

Silver Shapes



This is an elephant I made using (silver plated) copper wire.

This is in your kit



- Elephant frame
- 1x silver plated wire (12 cm)
- 1x silver plated wire (15 cm)
- 1x 150 cm silver plated wire (bigger coil for weaving))
- 1 x 120 cm silver plated weaving wire (smaller coil for beading)
- Beads
- 1x bent chain nose pliers (pliers from now on)

Needed

- A pair of old scissors

Also included

- 25cm paper ruler
- Aluminium practise wire
- Elephant Template

How to go about it

In these instructions I will go over the steps I take to make an elephant. This doesn't mean that they are the only way of achieving a great result, just the method I developed, so if you can think of a better a different way, go for it.

What I do hope, is that you'll have a great time making your silver shape.

Enjoy the experience of creating

Practise Spiral

The first thing is to practise making a spiral with the aluminium wire before you move on to the silver plated copper wire. The practise wire is very flexible and is in a coil on its own.



Grab the end of the wire with the tip of the pliers.



Copper wire is much stiffer to work with.

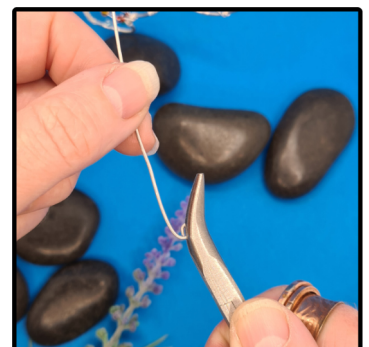
Make a quarter circle around the tip of the pliers. Re-position the pliers and make another part of the circle. Repeat till you have come full circle.



Hold the circle firmly with the elbow of the pliers. If the pliers' points are pointed away from the circle you give yourself more space to work in.

Move the wire while holding the pliers in the same position. Only a little bit of the spiral .

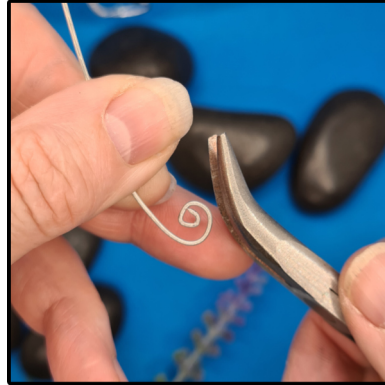
Re-position your pliers and continue.



Repeat till you have a spiral you like. Decide how tight or loose you want your spiral to be.

As it is aluminium you can have a few goes as it doesn't work-harden like copper (the more you bend, move, use or hammer copper, the stiffer it becomes).

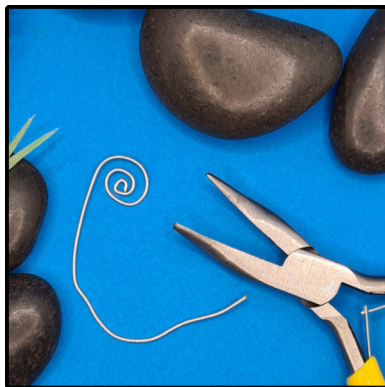
You can now experiment with holding the wire with different parts of the pliers (elbow, tips halfway, etc.). All that matters is to have a good grip on the spiral.



When you have a spiral you're happy with, make another one at the other end of the wire.

Don't worry about the shape too much. This aluminium wire doesn't hold its shape.

My spirals make a kind of C-shape. If I want to change it into an S-shape I just twist it around. You will be able to do the same with the (silver-plated) copper wire.



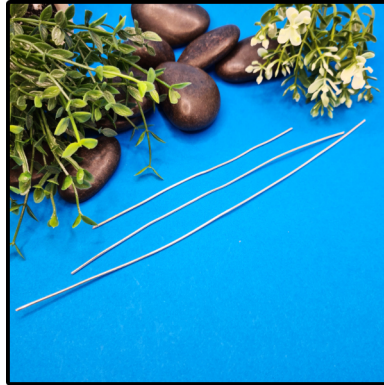
The Real Thing

Now that you know how to make spirals, you can disregard the aluminium wire.

You are ready to upgrade to copper to make the real spirals.

First straighten the wires by pulling them between your fingers.

Once they are straight, the process is exactly the same as with the aluminium practise wire. When you shape the wire you will feel how different the copper wire is.



Make the four spirals. The best look is achieved by making four very different looking spirals. Tight, loose, small, big, etc. They definitely don't have to look like mine. Do your own thing.

Attaching the spirals



Find the smaller coil and unwrap it. Cut the long wire into 20 cm long strands with a pair of old scissors or cutters if you have them.

If you want you can use the paper ruler included in the kit.

To demonstrate more clearly how to attach a spiral to the frame, I have used electrical wires and aluminium for the wrapping and attaching, hence the sudden colour and proportion change.

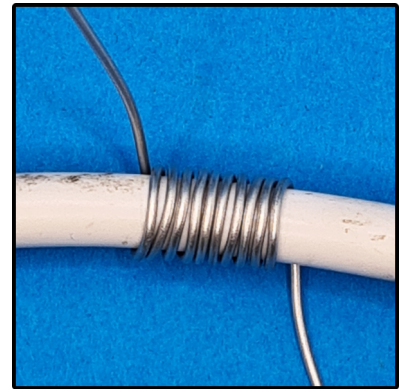


Leave a tail. This is handy to hold on to when you start the wrapping.



Coil or wrap the wire tightly around the 'frame'.

For the best result, push the wraps on the frame close together using your thumb nails.



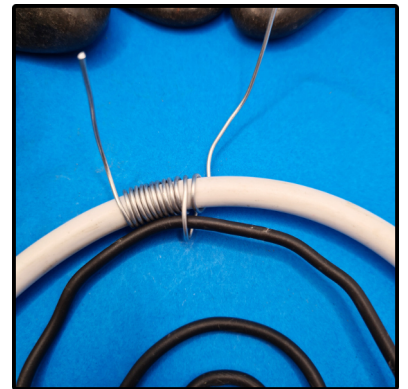
The wrap should be around a cm.1/3" long.



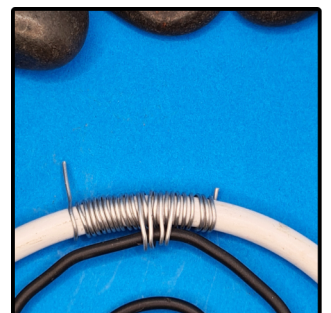
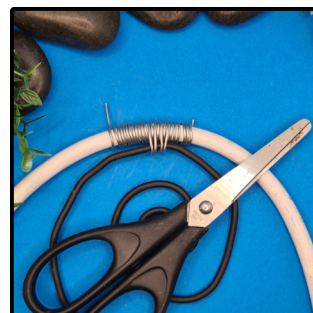
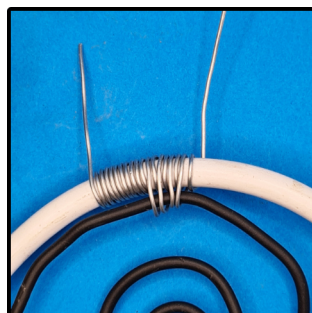
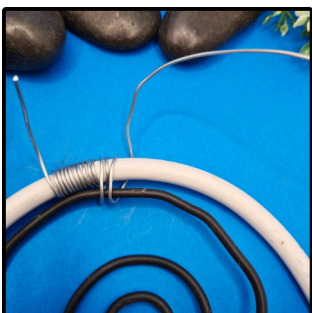
The wire comes down over the top, so it goes over the top of the spiral as well, then underneath to go around both frame and spiral. If it had come from below, just go under the spiral, either way works).



Here the wire has gone around both the frame and the spiral.

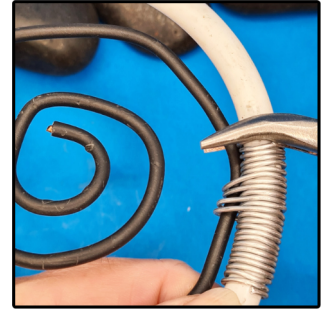
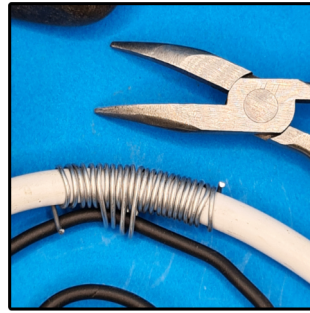


The next wrap is only around the frame.

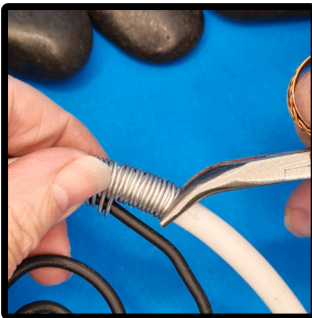


Keep continuing with the pattern: one wrap over both the frame and the spiral followed by one wrapped around only the frame. Once it's secured, you finish with a set of single wraps around the frame.

With some old scissors, cut off the left over wire (preferably at the back so the ends will be hidden, unlike what I've done in the pictures where they are at the front).



With pliers, flatten the wire against the frame at both ends). This makes it safe and it looks good.



Spiral attached and loose ends tidied up(ish)!

Your Turn

Place the spirals inside the frame in a position you like, then take a picture for your own reference. It will be hard to remember which way exactly you wanted the spirals to go once you've moved them. You can of course change your mind along the way.



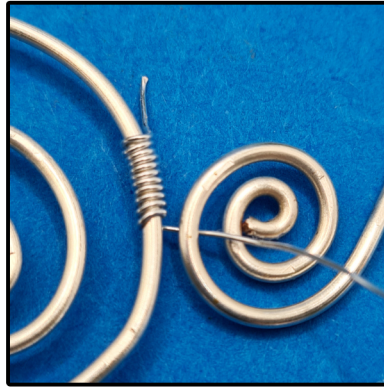
○ Attach a spiral to the frame or to another spiral.

● Close the frame
(check with the template that your shape is similar)



Attach a wire to one of the spirals you want to attach to another one.

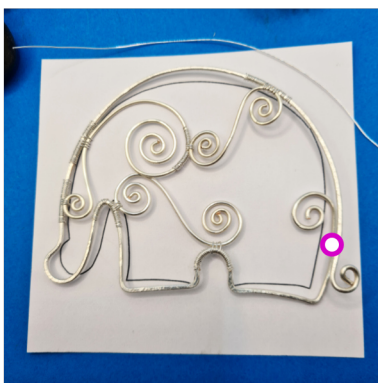
Make sure to hold on to the tail to make it easier to wrap.



Here the wire comes from underneath the left spiral, so it also goes below the right wire.

Use the same pattern (or one you came up with) as before; over two, over one a. Whatever pattern you choose, always end with around a cm r 1/3" of single wraps to secure the wire.

To tidy up, use scissors to cut the wire close to the spiral and use pliers to squeeze the end of the wires flat.



Leave closing up the frame till last as it gives you more space to work and weave your wires inside the frame.

Time to bring it all together by adding beads. Feel free to use your own if you prefer. They will also reinforce your shape.

Beading (three examples)

Cut up the longer wire in three pieces of around 50cm lengths using the ruler.

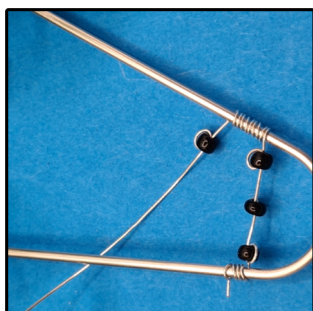
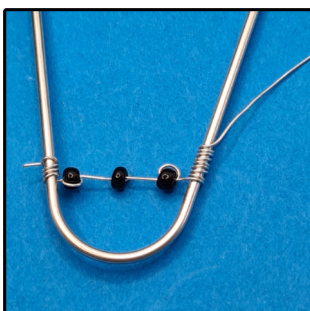
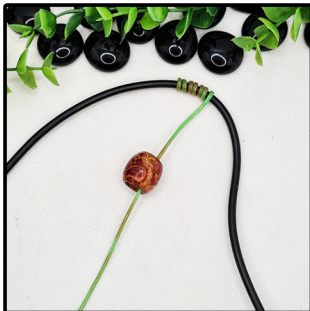


Place the beads in something so they can't roll away.

1. Spaced individual beads



Attach a beading wire to the frame as before and add a bead. Choose where you want the bead to and hold it in that position while you thread the through the bead again. Pull tight while holding the bead.

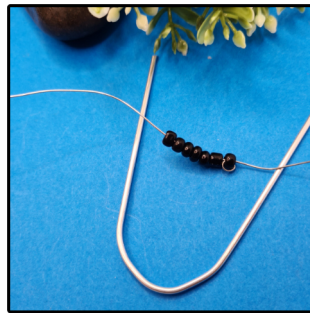
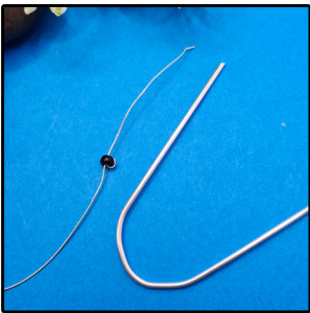


Attach the wire where you want the string of beads to go and do as many wraps as you like, then start adding beads as before to make the next part.

2. Beads in Line



Start with adding one bead and securing it in place by threading through once more. Add as many other beads as you would like. Secure them in a line by threading the wire through the last bead in the line.

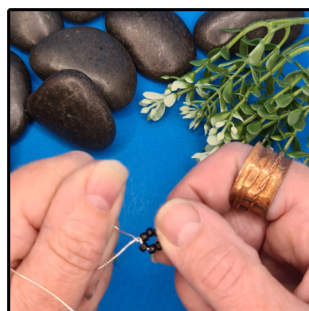
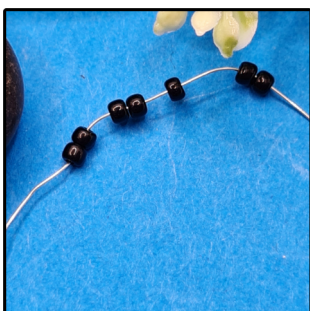


3. Bunches



Depending on the size you want, add an odd number of beads to the wire. If you would use an even number you get a squarish or rectangular effect. If that's what you're after, go for it!

Bring the beads together in a circle. Hold the wire strands firmly in place with one hand and the beads with the other. Create a small stalk by twisting the wire with the hand holding the beads.



All done!

Mine looks like this. What about yours? I'd love to see a picture (Facebook or email).

I hope you have enjoyed creating your own elephant.

Helga
Colourbuzz



If you enjoyed this, you might like the following ,available from the [Colourbuzz Shop](http://www.colourbuzz.net)

Cherry Blossoms
A Tree of Life Kit



Age: 11+
All materials
and 1x pliers
included

The image shows a circular wire frame filled with pink cherry blossom cutouts, hanging from a silver ring. Below it are various materials including a bowl of pink cutouts, pliers, and greenery on a pink background.

Summer Greens
A Tree of Life Kit



Age: 11+
All materials
and 1x pliers
included

The image shows a circular wire frame filled with green leaf cutouts, hanging from a silver ring. Below it are various materials including a bowl of green cutouts, pliers, and greenery on a green background.

Autumn Hues
A Tree of Life Kit



Age: 11+
All materials
and 1x pliers
included

The image shows a circular wire frame filled with autumn-colored leaf cutouts, hanging from a silver ring. Below it are various materials including a bowl of autumn cutouts, pliers, and greenery on a red background.

Winter Blossoms
A Tree of Life Kit



Age: 11+
All materials
and 1x pliers
included

The image shows a circular wire frame filled with white winter blossom cutouts, hanging from a silver ring. Below it are various materials including a bowl of white cutouts, pliers, and greenery on a blue background.

Elephant
A 'Silver' Shapes Kit



Age: 11+
Materials
and 1x pliers
included

The image shows a wire elephant shape with colorful spiral patterns inside, hanging from a silver ring. Below it are various materials including a bowl of colorful cutouts, pliers, and greenery on a blue background.

Scottie
A 'Silver' Shapes Kit



Age: 11+
Materials
and 1x pliers
included

The image shows a wire Scottie dog shape with colorful spiral patterns inside, hanging from a silver ring. Below it are various materials including a bowl of colorful cutouts, pliers, and greenery on a blue background.

Durham Style
Card Kit
(3pcs)



Age: 9+
Cards, envelopes,
cut-outs, black fine-
liner and marker

The image shows three colorful cards with intricate patterns and designs, including a rainbow sunburst and a castle, on a black background.

For more information about kits and workshops, have a look at the Colourbuzz website

www.colourbuzz.net

or contact me at colourbuzz1@gmail.com

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