Wire Work Dangle Earrings

Level: Beginner by Bonnie Jacobsen ©BJD 2015 All Rights Reserved http://www.artfire.com/ext/shop/home/BDJDesigns



Follow along to make a pair of dangle earrings. Finished length of the dangle, without the ear wire and jump ring, is about 1 and 3/16 of an inch.



Protective eye wear Round nose pliers Needle nose pliers Wire cutter or nail clipper Ruler Marker Round object to form the shape of the dangle to about 7 mm. In this case a cone shape pen tip is used. File or emery board

Materials

Six inches of 18 gauge dead soft round wire Five inches of 28 gauge dead soft round wire Two 6 mm round beads Two closed jump rings, 5 or 6mm One pair of ear wires



Step 1 - Straighten the wire, before cutting, with nylon jaw pliers. Grip the wire with the pliers and draw the wire through the jaws until it is straight. You may have to do this a few times. If you don't have nylon jaw pliers you can fold a soft cloth around the wire, pinch the cloth with your fingers and draw the wire until straight. Cut two 3 inch pieces of 18 gauge wire.



Step 2 - Mark the center of both wires with a marker. Use a marked pen tip for a graduated mandrel and wrap one piece of wire into a U shape.



Step 3 - Hold off on doing the 2nd piece until you see how the bead will fit in the opening at the bottom of the frame.



Step 4 - Place the bead on a flat work surface and drop the frame around the bead to gauge the size of the frame. The frame should be about 7 mm at the bottom to allow for the bead to sit inside the frame.



Step 5 - If the frame is too small, place the wire back on the pen and slide just past the mark to a larger part of the cone to enlarge the opening. Reverse this if the frame is too big. Remark the pen cone for placement of the 2nd wire.



Step 6 - Shape the 2nd wire. Stack the frames on top of each to check for uniform shape. Adjust the U as needed and the length so they match. File the ends with a metal file or emery board to smooth any rough edges.



Step 7 - Mark the round nose pliers before making the loops at the ends of the frame for about a 2 mm loop opening.



Step 8 - Grip the end of the frame wire at the mark on the round nose pliers and make a half open loop, at each end, going in the same direction. Do not close the loops at this time.



Step 9 - Shape the frame so the ends with the loops are close together. Place the open loops into the closed jump ring. See next photo.



Step 10 - Adjust the jump ring as shown and use needle nose pliers to grip each wire end to curl down and close the loops trapping the jump ring.



Step 10a - Front view of frame with jump ring secure.



Step 11 - Cut the smaller gauge wire in half. Take one piece and thread a bead to the center. Place the frame on top of the wire with the bead almost to the bottom of the frame.



Step 12 - Bring the right wire up and over the front of the frame through the bead to the other side with the wire to the front of the frame. Grip the end of the wrapping wire to tighten the loop.



Step 13 - Repeat the last step 12 for the left side. Keeping the wire on top of the frame. Pull both ends gently to tighten the loops around the frame sides.



Step 14 - Take the tail of the wrapping wire on the left up, over the top and around the frame to the back. Next thread the wire through the space above the bead inside the frame.



Step 15 - Do the same as step 14 with the right wire. There will be two loops on each side of the bead. Use needle nose pliers to pinch the loops close to each other. Bring the wire tails to the front and down, then through the space between the bead and the bottom of the frame to the back. This completes 1/2 wrap around the wire between the bead and the frame.



Step 16 - With both wires to the back use gentle tension, for each, to tighten the wire between the bead and the frame.



Step 17 - Bring the wires above the bead, through the frame space and to the front. This completes one wrap around the wire between the bead and the frame. Wrap one more time for a half wrap ending with the wire to the back and use gentle tension to tighten.



Step 18 - Back view. Use wire cutter to trim the tails close to the wrap. Tuck the wires in the space by gently pinching with needle now pliers.



Step - 18a - Front view after step 18 is complete.



Step 19 - Attach ear wire to closed jump ring.



Finished pair.

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