

Handmade Earwires

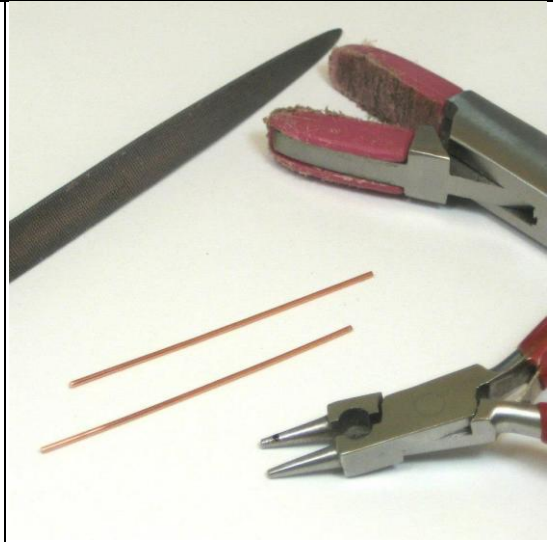
Level: Beginner

by Bonnie Jacobsen

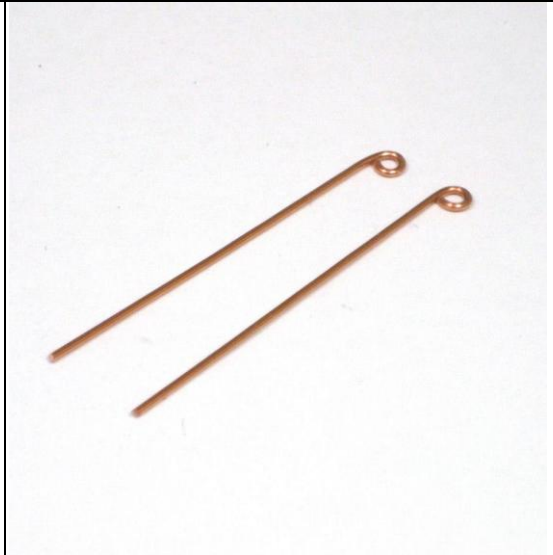
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Use 20 g dead soft or half hard wire - seems 20 g is the most used and comfortable for the ear. Straighten the wire with nylon pliers and cut 2 pieces of 2 inches each. File one end of each piece so they are smooth - these are the ends you will curl. Mark your needle nose pliers with a sharpie so when you make a curl they will be about the same size.



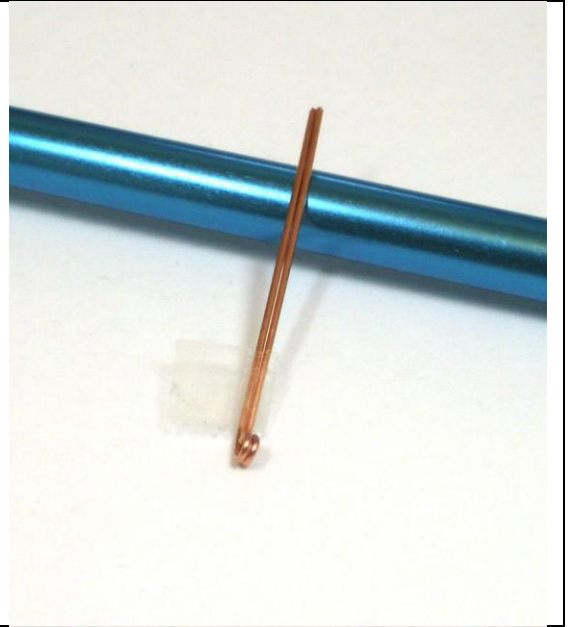
Curl the ends that have been filed smooth.



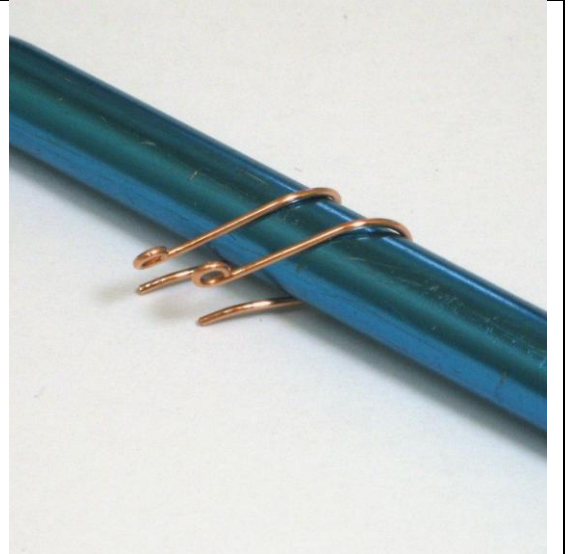
Line them up and even them out if need be. File the ends smooth and give it the panty hose test as this is the part that will go thru the ear - measure and mark the center of these pieces.



Line the wires up and use a small piece of tape near the loops to hold them even and secure so they match when making the curve for the hook.



I used a knitting needle size 13 but any smooth round object will work - place the center of the wire that you marked with the sharpie on the top of the needle and form them around to make the curve for the ear wire.



Curve the ends as you wish. You can adjust the wire to any size and make different shaped wires. The finished length from the top of the wire to the loop is about 3/4 of an inch.



To make the wires with a bead cut each piece of 20 g wire about 2 1/2 inches long. File the ends and add a bead (swarovski 4 mm bicones are shown). Use needle nose pliers to bend the long wire forward (right photo) enough to keep the bead from sliding out of the position next to the loop and repeat the same for the other wire. Finish the same as the basic wires keeping them uniform in length and shape.



The end that goes through the piercing in the ear should be filed and smooth.



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