

Naturally Wired Jewelry dba www.JewelryWireWrap.com

Wire Wrap Jewelry Instructions Coming Soon! A basic manual on "How to Wire Wrap Jewelry" is in the making. In the mean time, I have provided a couple of wire wrap tips that may help you get started. More tips will be added to this article as time permits.

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Wire Wrap Tip - Practice With Copper: Use copper wire (insulation removed) to practice with. While copper is a precious metal, it is far less expensive than sterling silver and is a very suitable material to help you get used to working with wire. Copper provides very similar malleability or bending characteristics as some silver products. After practicing with copper wire you will quickly gain the confidence needed to develop your own style and create beautiful works of art.

How to Wire Wrap Crystal Points: A simple "capture" technique involves wrapping or coiling your silver wire around a wooden dowel. The dowel size depends on the size of your crystal. The average crystal for wire wrap is 5/8" to 3/4" diameter so you would use the same size, or smaller dowel. The capture technique is as the name implies, you will "capture" the crystal within a coil. This style showcases the crystal well. The crystals in the picture show common sizes. A 5/8" wooden dowel was used to wrap 8 inches of 18 gauge sterling wire around it to create the basic form - you will use all 8 inches of wire, or more depending on your design. Remove the wire from the dowel and insert the crystal into the coil. With both hands, gently twist the wire around the crystal until it's snug. Tighten the coil around the point to keep the crystal from sliding out the end - carefully use chain-nose pliers for this, but be careful! You do not want to chip or crack the crystal. Do the same thing on the other end, but make a loop for a chain or necklace string. That's it, you're done! Click images below for large view.

How to Wire Wrap Crystal Points: Example pics.

Fig. 1



Fig. 2



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How to Wire Wrap Crystal Points: Example pics.

Fig. 3



Fig. 4



I used half-hard sterling wire to create the pieces in Figures 5, 6, & 7, and was very difficult to accomplish. You should use soft wire to create wire wrap jewelry of the nature depicted in Figures 5 thru 7. However, it is very soft and should not be used for the capture technique shown in figures 1 thru 4 above.

Here are examples of what you can do with soft wire. As mentioned I used half-hard for these pieces, but only because these pieces were special requests and I had to get them done and used material I had on hand. With soft wire, you can create even more elaborate pieces than the ones shown. I left the silver unpolished to reduce glare for photo taking. I polished them up after I took the pictures; they now sparkle and are very shiny.

Fig. 5



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How to Wire Wrap Crystal Points: Example pics

Fig. 6



Fig. 7 Different Crystal below.



Basic Tools Needed: Chain-nose pliers, tapered pliers or loops pliers, Flat-nose pliers.

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Basic Tools Needed – Cont'd: Chain-nose pliers, tapered pliers or loops pliers, Flat-nose pliers.

You don't need all these to get started, but you will need chain-nose pliers. From left to right, chain-nose, flat-nose, graduated loop pliers, tapered pliers. All inside surfaces on these pliers are smooth to minimize nicking, marring, or damaging the sterling silver wire. Soft wire damages easily and nylon tipped tools of the same configuration as shown in Fig. 8 are best for soft wire.

Fig. 8



I sincerely hope these few tips have helped you in some way.

All the Best,

Raymond

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