

Wire Wrapped Cabochon



Supplies:

Ruler

21g wire (square preferred)

20g wire (half round preferred) for wrapping

A cabochon

Masking tape

Wire cutters

Flat nose pliers

Round nose pliers

Sharpie pen

1. Cut a piece of tape that will fit around the circumference of your cabochon.
2. Wrap the tape entirely around the cab coming together at the top.

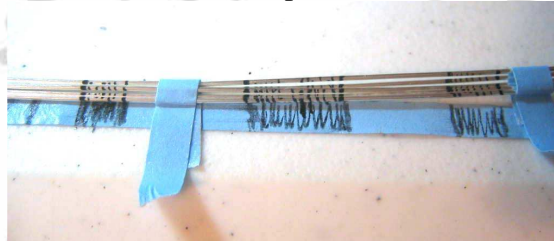


3. Mark, on the tape with the Sharpie pen, where you want your wraps (brackets) to be. On most cabs you will have the wraps on the bottom and one on each side toward the top.
4. Mark the top of the cab where the tape comes together.
5. Take the tape off and stretch it out on the table in front of you and fill in the spaces where your wraps should be.

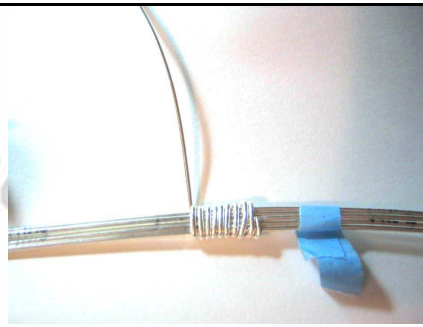
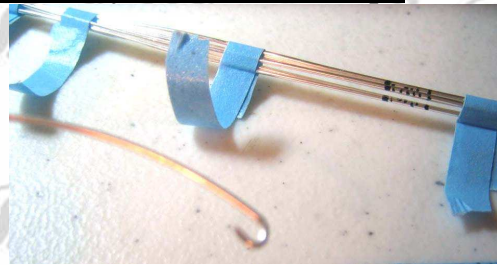


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6. With your ruler measure the size of the cab from your end markings on the tape.
7. Add at least 8" to that measurement and cut five pieces of the square wire to that size. If you have a thin cab you will only need three pieces. The thickness of the cab will determine how many pieces you will need.
8. Clean and straighten those pieces by holding one end with the pliers and pulling the wire through a clean soft cloth.
9. Make a bundle out of the wires by placing them side by side and binding them with pieces of tape.
10. Measure the center of the bundle and the center of the tape.
11. Place the bundle next to the tape, matching the centers, and transfer your wrap markings onto the bundle with the Sharpie. This will rub off easily later on.



12. At the end of the half-round wire make a small hook. The hook should slant to the left. Start your wrap on the wrong side of the bundle (side with the markings). Hook that hook around the bundle and fasten it down by squeezing it with the flat-nose pliers. Wrap the wire around the bundle being careful to squeeze each and every turn of the wire. **Make sure you end the wrap on the wrong side of the bundle (the same side you started the wrap).**



13. **Each time you fold the ½ round wire over the bundle to make a wrap it is important to crimp the wire down with your flat nose or chain nose pliers!** This will keep your wraps even and neat.
14. Do this for all of the areas that need to be wrapped, keeping the beginning and the ends of the wraps on the side of the bundle with the markings! This is the side that will be against your stone.

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- 15.** Now comes the tricky part. Hold your bundle with the marked side facing up. Using your flat nose pliers place one edge up against the edge of the right side of



- the middle wrapping. Pull the left side of the pliers up making half of a sideways bracket [next to the wrap making sure the bracket is pulled up on the wrong (marked) side of the bundle. When you are pulling the brackets, you are pulling the wire from the end of the bundle. For instance if you're pulling on the left side of the middle wrap you will be pulling the wire from the end of the left side of the bundle. For this reason you have to pull at the middle wrap first then for each of the side wraps.
- 16.** When all the brackets are pulled you will spread them (front from the back) a bit so that your stone will fit in the brackets. Starting at the middle wrap place the middle bottom of your stone in place and gently bring the sides up to embrace the stone. Be careful with the brackets that they don't get out of shape.
- 17.** After your stone is settled nicely within the brackets you will have to bring the top wires up to the top center of the stone. Using your center top marks to guide you bend the top wires so that they are side by side. Tape at the junction.
- 18.** Remove all the top tape and isolate the two or four back wires.
- 19.** Retape the top of the bundle leaving those isolated bail wires out of the bundle.
- 20.** Using a bail pliers or a pen or pencil wrap those isolated wires around making a bail. Make sure the bottom of the bail wires will be caught up in the bundle. You will be wrapping all these wire together.



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21. Once your cab is stable in the wrap, your bail is made and the stem is wrapped you will need to find something to do with the remaining wires. The number of ends that you have to take care of will be dependent on how many wires you started with. You can keep it simple and just wrap them around the stem. Otherwise you will need to do something decorative with them. In this picture I made kind of a waterfall effect with them and attached the ends around the wires on the back. Be careful when bending. Wire will keep its shape and it is difficult to undo and straighten after it has been bent. The more it is bent and then unbent the more brittle it will get and you'll risk the wire breaking.



I also coiled two of the wires at the stem.

20. Take a file and file down any raw edges that might get caught on clothes. Enjoy your new pendant!

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New Bel Chain & Bead