

# Copper Hare



This is what one of my hares looks like. Yours will be different because each hare is unique.

## What's in the kit?

- Bare copper cat frame
- Two wire pieces for spirals
- 3 m of non-tarnishing copper wire
- Paper ruler
- Mixed beads
- Pair of pliers
- Aluminium wire for practising
- Hare template



## Tip

- If the copper wire is a bit dull, you can make it shine by using the rough side of a sponge scour.

# Have fun making the hare! Here's how

## First, the spirals

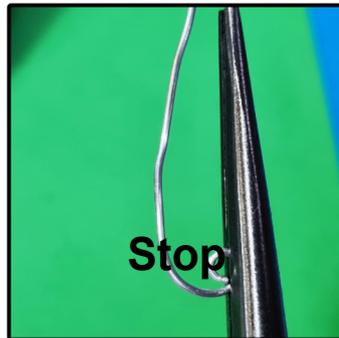
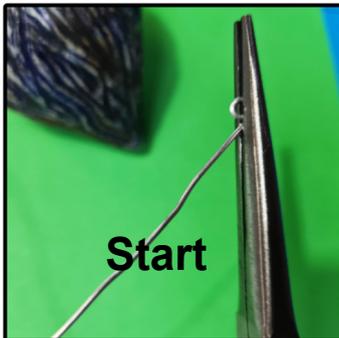
To practise making spirals and getting used to the pliers, use the aluminium wire.

Aluminium is a lot softer than copper, which makes it great to practise with. It wouldn't be good to use in the hare's frame, as it doesn't hold its shape; it will be a wonky :).

I have made the starting ends as you need round nose pliers for that.

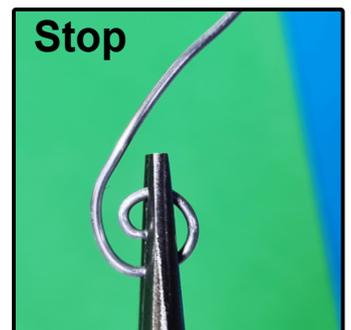
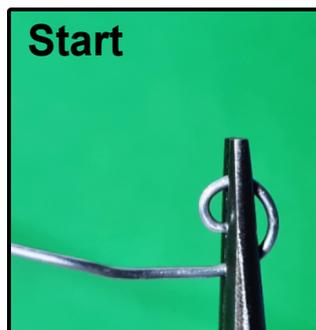
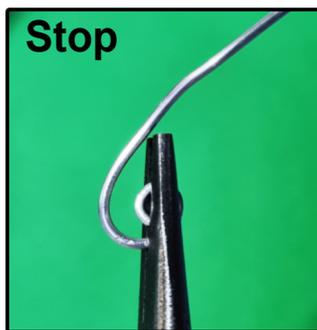
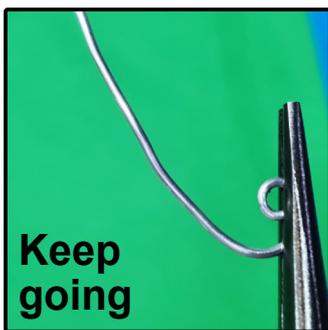


Grab one of the circles firmly with the pliers. I'm right-handed so that's what the pictures show. If you're the left handed it is mirrored. Apologies for not having the illustrations for those of you who are left-handed.



- Hold the pliers in the same position and
- use your non-dominant hand to move
- the wire upwards till it nears the top of
- the pliers' jaws.
- Re-position the wire so that you have space to move the wire up again.

This means you only do part of the spiral each time. It's a stop and start process.



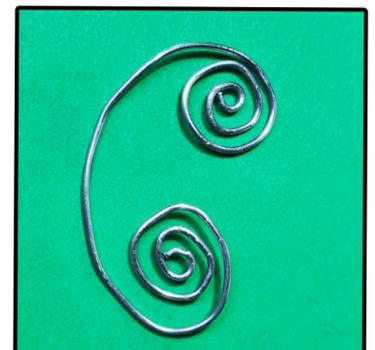
Stop when you're Happy with your spiral.



Make another one at The other end of the wire.



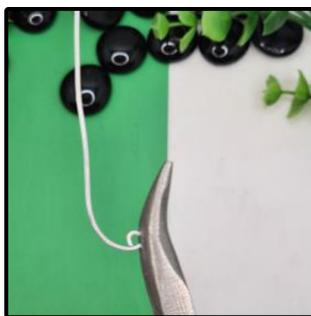
You can twist it to Make a C-shape (see it sure is wonky!).



## Now in copper

The copper wire is harder to work with, but you know what to do.

- Start with the thinner wire.
- Because it's harder to work with, hold the end circle lower down in the pliers' jaws.



## Two more spirals to go

The frame wire ends also need a spiral. This is 1.6 mm copper wire, so even stiffer to work with.

The aim is to create spirals with an overlap to connect them. Use the template to make sure you don't make them too large.

Once you've made the end spirals, 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.

### Tip

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.

The wire is in front of both the frame and the spiral.



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

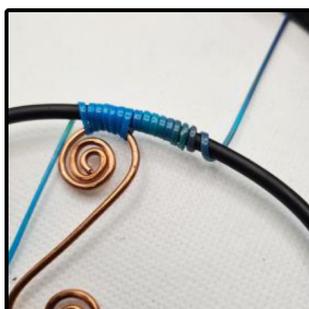
You'll find there's space between the coils.

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



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 a cutter 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!

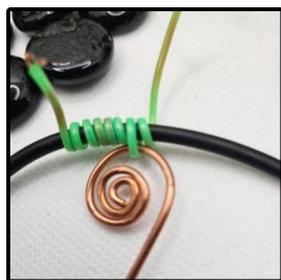
## Attaching the Spirals (Method 2)

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. If your wire is at the front of the frame, it goes around the front of the spiral.

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)

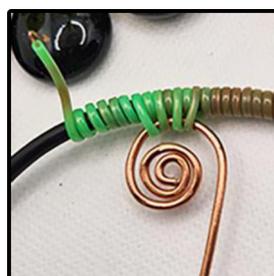


Continue this way (double, single, double, single, etc) till the spiral is firmly attached, then continue with single coils.

Cut off excess wire near the frame.



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



This is the pattern I will use throughout this project.

## For real with copper

Cut off some pieces of 20 com wire to attach the spirals. the smaller coil of wire

The dark dots are the points where The spirals need to be attached.

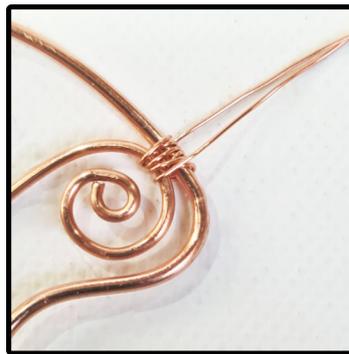


Using one of the methods from earlier start attaching the spirals to the frame or to another spiral.

I attached the spiral forming the eye as follows:



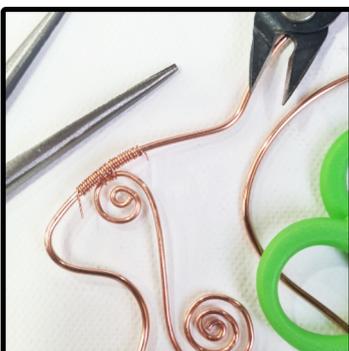
I started with the middle of the wire. Double, single, double, single, etc.



Tidied and pushed the coils close together. Don't worry about the final position at this point.



A set of single coils to the right ...



...and then to the left



Turn around so that the cutting and flattening is done at the back.

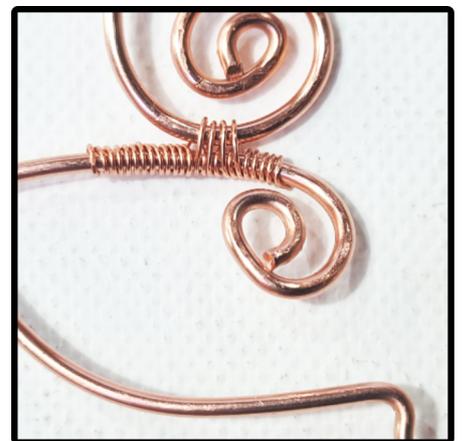
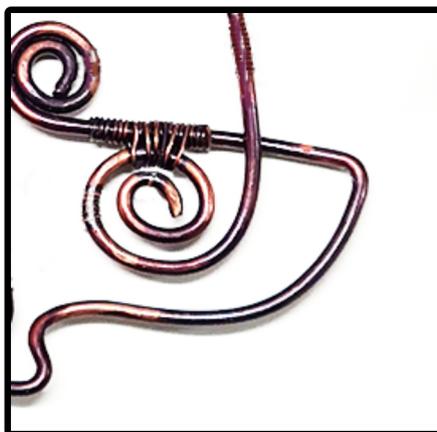


Put it where you want it and squeeze the wire ends against the frame.



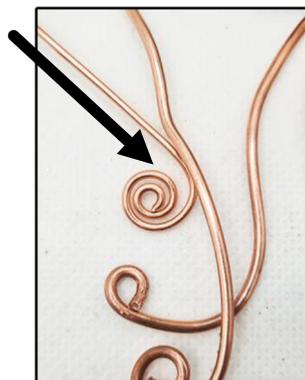
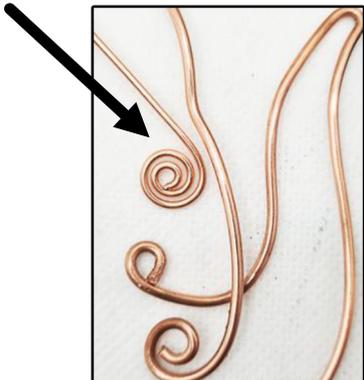
The spiral the other side of the eye.

### Different ways of closing a hare frame



### This happened in a different project

One of my spirals was so tight I couldn't weave my wire through.



By pulling it slightly away from the frame I created space for the wire.



Once the spiral was attached...



...I pushed the spiral back in its original position, close to the frame

## 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 to.

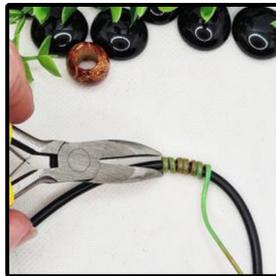


Do a series of single coils, then cut off the tail near the frame. Use pliers to flatten the wire in exactly the same way as before.

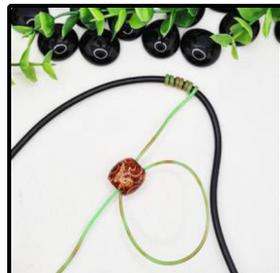


Thread a bead on and decide where you want it to be.

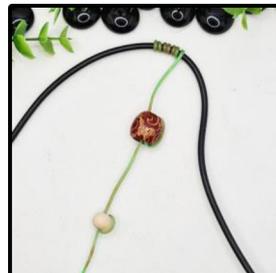
Attach the wire starting near the end. Leave a tail.



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



Cut three lengths of 50 cm wire.

## Some more fun with beading

1. Instead of lining up having individual beads you can have a row of beads together. You only need to go again through the first and last bead to keep them in place.



2. Making a bunch gives another effect.

- String on some beads.
- bend the wire in a circle.
- Twist the wires to create a little stalk.



Here are some bunches from a different project



## Beading with copper



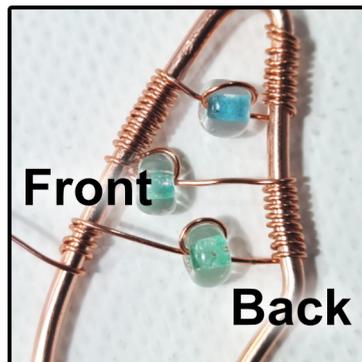
This what my hare looks like after attaching the spirals and closing the frame.

Very nice, but it does need some colour to pull it all together.

- Cut off roughly 50 cm of thin copper wire.
- Attach it to where you want to start with single coils.



Remember how with attaching the spirals you needed to go front to front? With the beading it is the other way around. If your wire comes from the front it goes to the back at the other side. This means that the beads will be positioned in the middle.



Have I mentioned, I like using bunches!

What is your favourite beading technique?

I had some fun moving the bunches into position and now my hare is perfectly presentable.



Some of my wires are a bit slack.

I used my pliers to make some kinks and bends. This is optional as you might like your hare the way it is.

My finished hare!



Here's a down of them.



I love making these hares and I hope you have enjoyed making yours.

With creative wishes  
Helga  
Colourbuzz

## Patinas

You can leave your cat as it is now. Over time the copper will frame will change naturally due to oxidation. The wire, as it is non-tarnishing, will stay shiny and create a lovely contrast with the frame and spirals.

This is what will happen:



The patina that develops on copper is different from rust on iron. Rust corrodes the iron,

### WARNING

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

### DO THIS OUTSIDE

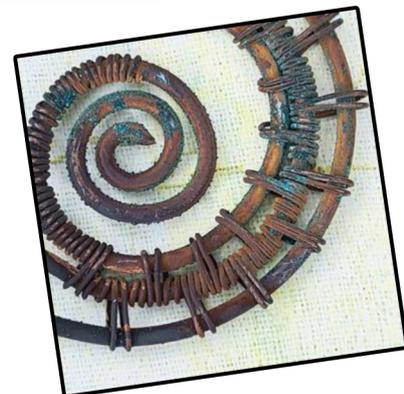
It really, really stinks.

If you want the copper darker, leave it longer.

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 (not done in the pictures).

For the pendant here I used bare copper for both the frame and the wire. Your weaving wire (unlike the weaving wire in the picture) wire will stay bright as it is non-tarnishing!



## **Miracle Gro**

A less odourous 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 cat. 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.

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