1.5" of wrapped wire.

Note- This is the place where attention to detail really counts, if the wraps have space between them, push them together. If the wraps overlap, unwind and wind again. This is the same as wrapping a loop closed, wrap with some pressure towards the already completed wraps without overlapping.

Step 2

At about 1.5" of wraps it's time to fit the covered wire around the pearl. Using light pressure, bend the covered wire around the perimeter of the pearl, starting at the bottom and bending up towards the top of the pearl. An ideal length would be within about 2-3mm on either side of the wire coming out of the top of the pearl. Add or remove wraps as needed.



Step 1



Step 2

In most cases it is best to set this aside and repeat steps 1 & 2 for your second earring. Pearls will vary in size, so this way the two earrings have the best chance of being as similar as possible. With both pieces of wrapped wire complete, proceed to the next step.

Step 3

Bend the wrapped wires around the pearl, using the hook at the bottom of the pearl to catch the wrapped wire. With the wires crossing over the wire at the top of the pearl.

One wire at a time bend the wire around the wire emerging from the top of the pearl, one above the other, and trim off any excess. Gently pinch the loop at the bottom of the pearl to grasp the wrapped wire.

Step 4

Use chain nose pliers to grasp the wire above the connection of the wires and bend the wire emerging from the top of the pearl in the same plane as the pearl, then create a wrapped loop. The loop and pearl should be parallel. Add ear wires and enjoy!

Step 3



Step 4

