

Basic Bracelet & Earrings

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Materials List

- 1 Clasp
- 1 Split ring
- 2-4 Crimp beads
- 10" Beading wire
- 2 Headpins
- 2 Earwires
- Beads

Tools Needed

- Round nose pliers
- Flat nose pliers
- Wire cutters
- Crimping pliers
- Beading board

Design Instructions

Read through this section and the Techniques sections before you begin.

BRACELET

- 1 With help from a friend, measure your wrist and determine how large your bracelet needs to be to fit your wrist comfortably. On average, a bracelet is 7 - 7½" in length. Take into account that the clasp will add approximately ½ - 1" in length depending on the clasp you use. In addition, if you use thicker beads, you will need to make the bracelet longer to accommodate the additional width.
- 2 Using the bead board, lay out your selected beads. Center the middle bead on the "0" mark on the bead board.
- 3 On the one end of beading wire, thread a crimp, one half of the clasp and pass the wire back through the crimp. Finish the crimp (see **Techniques**). Trim the wire and, if desired, thread and seal an additional crimp bead to hide the wire tail. **Note:** You can hide the wire tail in the first bead of the design, too.
- 4 Thread the beads onto the wire. Place a piece of tape on the open end of the wire to secure it and check the bracelet for fit. If necessary, add/remove beads to get the bracelet to the desired length.
- 5 Remove the tape. Add a crimp, the other half of the clasp and thread the wire back through the crimp bead. Seal the crimp bead. Thread the wire tail back through a bead and carefully trim.

EARRINGS

- 1 Thread your selected beads onto the headpins. Leave at least 1/4 - 3/8" of wire exposed.
- 2 Using the flatnose and roundnose pliers, make a loop in the end of the headpin.
See **Techniques**, on the next page.
- 3 Attach to the ear wire or post.

Note: If your beads are somewhat heavy or if your headpin is made from a soft metal, you can use a wrapped loop instead of a simple loop to close the headpin. Refer to **Techniques** section before proceeding with the construction of your earrings.

Techniques

MAKING A SIMPLE LOOP

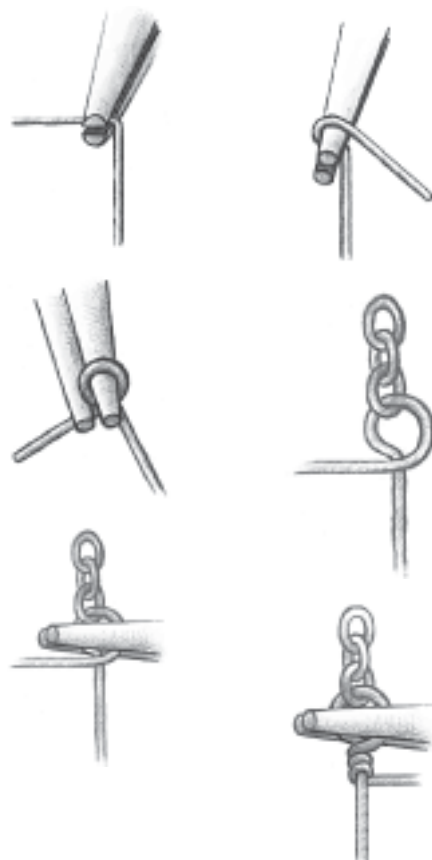
- 1 Use the flat nose pliers to grab onto the headpin above a threaded bead and bend to a 90° angle.
- 2 Measure off 1/4-3/8" of wire and cut the wire to length.
- 3 Turn the piece around until the cut edge of the wire is facing you.
- 4 Gently grasp the end of the wire with the round nose pliers. Make sure the end of the wire does not extend past the edge of the pliers.
- 5 In a smooth motion, turn the pliers away from you, as far as you can go. This will form a hook in the wire.
- 6 Adjust the placement of the pliers and finish the loop by continuing to bend the wire in the same direction.
- 7 If needed, use the flatnose pliers to *gently* press the loop closed.



MAKING A WRAPPED LOOP

Expect to make at least 15 bad wrapped loops before you start making consistently good ones. Use inexpensive copper wire or head pins to practice.

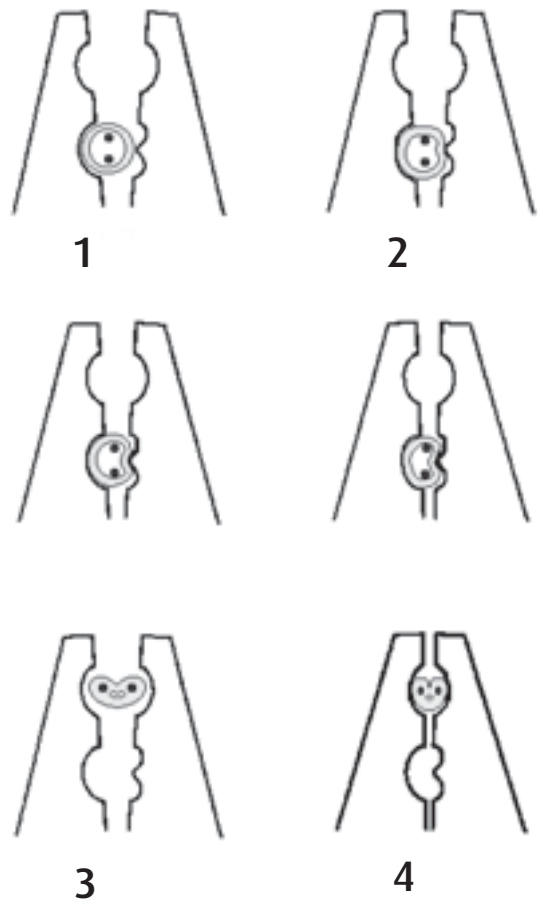
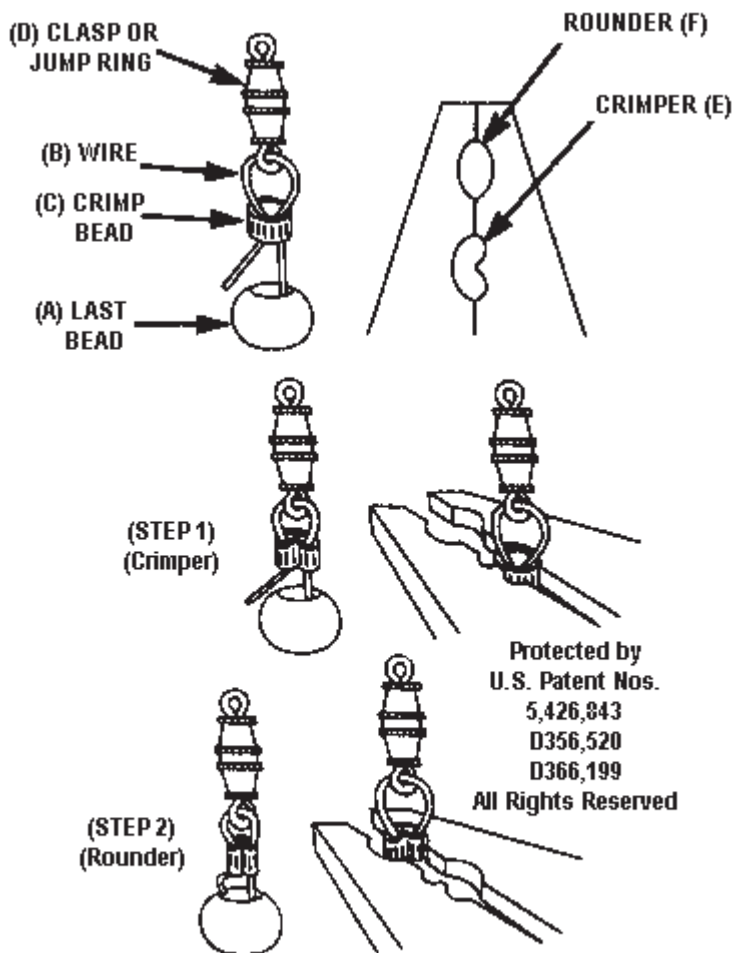
- 1 Leaving a 3/4 to 1 in. (1.9 to 2.5cm) tail, place the tip of a chainnose pliers where the bead will be. Bend the tail to form a right angle.
- 2 With roundnose pliers, grasp the tail just past the bend and pull it over the jaw to point the other way.
- 3 Rotate the pliers so the empty jaw is above the partial loop and continue pulling the tail around the bottom jaw until it's perpendicular to the bead or the wire.
- 4 Pull a split ring, chain, etc., from the tail into the loop.
- 5 To keep the loop round, grasp it with roundnose pliers in your non-dominant hand just above the cross. Don't dent the wire.
- 6 Grasp the tail with chainnose pliers and pull it around the wire until it meets the bead. Make the first wrap against the pliers and keep wraps close. Clip.



HOW TO CRIMP

The process of forming the crimp requires two steps - a crimping operation and a final rounding operation. These are carried out at two forming regions in the crimper's jaws - the initial crimping station (E) and the final rounding station (F). At the last bead (A), the wire (B) is passed through the crimp bead or crimp tube (C) - through the clasp or jump ring (D) - back through the crimp (C) - and optionally back through the end bead (A).

- 1 The crimp bead or tube is fully secured to the cord in the crimping station (E). Best results are obtained when the two cords are positioned on either side of the center dimple.
- 2 Carefully press down on the crimp, trapping the two wires in the crimp.
- 3 Move the crimp to the end of the pliers and turn it 90°.
- 4 The final shaping is carried out in the rounding station (F). Here the half rounded crimp is further rolled up to form the finished crimp.



USE SAFETY GLASSES