

Wire Wrapping Basics

Adorn Jewellery Tools & Supply

Wire

- **Craft Wire:** This wire is made of base metals such as copper, nickel or brass. It's cheap and therefore makes it your best metal to start with.
- **Sterling Silver:** The term sterling means that 92.5% of the metal is made with silver. The remaining 7.5% is made with copper. There are other types of silver such as Argentium or Rhodium. These are preferred by some as they are tarnish resistant.
- **Gold/Silver Filled:** "Filled" is actually genuine solid precious metal on the outside, that has been bored out and a base metal "filled" inside.

Wire Shapes

- ROUND



- HALF-ROUND



- SQUARE



Tempers

● Dead Soft

- Very pliable/sculpt-able. Best used for decorative wrapping techniques. Will not make a “sharp” angle

● Half Hard

- Not as pliable as Dead Soft. Retains its shape better. Will make hard/sharp defined angles. Great for making framed shapes such as bangles/bracelets.

● Full Hard

- Very hard to bend/manipulate. Usually only available by special Order. Best for frames and supporting very heavy weights.

Gauge

Gauge is the term used to reference a wire's thickness. There are two types of Gauges that are typically referenced American Wire Gauge (AWG) and British Wire Gauge (BWG). The standard mostly used in jewellery crafting is AWG. Below is a chart of the most common sizes used in AWG with a metric conversion. Be wary of metals not purchased from jewellery supplies as they may be BWG which has slightly different dimensions which could throw of a project/design – this is critical to know when working in chainmaille.

- 22 Gauge / .65mm
- 21 Gauge / .72mm
- 20 Gauge / .8mm
- 18 Gauge / 1mm

Basic Tools

- Round Nose Pliers
- Flat Nose Pliers
- Chain Nose Pliers
- Flush Cutters

Extras

● Knitting Needles

- Make a great tool for making coils with a perfect known Inner Diameter (ID). Most often required for Chainmaille work

● Clamps

- To hold wires in place while working

● Rulers

- Measure twice, cut once!

● Low-Tack Masking Tape

- Will not leave a residue on your pieces if you need to temporarily secure them while completing your design

● Fine Felt Tip Marker

- To mark positions for cutting or wrapping. The mark will be cleaned/polished off at the end

● Protective Eye Wear

- Very important to have eye wear because you never know when a bit of metal will fly out while cutting, hammering or just trying to manipulate your piece.

Getting Started

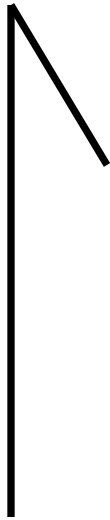
- Prepare Your Materials
 - Straighten Wire
 - A pair of nylon pliers is great for smoothing & straightening.
 - Prepare plier tips with dip or low-tack masking tape to help prevent marring and marking up your wires while working.
 - Clean your wire with a polishing cloth before and after

What is Binding?

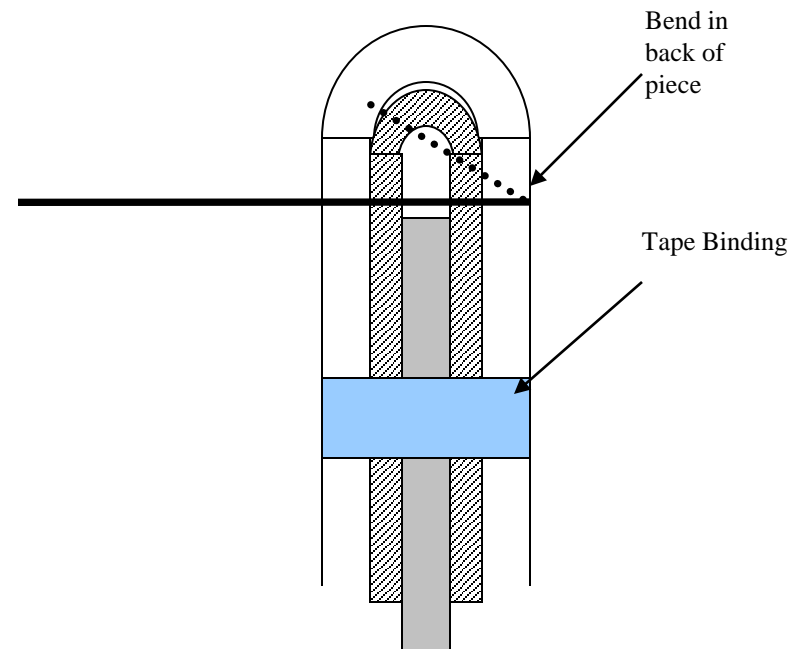
- Wire wrapping is essentially the art of creating a piece without any fusing techniques such as Hot Fusing (torches, soldering irons) or Cold Fusing (glue, riveting)
- Wires are held together by binding. Binding is the act of wrapping one wire around many to hold a piece together.
- Binding is best done with Half Round wire. Half Round allows for a sharp angle to make a tight bind against the piece you're working with, while the outer rounded side makes a very smooth and esthetically pleasing finish.

Binding Example Part 1

Step 1) Take a 5 inch cut of the the 21ga Half Round wire and make a bend as shown. The Rounded edge is on the outside of the bend, the flat is on the inside

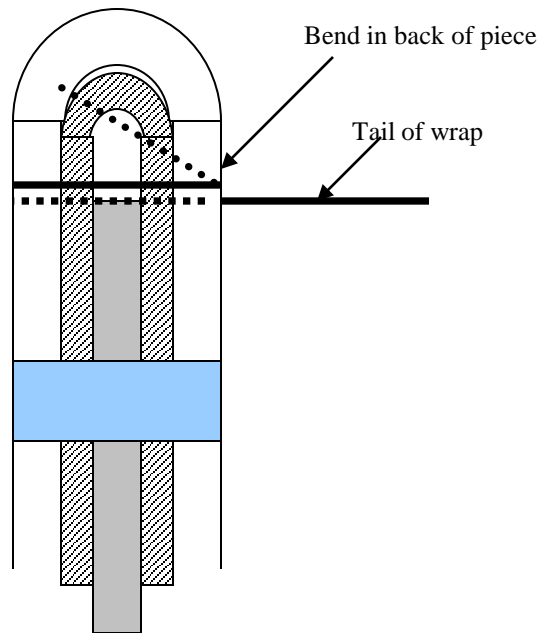


Step 2) Hook the Half Round Wire across the bracelet just above the centre wire, and using your flat nose pliers, squeeze it against the bracelet frame to snug it on



Binding Example Part 2

Step 3) Take the tail end and wrap it around the bracelet frame and squeeze with your flat nose pliers again to hold the wrap firm on the other side



Step 4) Bring the wire back up and across the front of the bracelet frame up tight against the first wrap and squeeze flat again. Continue until there are 4-5 wraps on the bracelet. Trim off the excess

