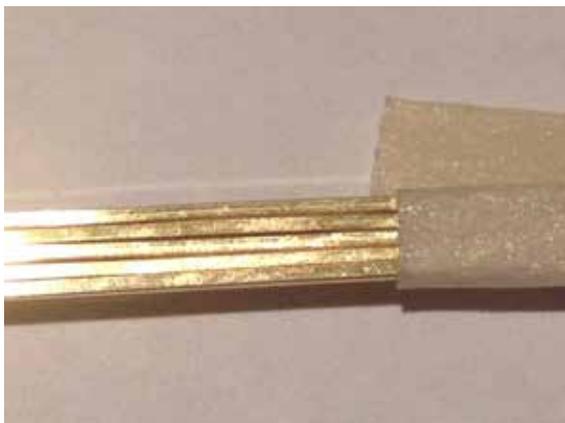


Wire Wrapping a Cabochon

By Ariana Bostwick

Instructions:

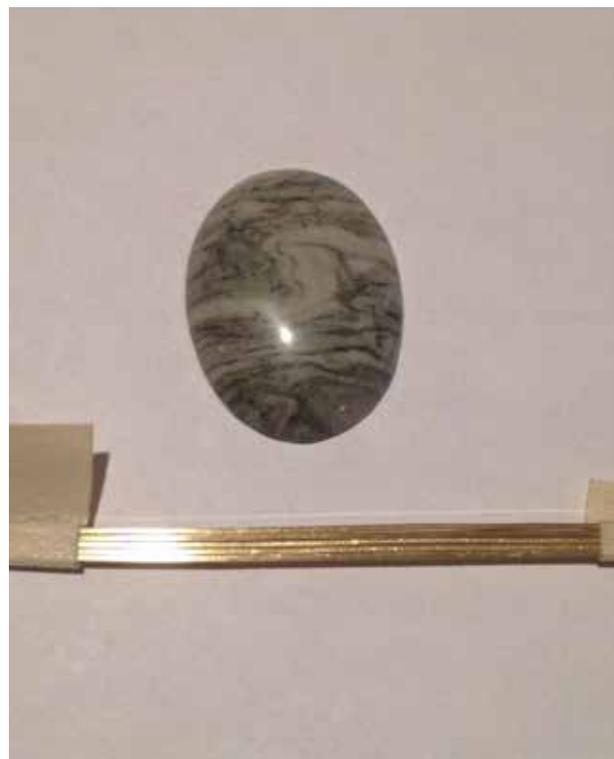
1. Measure around your stone with masking tape cutting it the exact length of the circumference.
2. Lay down tape and measure, divide into 4ths and mark on tape.
3. Cut 5 square wires all the same length, the length of stone + ~10 inches (2in for bail and 3in for design wires on each side, this measurement can vary depending on your design but this is a good starting point!)
4. Straighten all of your wires with your fingers until they lay nicely next to each other. Then wrap the wires next to each other with masking tape leaving a tab for easy removal later.
5. Find the center point of your cut wires and mark, then measure out the 1/4 and 3/4 points of your stone from your circumference tape.



Supplies:

Masking tape
Sharpie
Ruler
Cabochon

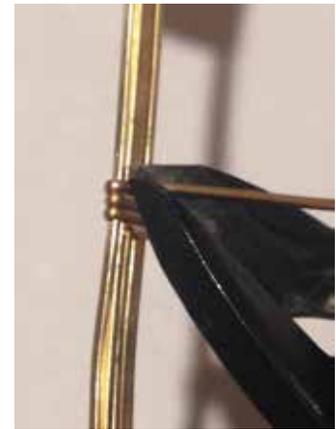
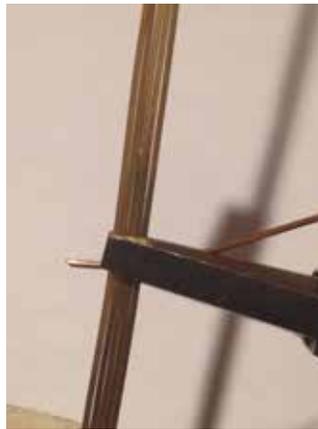
Square Wire (20 Ga)
Half-Round Wire (21 Ga)
Wire Snips
Flat Nose Pliers (4mm)
Barrel Nose Pliers



6. Cut a length of half-round wire enough to work with. Using the 4mm flat nose pliers make a hook on the end of your half-round wire with the flat side of the wire on the inside of the hook. This will be used to wrap together your square wires.



7. Hook around the bundle with the hook end and the sharpie mark on the inside of the wrap. Press flat with pliers, keeping the outside of the wrap perpendicular with the bundle.



8. Continue wrapping and pressing after each wrap ending with 3 full wraps on the outside and two wraps plus two ends on the inside.



9. Pull each end up and snip at a 45 degree angle with the longer point closest to the rest of the wrap making sure the end is shorter than the width of the wire bundle. Press down.



10. Repeat for two more wraps at the 1/4 and 3/4 marks of the stone.

11. Start to bend your bundle of wires around your stone using your fingers. The inside of the wraps (the part that was cut) will be on the inside of your bundle facing the stone.



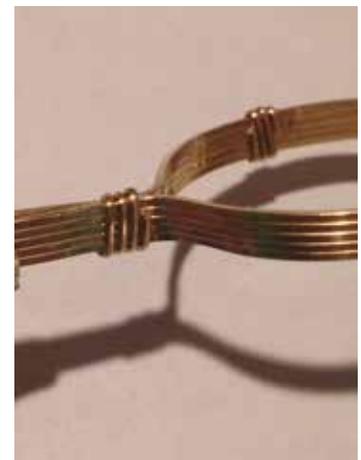
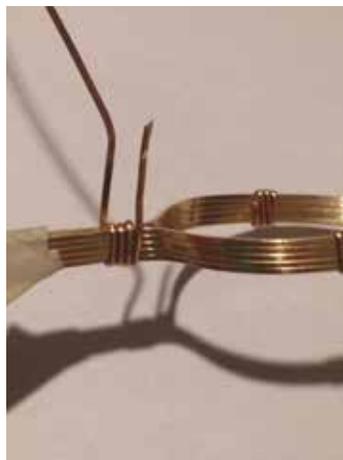
12. Once the wires mimic the cabochon shape turn them up to meet evenly at the top. This should fit snug around the cabochon.

13. Wrap around the top, where the wires meet, with half-round wire. This time three wraps and one end on each side so that the points/ends of the wrap face toward the back.



14. Fit the stone into the wires and pull the back wires over the back by grabbing the back wire with your pliers and twisting at a right angle starting with the bottom wires and then the ones closer to the top.

15. Push the top wire on the front of the stone with an electrical splicer. (These give a great rounded edge without denting your wire because they are plastic.)



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16. To start the bail, pull the two parallel back wires straight out to the side and then kink back up so that they lay nicely next to the second to back wires.

17. Pull these four back wires around an even barrel nose pliers and then down flat against the back of the stone to create the bail.

18. Pull them up off the stone a little to make a wrap just below the top of the stone with three wraps on the outside and the ends toward the stone. Press back against the stone.



19. Pull these wires apart before securing them.

20. Lift the bottom wires holding your stone in, a little away from the stone. (A pocket knife works great.)

21. Trim your wires about a quarter of an inch past the end of the stone to tuck them under the wires holding in the stone.

22. Curl these wires around the back wires just once to secure them.

23. Slightly separate the wires of your bail at the top for a more open bail.



24. Now its time to design the rest of the wires around your stone. Each stone and design can be vastly different. Just make sure to tuck in your wires if they need it, Don't forget that not all wires have to go in front of your stone if you want to show off the beautiful cabochon.

25. Use your fingers to work your wires into the desired design, tuck under and around the wires in back like before, or make a curly cue using round nose pliers to finish the center.

26. Show off you beautiful piece!

