

# Wire Wrapping Basics

*Adorn* Jewellery Tools & Supply

# Wire

- **Craft Wire:** This wire is made of base metals such as copper, nickel or brass. It's cheap and therefore makes it your best metal to start with.
- **Sterling Silver:** The term sterling means that 92.5% of the metal is made with silver. The remaining 7.5% is made with copper. There are other types of silver such as Argentium or Rhodium. These are preferred by some as they are tarnish resistant.
- **Gold/Silver Filled:** "Filled" is actually genuine solid precious metal on the outside, that has been bored out and a base metal "filled" inside.

# Wire Shapes

- ROUND



- HALF-ROUND



- SQUARE



# Tempers

## ● Dead Soft

- Very pliable/sculpt-able. Best used for decorative wrapping techniques. Will not make a “sharp” angle

## ● Half Hard

- Not as pliable as Dead Soft. Retains its shape better. Will make hard/sharp defined angles. Great for making framed shapes such as bangles/bracelets.

## ● Full Hard

- Very hard to bend/manipulate. Usually only available by special Order. Best for frames and supporting very heavy weights.

# Gauge

Gauge is the term used to reference a wire's thickness. There are two types of Gauges that are typically referenced American Wire Gauge (AWG) and British Wire Gauge (BWG). The standard mostly used in jewellery crafting is AWG. Below is a chart of the most common sizes used in AWG with a metric conversion. Be wary of metals not purchased from jewellery supplies as they may be BWG which has slightly different dimensions which could throw off a project/design – this is critical to know when working in chainmaille.

- 22 Gauge / .65mm
- 21 Gauge / .72mm
- 20 Gauge / .8mm
- 18 Gauge / 1mm

# Basic Tools

- Round Nose Pliers
- Flat Nose Pliers
- Chain Nose Pliers
- Flush Cutters

# Extras

## ● Knitting Needles

- Make a great tool for making coils with a perfect known Inner Diameter (ID). Most often required for Chainmaille work

## ● Clamps

- To hold wires in place while working

## ● Rulers

- Measure twice, cut once!

## ● Low-Tack Masking Tape

- Will not leave a residue on your pieces if you need to temporarily secure them while completing your design

## ● Fine Felt Tip Marker

- To mark positions for cutting or wrapping. The mark will be cleaned/polished off at the end

## ● Protective Eye Wear

- Very important to have eye wear because you never know when a bit of metal will fly out while cutting, hammering or just trying to manipulate your piece.

# Getting Started

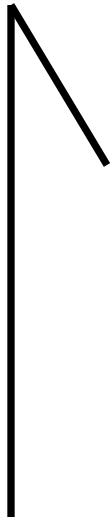
- Prepare Your Materials
  - Straighten Wire
    - A pair of nylon pliers is great for smoothing & straightening.
  - Prepare plier tips with dip or low-tack masking tape to help prevent marring and marking up your wires while working.
  - Clean your wire with a polishing cloth before and after

# What is Binding?

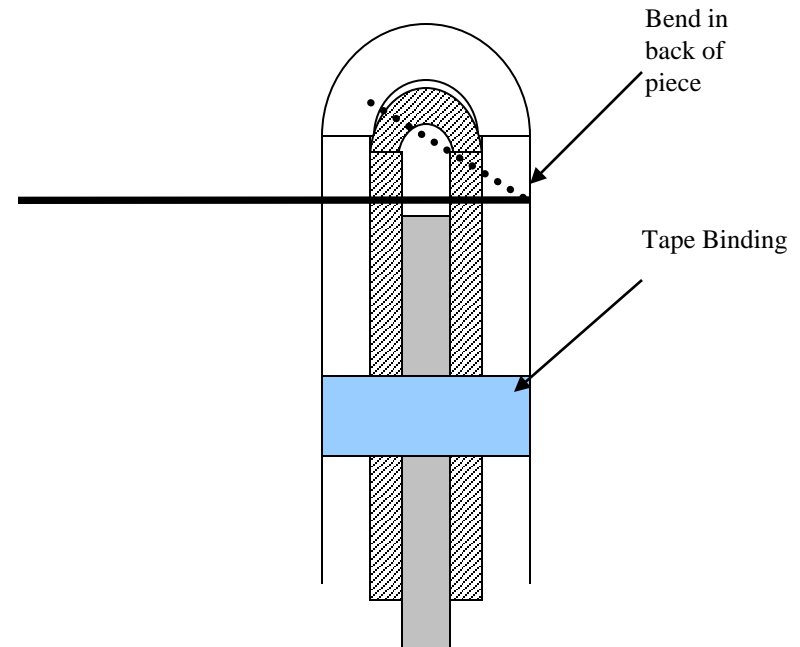
- Wire wrapping is essentially the art of creating a piece without any fusing techniques such as Hot Fusing (torches, soldering irons) or Cold Fusing (glue, riveting)
- Wires are held together by binding. Binding is the act of wrapping one wire around many to hold a piece together.
- Binding is best done with Half Round wire. Half Round allows for a sharp angle to make a tight bind against the piece you're working with, while the outer rounded side makes a very smooth and esthetically pleasing finish.

# Binding Example Part 1

**Step 1)** Take a 5 inch cut of the the 21ga Half Round wire and make a bend as shown. The Rounded edge is on the outside of the bend, the flat is on the inside

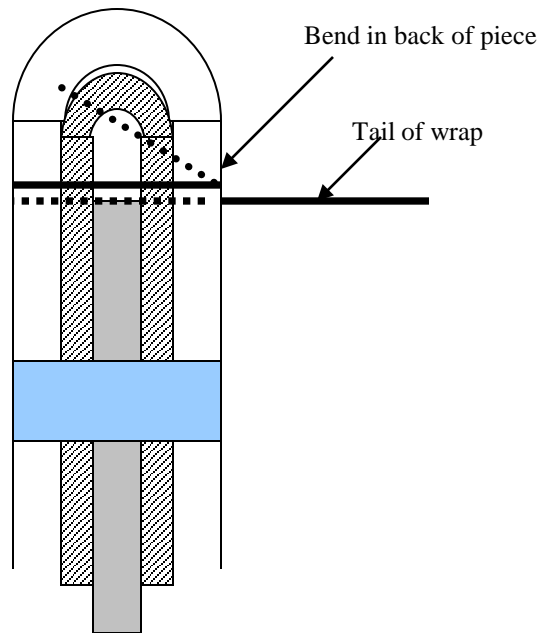


**Step 2)** Hook the Half Round Wire across the bracelet just above the centre wire, and using your flat nose pliers, squeeze it against the bracelet frame to snug it on



# Binding Example Part 2

**Step 3)** Take the tail end and wrap it around the bracelet frame and squeeze with your flat nose pliers again to hold the wrap firm on the other side



**Step 4)** Bring the wire back up and across the front of the bracelet frame up tight against the first wrap and squeeze flat again. Continue until there are 4-5 wraps on the bracelet. Trim off the excess

