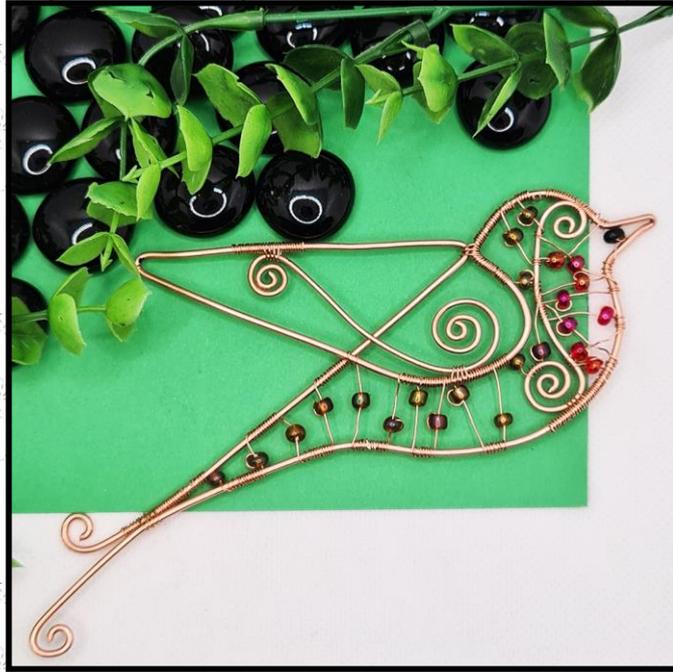


Elegant Robin



This is what my robin looks like. Yours will be different because each robin is unique!

Have fun making the robin! Here's how

First, the spirals

You'll need the pliers and the two pieces of wire.



Grab the end of the wire with the tips of pliers.



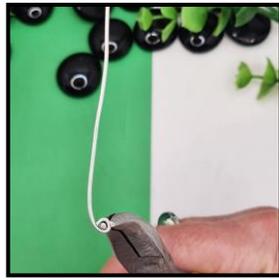
Wrap the wire halfway around one tip of the pliers.



Then let go.



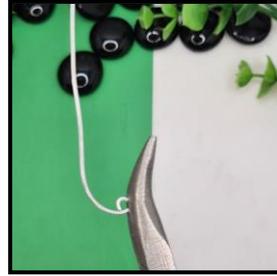
Grab the wire again inside the half-formed circle ...



... and complete the circle.

Let go.

To make the next loop, hold the circle in the bend of the pliers, with the jaws facing away from the wire.



I like keeping the pliers roughly vertical and use my other hand to move the wire into the desired curve.

Do a quarter turn, then reposition.



One spiral made!

Now do the same, starting with the other end of the wire

Try to make a spiral that's different from the first one, smaller or bigger, tighter or looser.



Here the spirals face the same way.

You can twist them, so they make an S-shape, rather than a C-shape.



Your choice.

Now the second one.



Two more spirals to go

The frame wire ends also need a spiral. This is 1.6 mm copper wire, so quite stiff to work with. This time you move the end of the wire away from the tip of the pliers' jaws to get a better grip. You will also create a bigger circle this way.

The aim is to create a tail with two little curls. Use the template to make sure your robin's shape is to your liking.

Once you've made the end curls, place the other copper wire pieces inside the frame in a way you like.

Adjust to make sure they can be attached to the frame or another set of spirals.

I find it useful to take a picture of my composition, so I have something to refer to. It doesn't mean I can't change my mind, but it's a handy reference.



Attaching the spirals (Method 1)

I have used a black electric cable (representing the frame) and a blue scooby (pretend weaving wire) to make the contrast clearer in this part of the instructions.

TIP

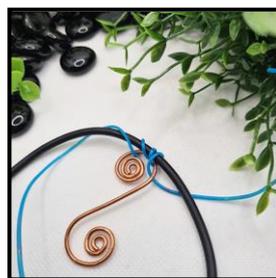
Copper weaving wire will want to kink! When you see or feel a kink, just straighten it out straight away.



Loop the middle of the wire around the outer loop of the spiral and the frame.

Go around both the spiral loop (to the right) and the frame several times. Quite tight.

Push the coils together with your thumb-nails so they are close together. Keep doing this all along.



You'll find there's space between the coils you've made.



Once the spiral is attached, continue with a series of single coils around just the frame (as in the picture) or just around the spiral.

Make sure there's enough tension to create tight coils.



Make a few coils at the other side (to the left) around both the spiral loop and the frame, followed by single coils around the frame.



Cut the wire (with cutters or an old pair of scissors) close to the frame, preferably at the back).

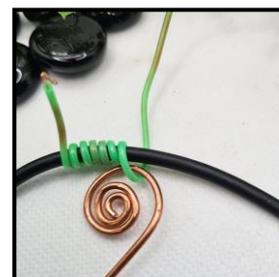
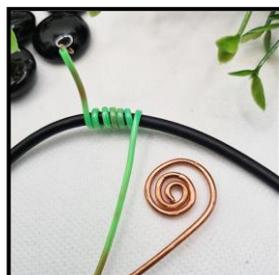


Squeeze the wire flat against the frame with pliers. This secures it in place and ensures you won't scratch your skin.

You shouldn't feel anything when you go over it with your thumb. It's a good idea to check this every time you do this!

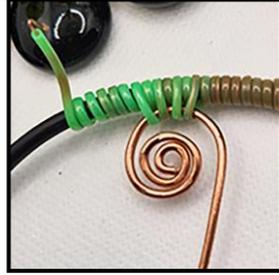
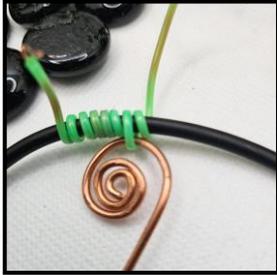
Attaching the spirals (Method 2)

This time start at around 3 cm (1.5") from the end of the weaving wire. This leaves you a 'tail' to hold on to when you start coiling around the frame.



When you've made around 7 or more tight coils (as before), attach a spiral loop.

For variety create a pattern. I like to go once around both the spiral loop and the frame, followed by a single coil around the frame (or loop, your choice)



Continue this way (double, single, double, single, etc) till the spiral is firmly attached, then continue with single coils.

This is the pattern I will use throughout this project.

Cut off excess wire near the frame.



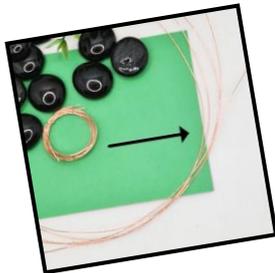
Squish the ends of the weaving wire flat against the frame.



For real with copper

Undo the smaller coil of wire and you'll have 1.2 m wire that needs to be cut into six 20 cm long weaving wires.

You can use the paper ruler provided



Using one of the methods above, start attaching the spirals to the robin frame.

The dark dots are the points where the spirals need to be attached to the frame for my robin.



All connected



Beading



Looking great, but it needs some colour to bring it all together.

Using scoobies and big beads, I'll illustrate how to make sure the beads will 'float' where you want them to be.



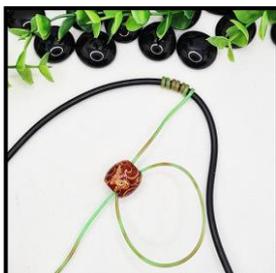
Attach the wire starting near the end. Leave a tail.

Do a series of single coils, then cut off the tail near the frame. Use pliers to flatten the wire in exactly the same way as before.

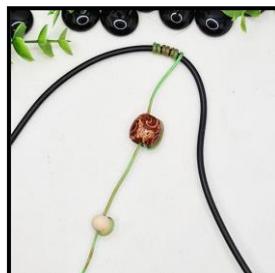


Thread a bead on and decide where you want it to be.

Go through the bead again and tighten, while holding the bead firmly in place.



If you have space to attach another bead, make sure to leave some space in between them.



Now with the small beads and copper wire

Attach the wire from one end, leave a tail to hold onto and start adding beads.



Use both the frame and the spirals to attach the wire with the beads.



One beading wire finished.



I'm happy with using just two of the beading wires and not all of the beads. You do what you prefer!



Copper robin complete



I hope you've enjoyed making the robin.

For more kits and live and online workshops visit

Colourbuzz

<https://www.colourbuzz.net>

