

Copper Earrings Instructions



What's in the kit?

- Pliers to hold and shape
- Thick bare copper forming wire (it will darken over time)
- Thin non-tarnishing copper wrapping wire (it will stay shiny, giving contrast)
- Practise wire (aluminium)
- Two jump rings
- Two rose-gold plated ear wires
- Practise template (bright green)
- Earring template (light green)



Practise piece

Before working with the copper wire, start with a practise round with the much softer aluminium wire.

You will also need the bright green template and the pliers.

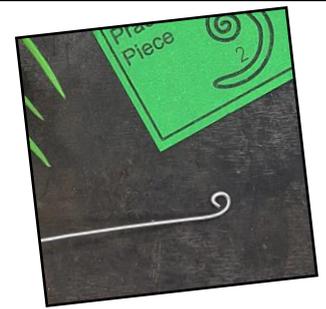


Hold the end of the wire tightly with the top of the pliers. Always use the dominant hand with the pliers.

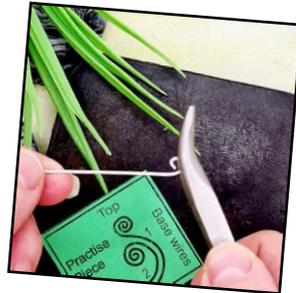


Bend the wire around the top of the pliers, quarter way along.

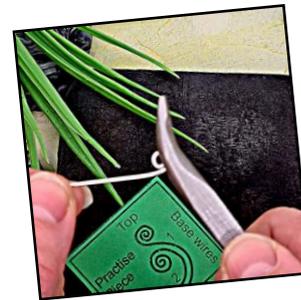
Adjust the position of the pliers halfway through so it holds more of the loop.



Hold the loop firmly with the elbow of the pliers. Move the wire up with the other hand till it is parallel with the pliers (about a quarter loop).



Reposition so that you hold it as in the picture.



Repeat for another quarter loop.



Repeat a few more times till your spiral is the same size as the top one on the template.



Hold the spiral and use the lines of the template to form the wire.

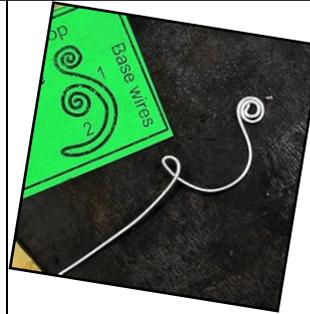
Move the template in a way that's easiest for you.



When you reach the U-turn, hold the wire at the turning point with the pliers.



Bend the wire around the tip of the pliers to make a loop.



Use your fingers to bring the wire back and shape it parallel to the outer curve using the template as reference.

Make another spiral at the other end of the wire.

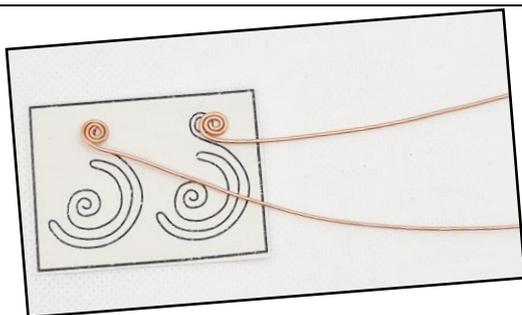
This time try to leave some space between the spiral loops for variety.



Move the spiral into place so you have a shape that resembles the template.



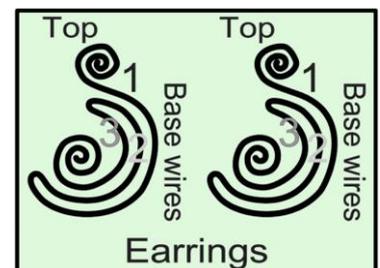
You have completed the practise piece. Now it's time to graduate to the copper wire to make your earrings.



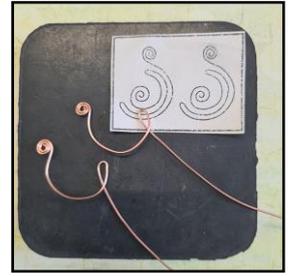
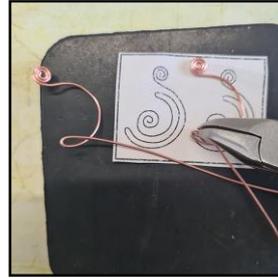
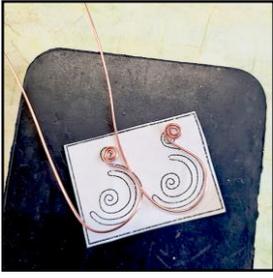
Make the spiral as before. You will find the copper harder to work, but this is good as it will hold its shape, unlike aluminium.

Make the spirals for both earrings as you will benefit from the muscle-memory- effect.

Use this light green template (an improved version from the pictures!)



To Refresh your Memory



Complete the Frame



Compare to see if they are similar enough for your liking.

Don't worry if they look a bit different. The wire weaving will bring the wires closer together.

Then make another turn at the second U-turn and form another curve inside the other two.



The earring frames are almost finished.

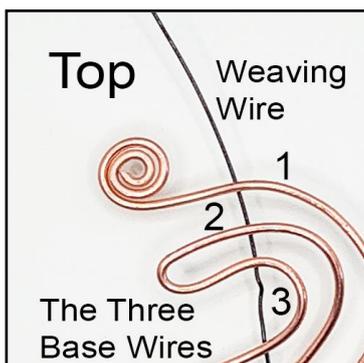
Just the end spirals to add.



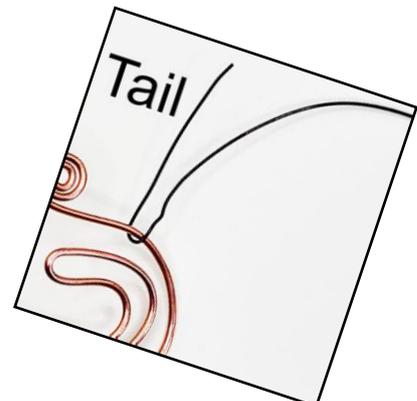
Very pretty!

Wire Weaving

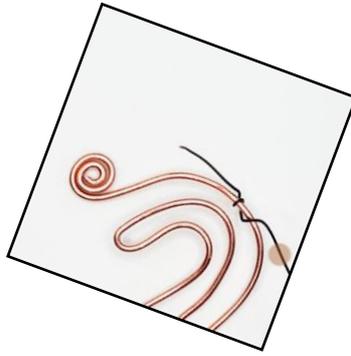
To make the instructions easier to follow, black wrapping wire has been used in the pictures. You will be using the thin copper wire (much prettier!).



Start with tail at the back.

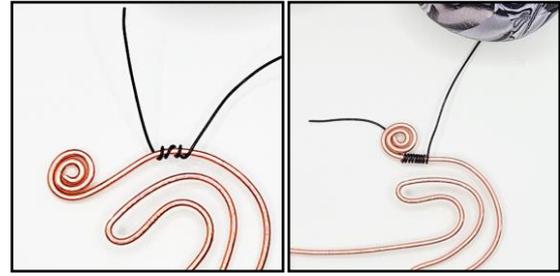


Attaching the wire to the frame near the first spiral by wrapping it around it. It's movable. Leave a bit of a tail as it is handy to hold on when you wrap the wire around the frame to make the coils.



Unlike sewing where you work with the end of a thread, with wire weaving you work with the wire close to the frame (see dot).

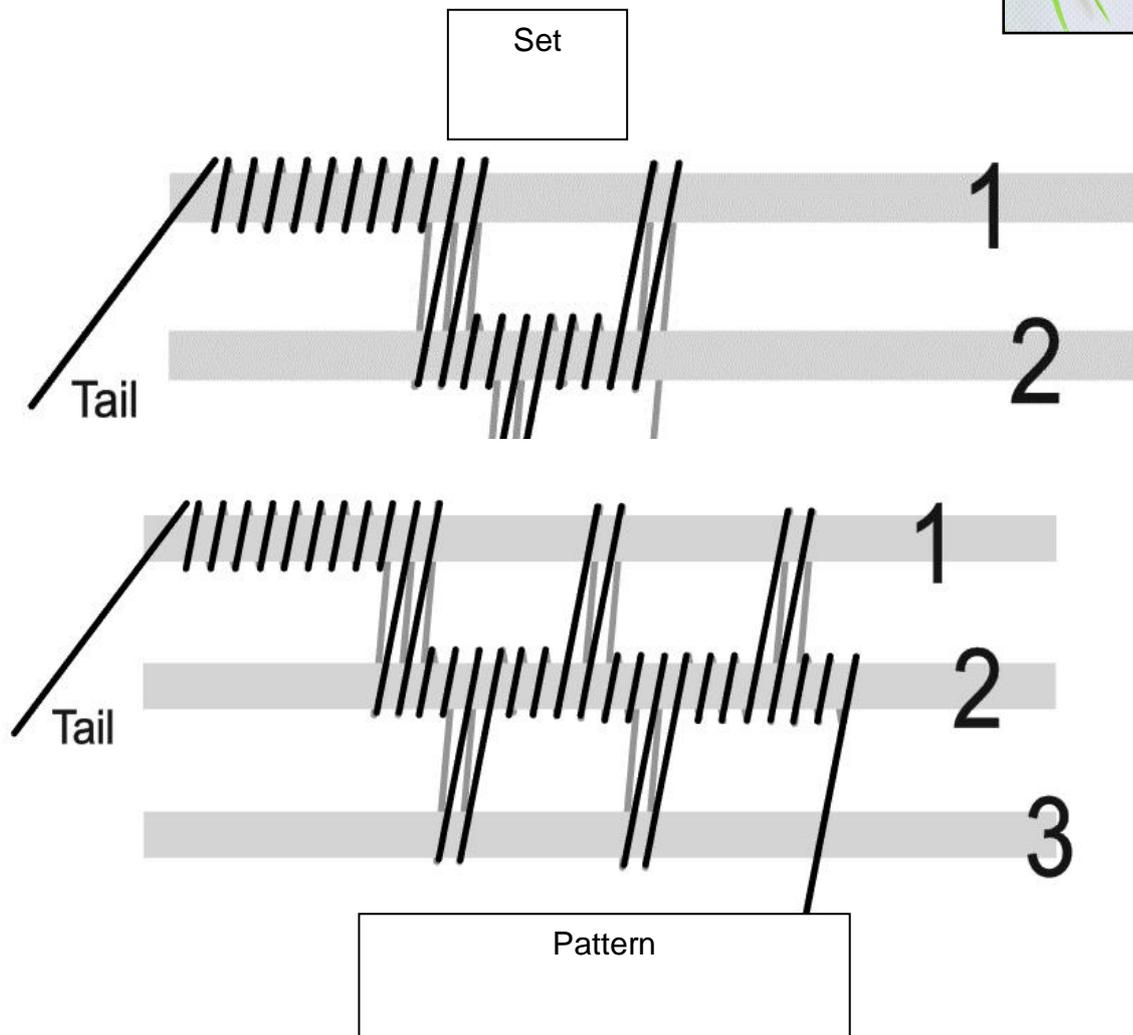
When you've made a few coils, press them together with your thumb nails so that they are right next to each other. Keep doing this all the way through. Make around eight coils.



Now it's time to start the pattern.

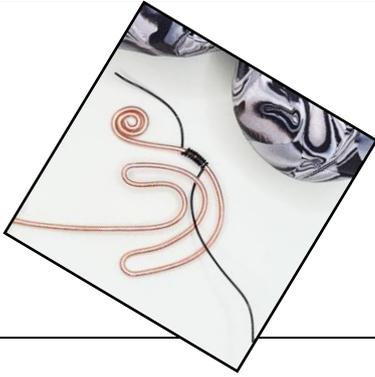
Overview

The pattern used for these earrings is based on pairs of coils alternately wrapped around a singular and then two base wires.

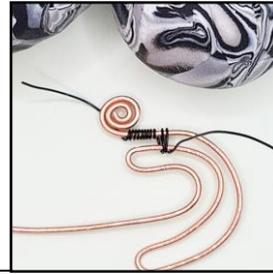
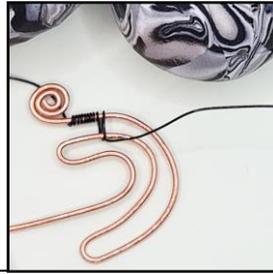


Step by Step

Down from behind base wires 1 and 2...



...then up in front of base wires 2 and 1. Repeat.



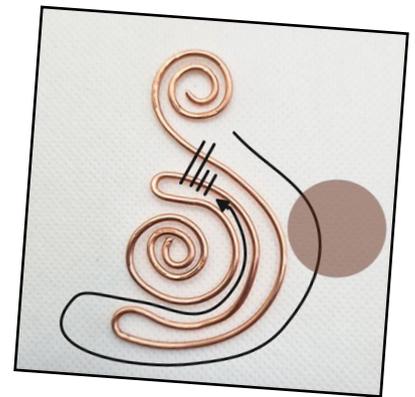
From the last position wrap twice around base wire 2.

Weaving trick

Hold the wire and weave it in between base wires 2 and 3 to get below base wire 2. It will become easier!

A heads-up

Wire like thread, desperately wants to kink. As soon as you notice a kink, straighten the wire and all is well again.



To make the coils around base wire 2 you need to go between base wire 2 and 1. To do this make a loop and push this loop between them. Pull the whole wire through.



Weave through again in the same way, but this time only wrap around base wire 2. Twice.



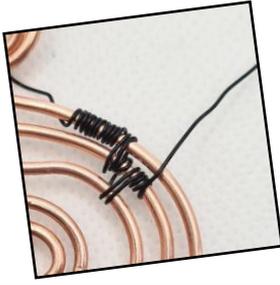
From behind base wire 2, down behind base wire 3 and up ...



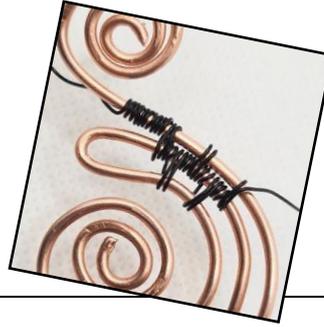
...and around base wire 2 to start the way back up. Repeat.



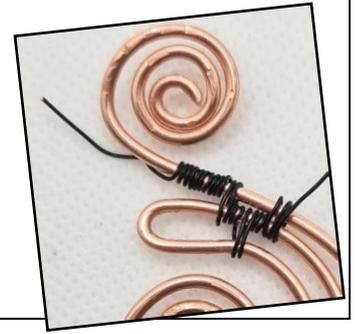
Two coils around base wire 2. That makes one complete set.



Continue by going up and around base wires 2 and 1. Twice.



It will look better with copper wire.



Make sets till you're happy with the look you've created. End with two coils around base wires 2 and 3.



Make coils around base wire 3.



Loose Ends

To finish off the wires you will need (jewellery) cutters, combination pliers or an old pair of scissors.



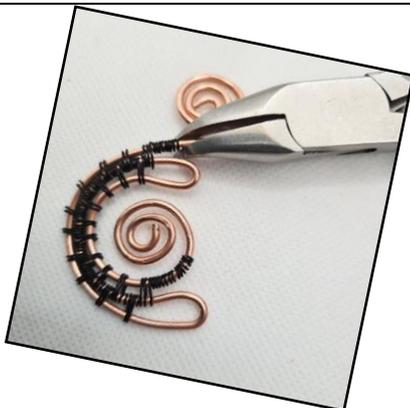
Cut off the wire close to the base wire.



With the kit pliers squeeze the ends of the wrapping wires flat against the base wires. This means the pendant won't scratch the skin.

Congratulations, one earring frame is wrapped beautifully! Now do the same with the other one.

When they're both done, you can bend and curve them into their final shape.

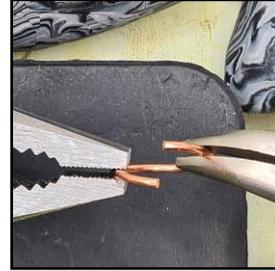
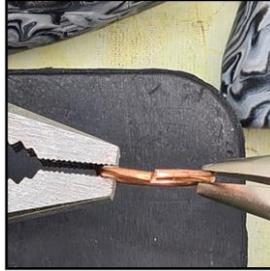


Putting it all Together

- Earring frame
- Jump ring
- Ear wire
- Another set of pliers (or use your fingers)
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Open the jump ring by gently pushing one side forwards and the other side backwards.

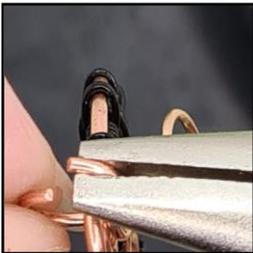


Slide the jump ring through the top spiral.

Then through the earring wire.



Wriggle it forwards and backwards till you feel resistance.



Close it.



You have finished the first one!



Yours will look more like this:



Do the same for the other one. Check it faces the opposite direction when you attach the jump ring as the earrings need to mirror each other.



Enjoy!

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