



Step by Step - Part II

what you need

6 Putting it all together.

This is an ideal time to make a practice piece with the 12-gauge copper mandrel and the copper twisted or round wire coils. Insert your 12-gauge mandrel wire through the middle of your focal bead and place spacer beads at either end. Add a silver bead and a spacer bead to both ends of your mandrel.



Cut 2 pieces of the same size twisted wire coiling. The length you cut will depend on the size of your wrist. My wrist is 5-3/4" and the first 2 twisted coil pieces are just short of 3/4". Increasing or decreasing the length of your twisted wire coiling is how you will adjust the size of your bangle. Of course, trimming is easier than adding, so be generous in the beginning.

Add spacers, silver beads (beads shown are 10 mm in diameter) and then spacers at either end of the mandrel. Add a piece of twisted wire coiling (mine is 1/2"). Add spacers for your end pieces.

7 To keep all the components on your mandrel, you need to add eyes to each end. To make the first eye, grasp one end of your 12-gauge wire near the bottom jaws of your round nose pliers, and rotate your pliers hand away from your body. Your eyes should be made so that they lie flat when the bangle is placed on a table. With your chain nose pliers, place the tip of the pliers at the joint and rotate your hand towards your body. This will make the eye stand upright.



To make the same size eye on the other end, you'll need to know how much wire you used to create the first eye. This is best accomplished if you're working with a practice copper mandrel. To determine this length, mark the joint of your first eye with an indelible pen and also mark the area on your round nose pliers where you made the eye. Reinsert your round nose pliers and straighten the eye. Measure the wire from the joint out. You now know the length of wire you need to leave at the other end of your bangle each time you make an eye (at the same place on your round nose pliers).



Reform the first eye. Cinch all components down towards the eye. Measure the amount of wire left on your mandrel. Trim the wire if necessary, and form your second eye.

8 Once you have both eyes completed and facing the same direction, gently curve your piece so that when you place your bangle on a table, the eyes are parallel to the table. Don't curve the bangle so much that the eyes meet; leave enough space in the middle to allow for your clasp.



9 Swan clasp.

Cut 4-1/2" of 14-gauge silver round wire and blunt cut both ends. Using your chasing hammer, flatten 1/4" of one end of the wire on the anvil or steel bench block.

Insert the flattened end into the tip of the pliers with barely any wire sticking out. Rotate the pliers away from your body, forming a small loop. I used small round nose pliers but you can use larger ones as well.



10 In the back of your long round nose pliers, insert the wire with the loop above the tip and facing you.

Rotate your pliers away from you. Notice how the larger loop is made in the opposite direction of the small loop.



11 Grasp the other end of the wire with the tip of your round nose pliers.

Have as little of the wire peeking through the jaws as possible, and rotating your hand away from your body, make a small loop. Continue laying down wire right next to the loop. Grasp your developing spiral with your chain nose pliers and continue to spiral until you measure 1-5/8" from end to end.



Grasp the wire next to your spiral with your chain nose pliers.



With the thumb of your free hand, press against the tail of the wire and form a bend. Grasp the loop with your long round nose pliers and gently urge the wire to rest next to the spiral. Partially close the clasp with the round nose pliers.

12 With your chasing hammer, flatten the curve of your large loop and the "v" bend at the bottom of the clasp. Open one eye of your bangle and insert your clasp through the bottom "v" and close the eye.



13 Adjustments.

The moment of truth has arrived. Too big? Too little? Or, just perfect! If you're in the perfect group, consider yourself lucky and move on to Step 14.

After making hundreds of bangles I still make many, many (did I say many?) adjustments. So, if your bangle looks like it would fit your ankle instead of your wrist, you'll need to trim off some of your coiled twisted wire and your mandrel as well. Open one eye, slip off your components and begin trimming. Remember to trim equal amounts from the left and right sides to maintain balance in your design. If your bangle is too small, unfortunately you will need to cut a longer mandrel and make longer pieces of coiled twisted wire to get your extra length. If you made a practice piece, this will be no problem.

14 Antique and polish

Antiquing (oxidizing) your bangle is a matter of personal preference. Antiquing will give the wirework more depth and contrast and a bit of an Old World look. I antique my silver by dipping it into a hot solution of liver-of-sulfur — smelly, but very effective.

To create the liver-of-sulfur solution, place a pea-sized chunk of liver-of-sulfur in 1-1/2 cups of near-boiling water. For obvious reasons, please don't heat your water with the sulfur in it. Use an old bowl that you reserve only for antiquing. Do your antiquing out of doors and avoid inhaling the noxious fumes. Dip your jewelry into the solution until the silver turns a steel gray and then rinse in cold water. After the jewelry dries, clean the silver with #000 steel wool, then polish with a jewelry polishing cloth.

Congratulations! I do hope you enjoyed making your bangle. Wear it in good health and happiness.

- 4 sterling silver beads with holes large enough to accommodate 12-gauge wire (approximately 2mm)
 - 10 silver spacers with holes large enough to accommodate 12-gauge wire
 - 1' 12-gauge sterling silver round wire, dead soft
 - 2' 14-gauge sterling silver round wire, dead soft
 - 2' 16-gauge sterling silver round wire, dead soft
 - 4' 20-gauge sterling silver twisted wire* or 8' 20-gauge round wire if twisting your own
 - 8' 20-gauge copper round wire for practice (if twisting your own)
 - 4' 14-gauge sterling silver half-round wire, dead soft
 - 1' 12-gauge copper round wire for practice
 - Semi-flush or flush cutters suited for cutting 12-gauge wire
 - Round nose pliers with extra long jaws
 - Flat nose pliers
 - Chain nose pliers
 - Anvil or steel bench block
 - Chasing hammer
 - Plastic mallet
 - Liver of sulfur
 - #000 fine steel wool
 - Polishing cloth
 - Soft measuring tape
- Optional:** Wire twisting tool if twisting your own wire
* Check with your wire supplier to make sure you get two 20-gauge round wires twisted together.

For information on supplies, please see the *Annual Buyers' Directory*.

Always ask for the MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) for any materials you buy, which will give you reactivity, health hazard, and safe handling data.

Connie Fox is a psychotherapist by night and an artist by day. She combines her experience in ikebana, or Japanese floral design, and floor loom weaving with her love for working with wire to create wonderful wire art jewelry.