

Copper Pendant

What's in the kit?

- Pliers to hold and shape
- Thick forming wire
- Thin wrapping wire
- Practise wire
- Jump ring
- Necklace cord
- Practise template (bright green)
- Pendant 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.

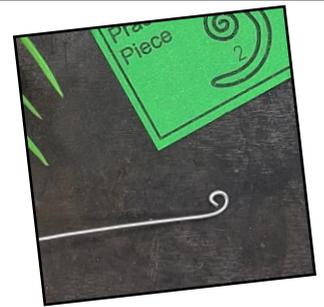


Hold the end of the wire tightly with the top of the pliers. Always use the dominant hand with the pliers.



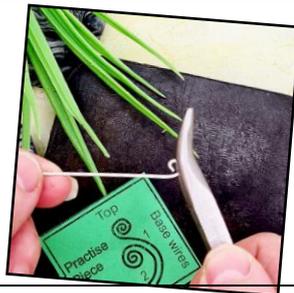
Bend the wire around the top of the plier, quarter way along.

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.



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

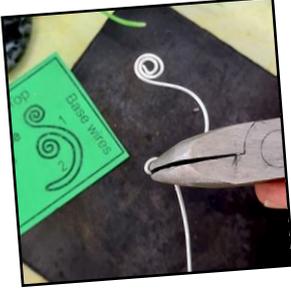
Hold the spiral and use the lines of the template to form the wire.

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



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





Bend the wire around the pliers near the tip 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 lines 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 move to the copper wire to make your pendant.

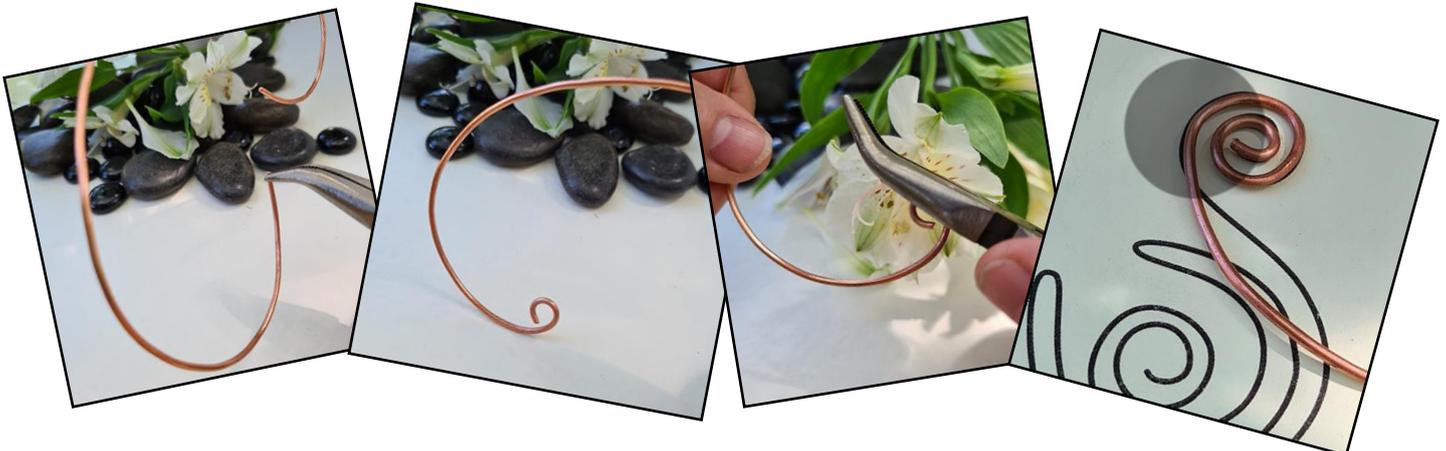
Now you're ready for working with the copper wire.

Where aluminium was soft, you'll find that the copper is much stiffer to work with. This is good as it will hold its shape. But it also means that you can't undo what you've done.

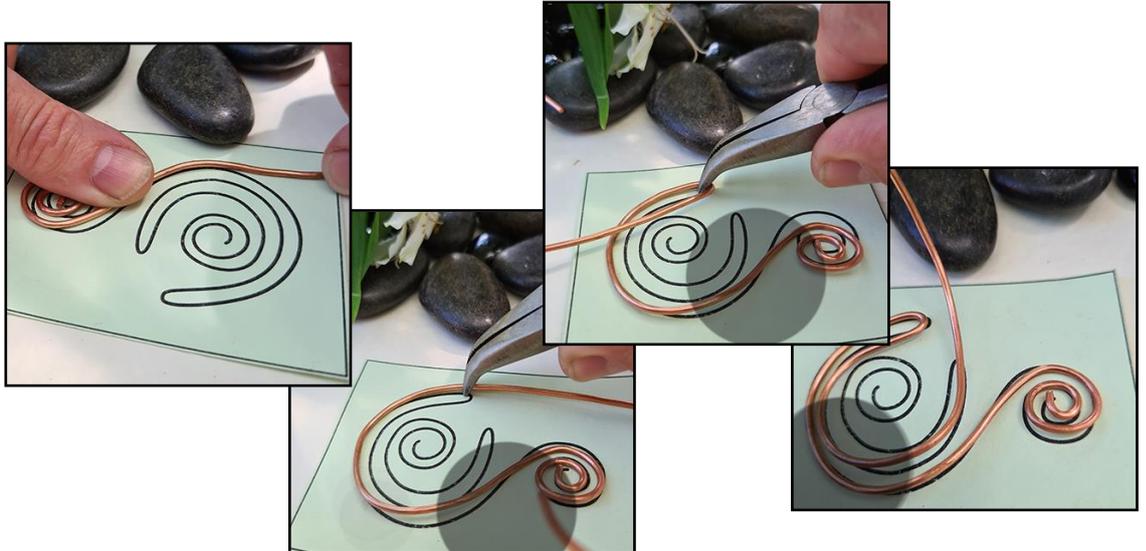
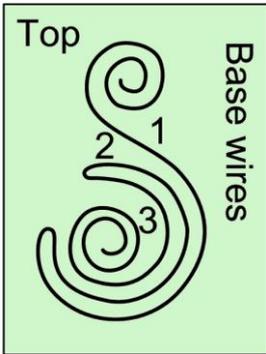
Forming the Copper Pendant

The first part is exactly the same as what you have done with the aluminium wire.

The First Spiral



Forming the Pendant Frame



Use the pliers again at the next U-turn.

Hold the frame in place with your other hand. You know what to do so you don't need the black spots anymore.



Keep shaping with your hands and checking with the template.



Stop shaping when you have reached the beginning of your second spiral.

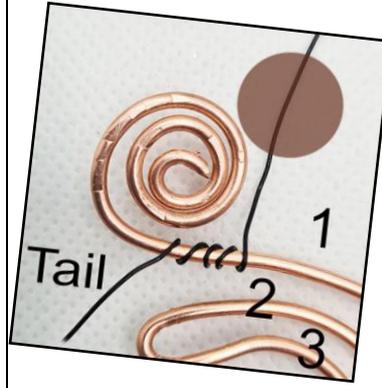
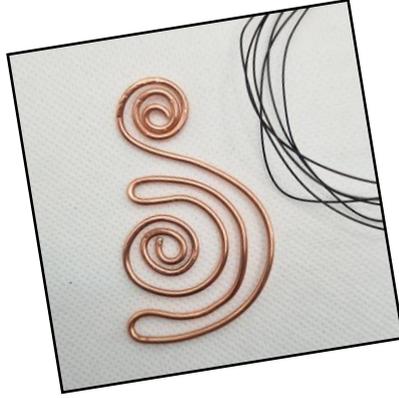
As with the first spiral, grab the end of the wire and loop it around the tip of the wire till you almost have made a full circle.



What a beauty!

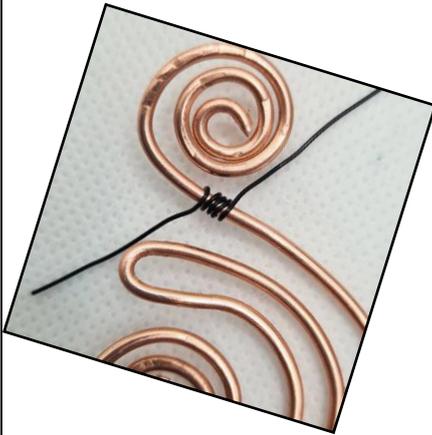
Wire Wrapping

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!).

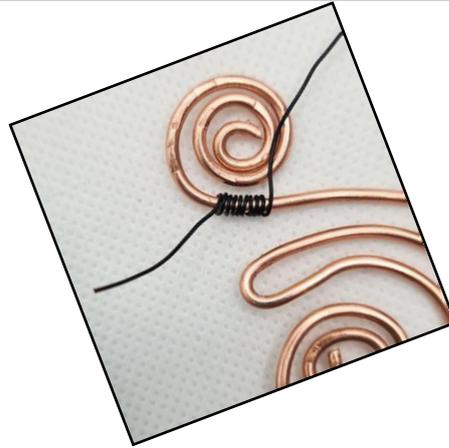


Start by attaching the wire to the frame near the first spiral by wrapping it around it. Leave a bit of a tail as it is handy to hold on when you coil the wire around the frame.

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).



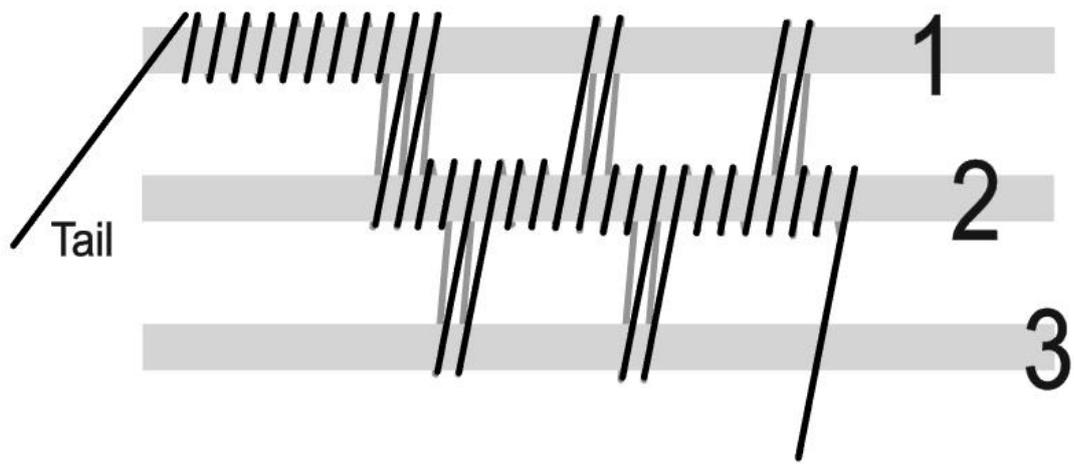
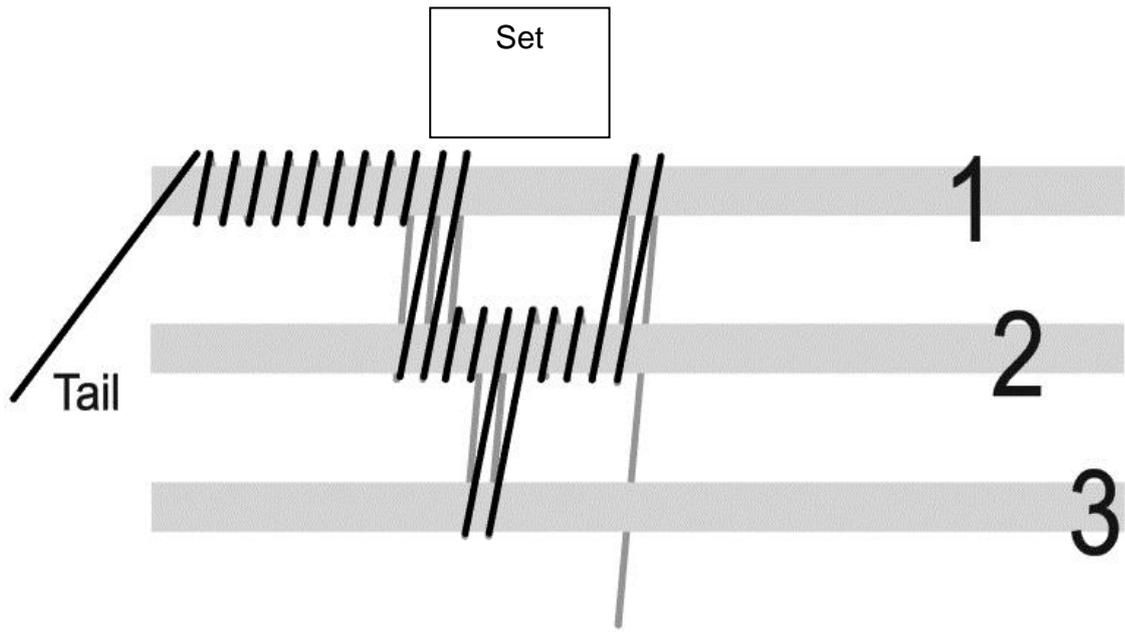
When you've made a few coils, press them together with your thumb or nails so that they are right next to each other. Keep doing this all the way through.



Make around 8 coils.

Overview: The design used for this pendant is based on sets of two coils alternately wrapped around a singular and then two base wires.





Step by Step



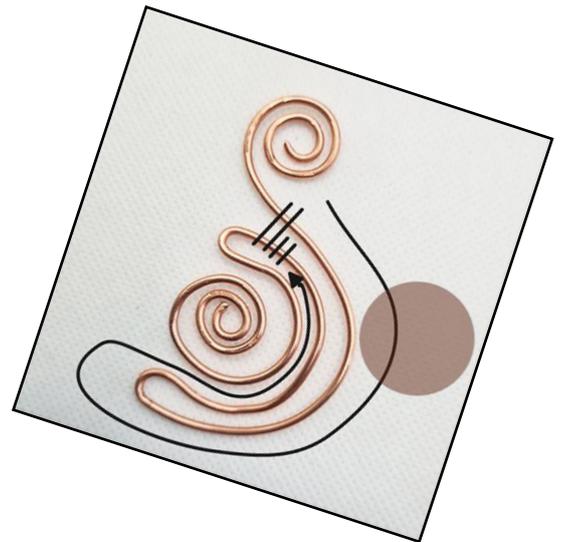
From behind wire 1,
down behind wire 2, up
to the front of both wire
2 and 1.



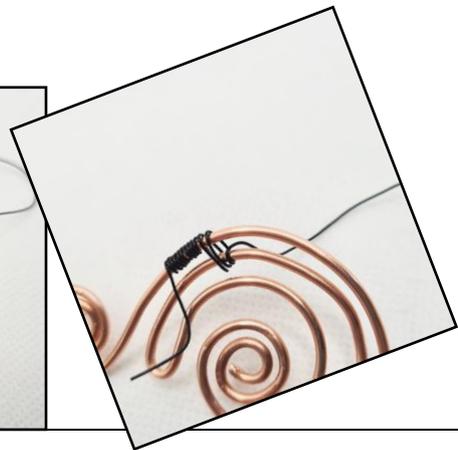
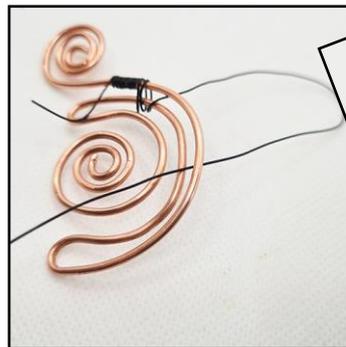
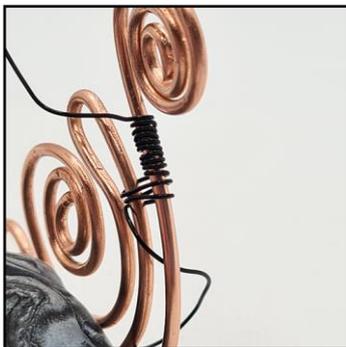
From behind wire 1
again down behind
wire 2, up to the front
of only wire 2.

Weaving trick

Hold the wire and weave it in between wires 2 and 2 to
get below wire 2. Just do it and you will get the hang of
it. It's fun!



Make a loop and push it between wires 1 and 2. Pull the
whole wire through.



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



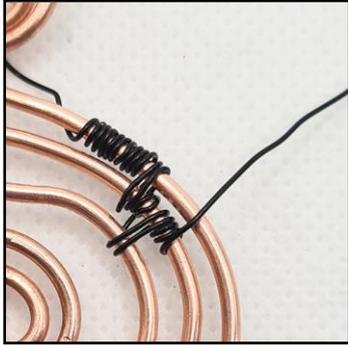
From behind base wire 2,
down behind base wire 3 and
up
...



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



A second coil around base wire 2.

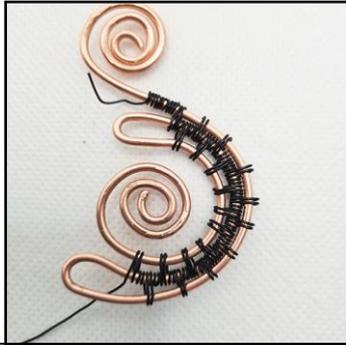


Up and around base wires 2 and 1. Twice.

That makes one complete set.



Make more sets till you're happy with how it looks (the pendant below has nine and a half sets. End with a double coil around base wires 2 and 3.



Make some more single coils.



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, your pendant is made!

Attaching the pendant to the necklace

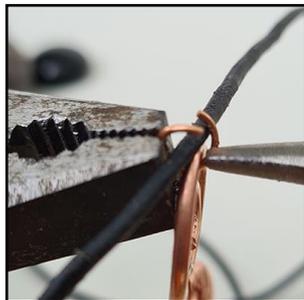
To attach the pendant to the necklace cord you first need to open the jump ring.

Hold one side with the big pliers and the other side with your smaller one.



Open the jump ring by moving one side forwards and the other backwards.

If you don't have a second pair of pliers, use your fingers.



Put the pendant through at the top of the first spiral.

Close the jump ring in the opposite way of opening it with the two pliers.



If necessary, close the inner loop in the top spiral so the jump ring can't go anywhere.

Gorgeous!



Patina



The copper pendant you've made is shiny, but if you like to give it a more antique look, here's an eco-friendly if smelly method.

You will need one or two hard boiled eggs, an airtight container and a smaller bowl that fits inside. I used the bottom of a plastic bottle to put the copper pendants in and placed it in the airtight container.

Peel the eggs and crush them. Put the eggs in the container so that they don't touch the copper. Close securely!



WARNING

Leave in the container for a few days, then check if you like the result.

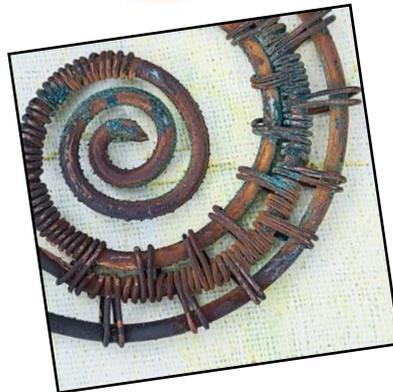
DO THIS OUTSIDE

It really, really stinks.

Have a bowl with soapy water ready to put the patina-ed copper items in and a plastic bag to dispose of the rotten eggs.

To create the contrast between shiny and dark copper, use fine gritted sand paper to remove some of the patina.

Seal if you like with a varnish.



Miracle Gro

A less noxious way is to use Miracle Gro.

To get a blue patina brush a solution of one-part Miracle Gro to three parts of water onto your elephant. For a green effect use vinegar instead of water.

You will see a patina forming within 30 minutes.

After a day, brush off some of the crystals, sand off excess and seal with a varnish.