

## Oval Wrap Earrings

By Marney Callicott

The inspiration for this piece came from a visit to Sedona, Arizona. I saw a jewelry supply store and just *had* to have a look. Then I spotted this buttery colored agate, and bought a strand.

I designed these with an artsy feel, which is how I feel about the culture of Sedona. The agate is a focal in oval wrapped wire, and the glass pearl has a very creative feel with the spiraling wire encasing it.

These earrings would look nice with casual outfits as well as business casual.



### Materials List

- 6 mm glass pearl (white)
- 19 mm x 12 mm or smaller focal bead (tutorial shows a yellow agate)
- Two earring wires
- 20-gauge silver plated German style wire
- Ruler

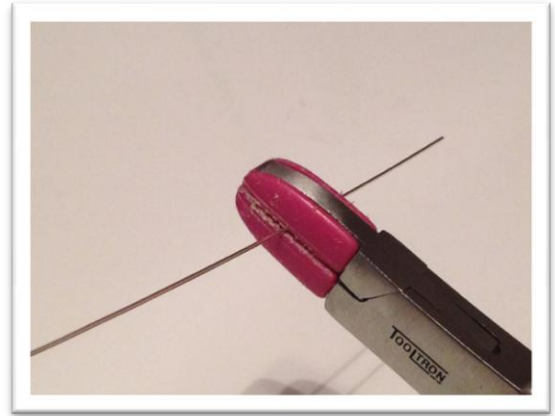
### Tool List – Don't forget Safety Glasses!

- Safety Glasses
- Side Cutters
- Wubbers Apprentice Nylon Nose Pliers
- WUBBERS Classic Round Nose Pliers
- WUBBERS Small Round Mandrels
- WUBBERS Classic Bent Nose Pliers
- WUBBERS Classic Chain Nose Pliers

## Preparing the Wire

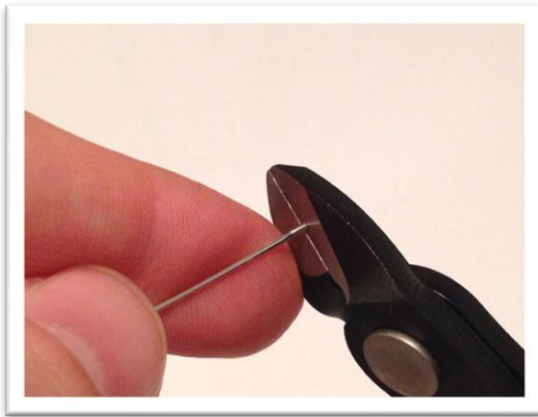
### Step 1

Take the 20-gauge wire and pull a length free. Use the nylon nose pliers to straighten it.



### Step 2

Measure approximately 7 and ½ inches of wire. Snip the ends with the side cutters making sure to use the flush edge on each end of the wire.



### Step 3

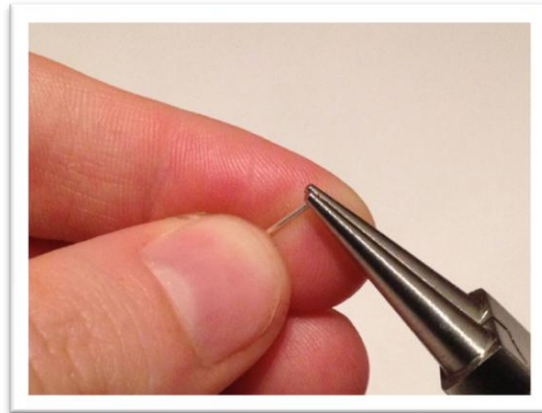
Prepare another length of 20-gauge wire in the same manner with this length measuring approximately 13 inches long.



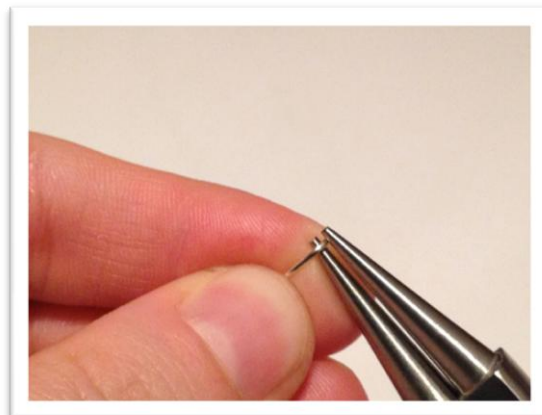
## Forming the Spiral

### Step 4

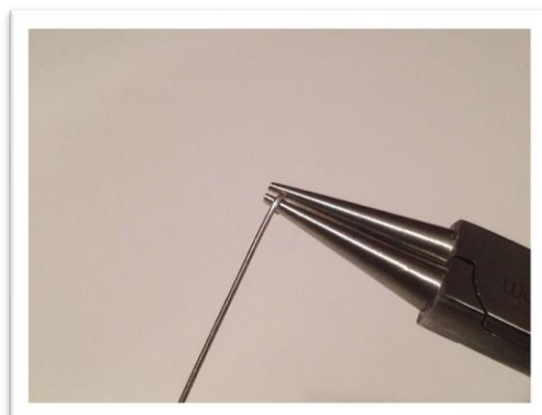
Take the 7 and ½ inch length of wire. Grasp the wire between the jaws of the round nose pliers and create a small loop by rotating the pliers away from you.



The wire will wrap around the jaw of the pliers to form a loop.



Keep wrapping the wire until the end of the wire meets the rest of the length of wire.



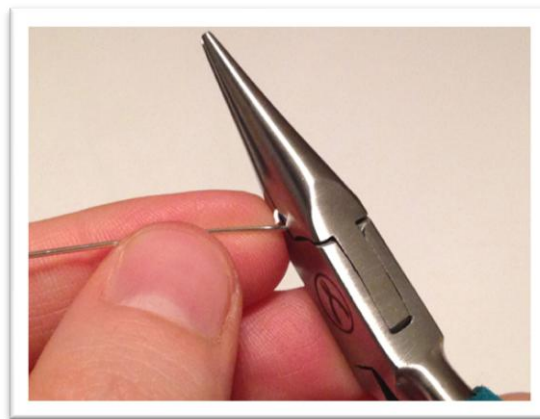
### Step 5

The loop will look like a “p.” Form another loop in the same manner on the opposite end of the wire with the existing “p” facing up. This way the loops will face in opposite directions.



### Step 6

Place one “p” shaped end flat in the chain nose pliers. Place it low in the jaws of the pliers. Firmly squeeze the handles of the pliers so the wire is secure in the jaws of the pliers.



Use your thumb to slowly push the wire up toward the small end of the pliers.



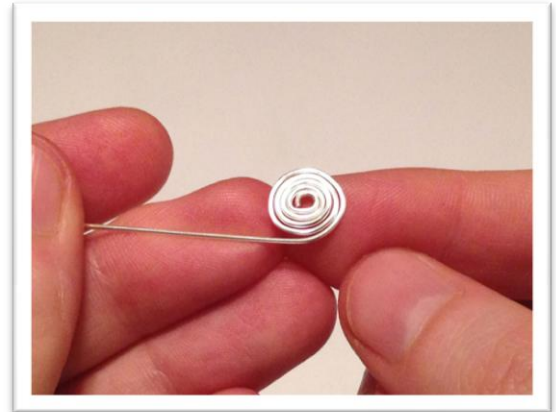
Once the wire meets the jaws of the pliers, stop and release the wire from the jaws of the pliers.

Rearrange the loop in the jaws so the wire is in the original position to be able to be manipulated up toward the narrow end of the jaws of the pliers. Squeeze the pliers firmly again with the loop in the jaws of the pliers. Continue moving the wire toward the narrow end of the plier jaws and repeating these motions until a spiral is formed.



### Step 7

Remove the spiral from the pliers and compare the size of the spiral to the 6 mm bead. If the size is close to the bead, begin a spiral on the opposite end of the wire in the same manner as before. If the spiral is too small, return it to the jaws of the pliers, and continue the previous steps to create a larger spiral. The spiral should be slightly larger than the bead.

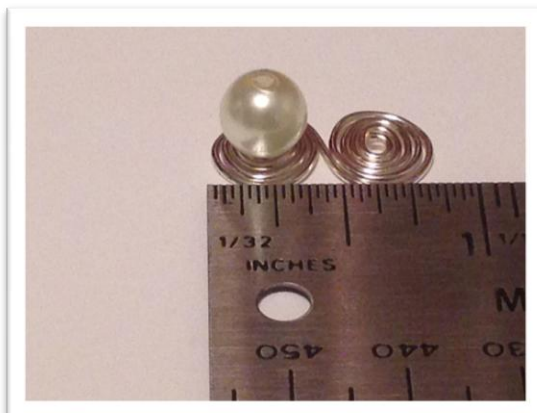


### Step 8

Once both spirals are mostly formed, the two spirals can be slowly completed one end at a time until they meet, so they are a similar size.



The spirals should be slightly larger than the 6 mm bead.

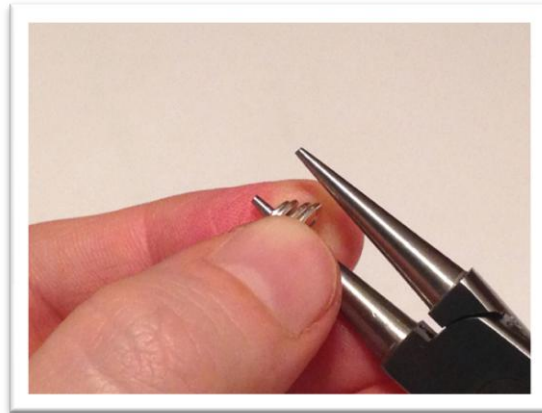




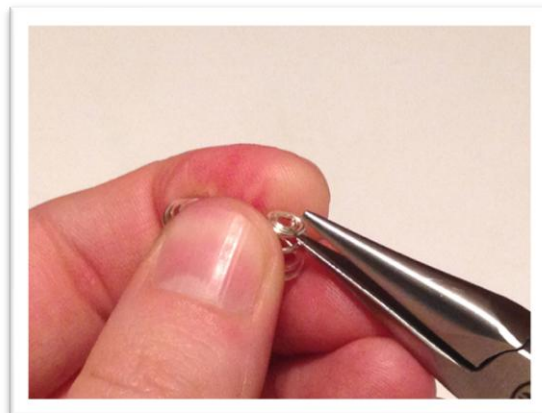
## Expanding the Spiral

### Step 9

To expand the spiral, take the round nose pliers and place the tip in the center. Push the spiral upward.



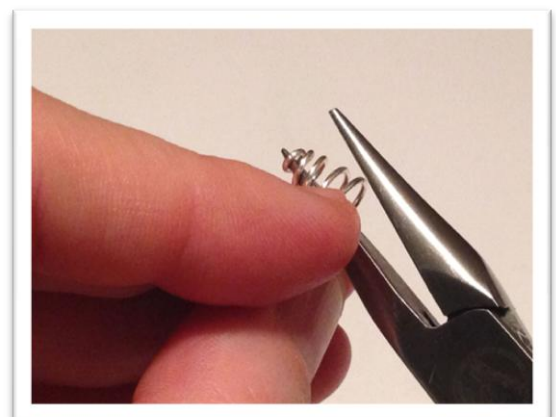
If the spiral is still not all the way expanded, take the chain nose pliers and insert one jaw in part of the expanded spiral. Slowly pull the spiral up and apart while moving the jaw toward the closed section of the spiral.



### Step 10

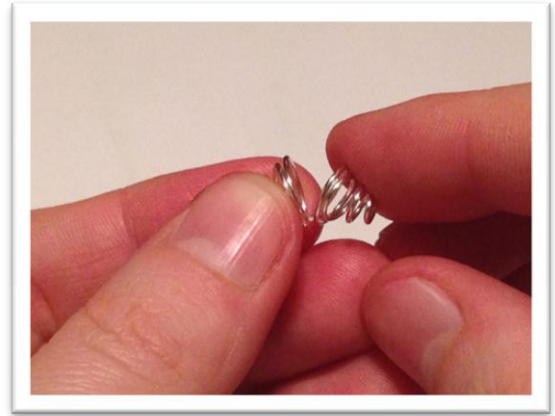
When the spiral is nearly open all the way, inserting the chain nose pliers in the middle hole of the spiral and pushing out should open the spiral the rest of the way.

Expand the second spiral in the same manner. Open the second spiral in the same direction as the first.



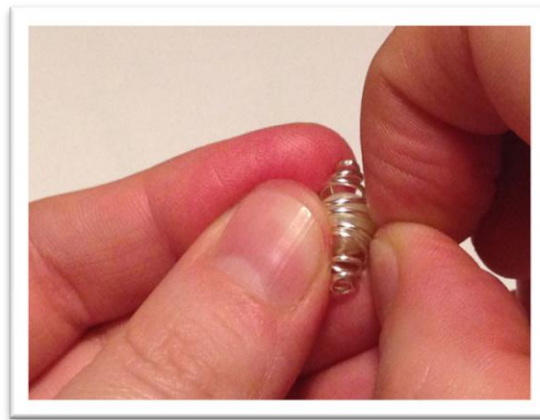
**Closing the spiral**  
**Step 11**

Begin to close the spirals toward each other, but leave an opening large enough to insert the 6 mm bead.



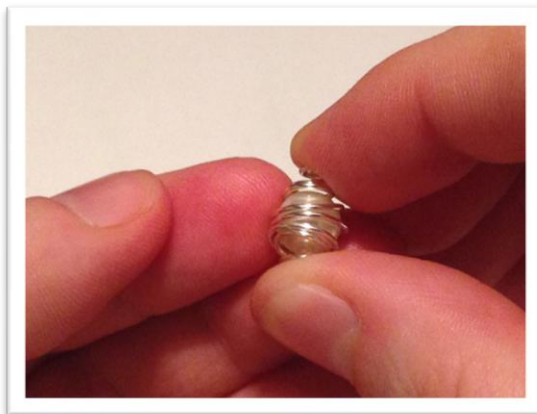
**Step 12**

Place the 6 mm bead in the spirals and close them by bringing them together the rest of the way.



If the ends of the spirals stick out too much, press them down until they have the desired appearance.

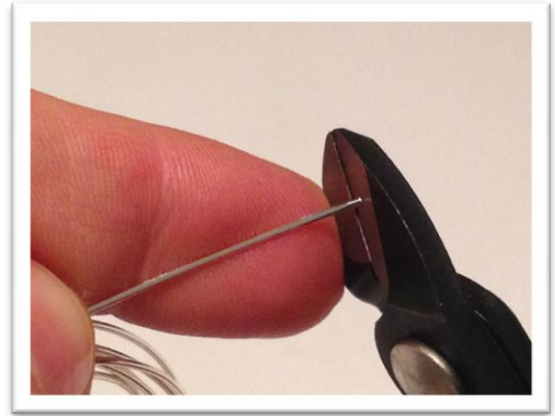
Using your fingers, manipulate the wire around the bead until it looks aesthetically pleasing.



## Creating a Bead Stopper

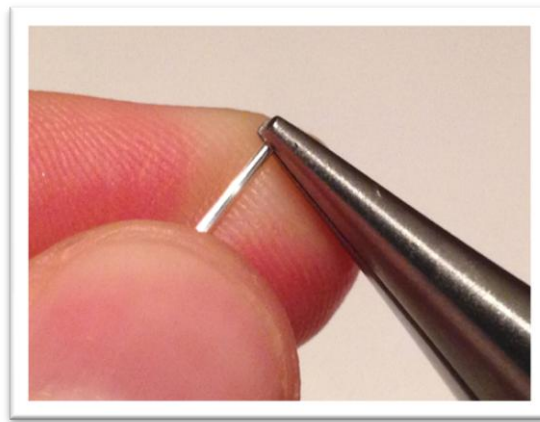
### Step 13

Take the nylon nose pliers and straighten a length of 20-gauge wire measuring approximately 3 inches. Trim the end with flush cutters so the edge is flush. Cut the wire from the spool with a flush cut.

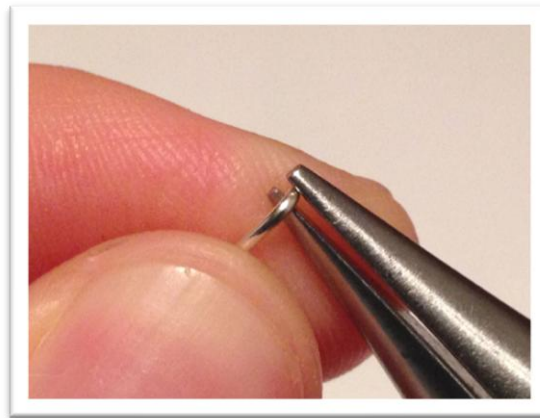


### Step 14

Take the chain nose pliers and grasp one end of the wire near the narrowest part of the plier jaws.

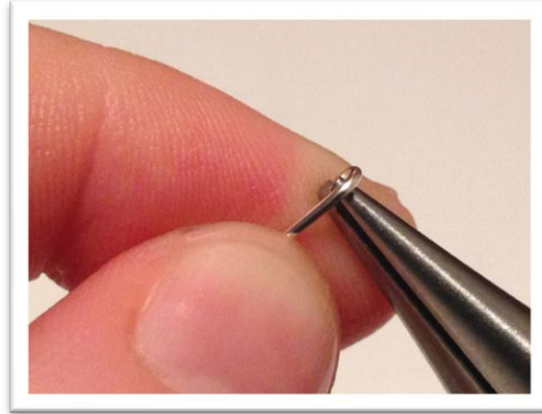


Turn the pliers away from you.



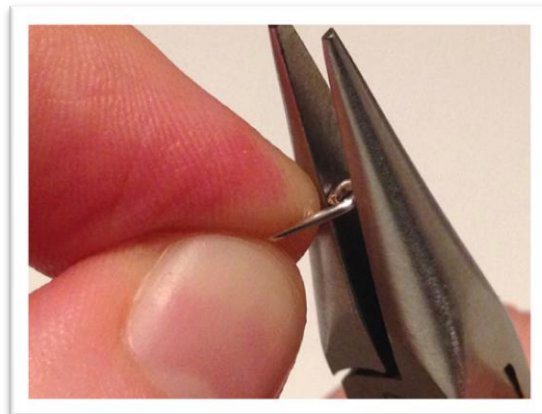


Keep turning the pliers until the end of the wire meets the rest of the length of wire. This will form a small half circle.

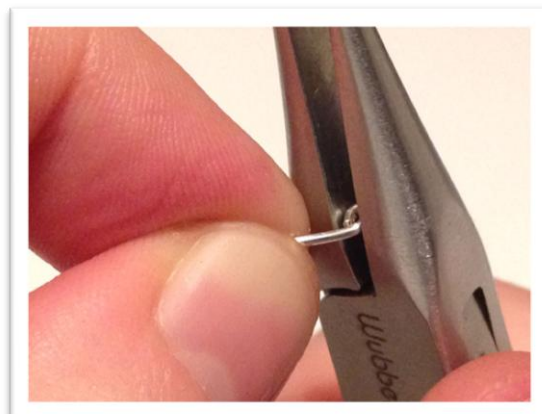


### Step 15

Place the half circle in the jaws of the chain nose pliers.

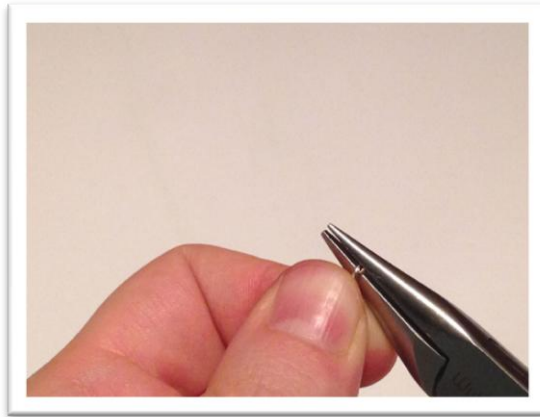


Squeeze the half circle to collapse it. It won't collapse all the way, but it will close a bit.

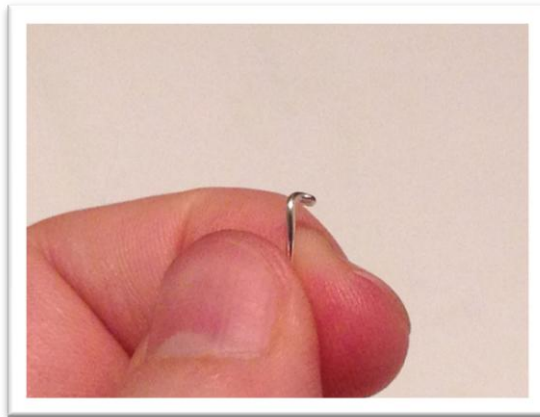


### Step 16

Insert the collapsed half circle in the chain nose pliers so that the half circle is lying flat. Bend the half circle by rotating the pliers away from you.



This will act as a bead stopper on the bottom of the bead.



### Finishing the Spiral Encased Bead

#### Step 17

Insert the other end of the wire in the spiral encased bead.



The collapsed half circle will look similar to this.



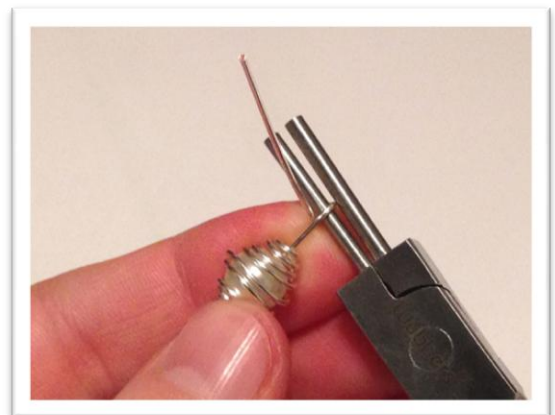
### Step 18

Take the small round mandrels and form a loop. One jaw is larger than the other. This tutorial uses the larger jaw, but either jaw may be used.

First place the mandrels on the wire approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch above the bead.

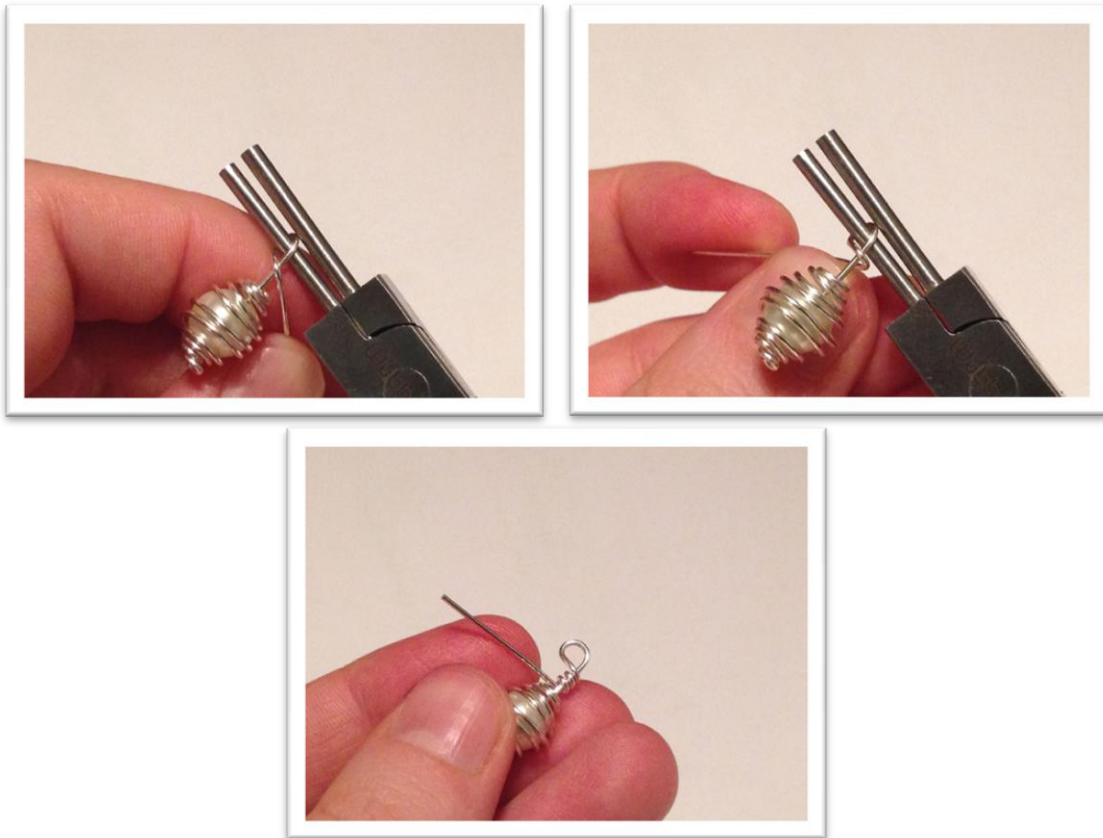


Create a loop by rotating the pliers away from you.



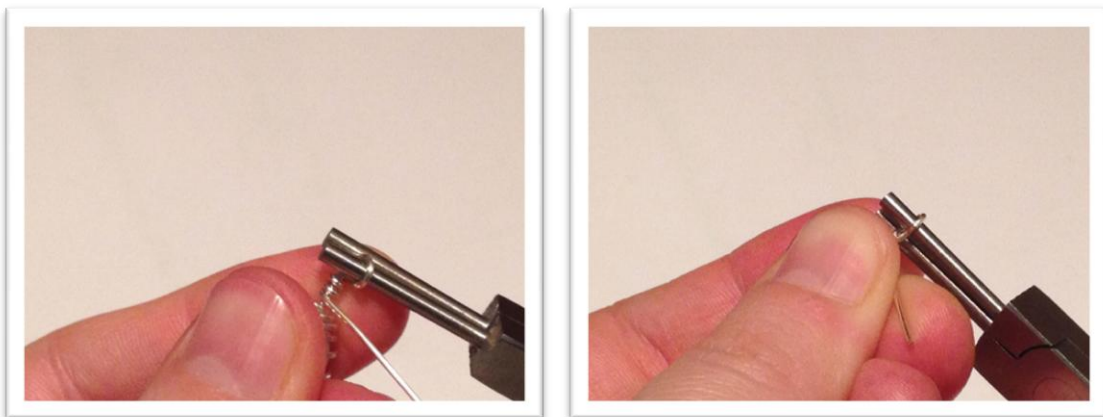
### Step 19

After the loop is formed, grasp the protruding end of the wire and wrap it around the neck of the wire below the loop. This can be accomplished with your fingers or chain nose pliers. In this tutorial, three wraps are shown.



### Step 20

If the loop is crooked, insert the round mandrels in the loop and rotate the loop away from you.





**Step 21**

Trim the excess wire flush.



**Step 22**

Use the chain nose pliers to snug the end of the protruding wire.





### Step 23

If the wraps of wire below the loop have gaps, insert them in the chain nose wire jaws and squeeze them together.



### Step 24

If the wire section below the loop is crooked, use the chain nose pliers to straighten it.



### Forming the Oval Cage

#### Step 25

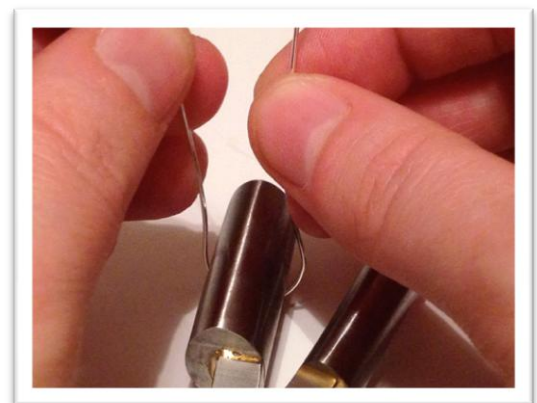
Take the 13-inch length of wire and bend it so both ends are touching. This helps find the center of the wire.



#### Step 26

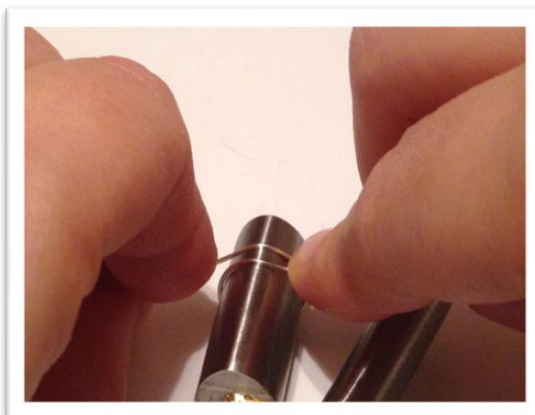
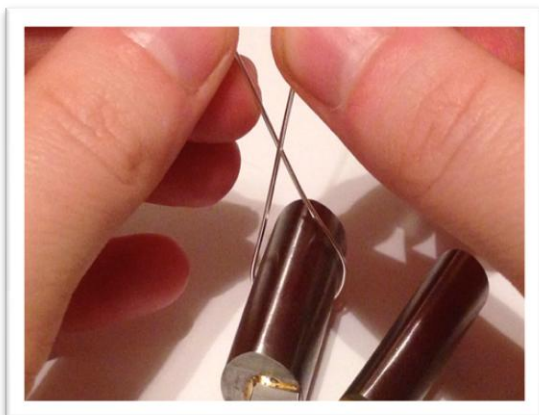
Place the large jaw of the large oval mandrels over the center of the wire and give the wire a tug to bend the center of the wire over the narrowest section of the oval jaw.

To wrap the wire around the larger jaw of the oval mandrels, first grasp both ends of the wire.



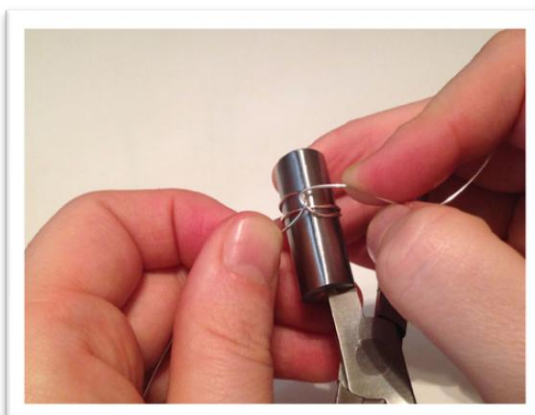
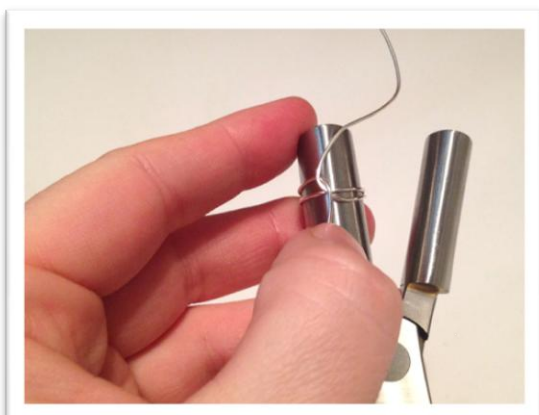
### Step 27

Cross both ends of the wire and bend each end down and around the mandrel so that there is no overlap.



### Step 28

Once the wire is wrapped around one side of the mandrel jaw, continue wrapping the wire by crossing each end over the other. Then wrap the wire once more around the center wrap that was just formed continuing in a clockwise motion.



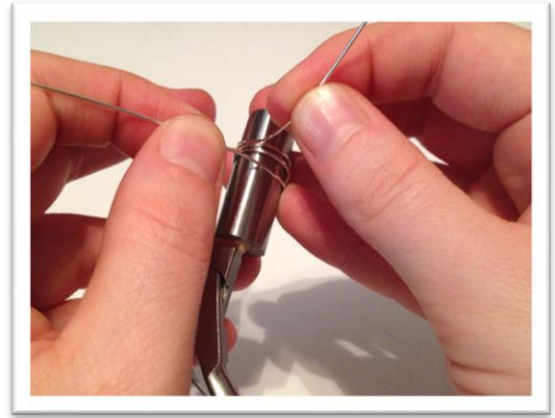
### Step 29

Next, wrap both ends of wire around the mandrel jaw.



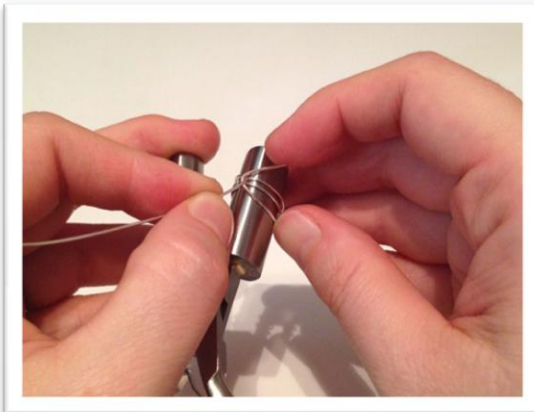
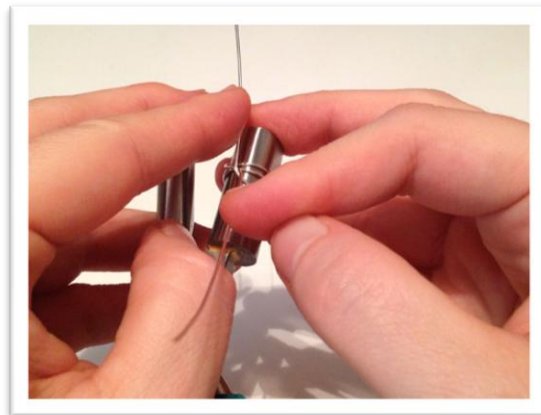
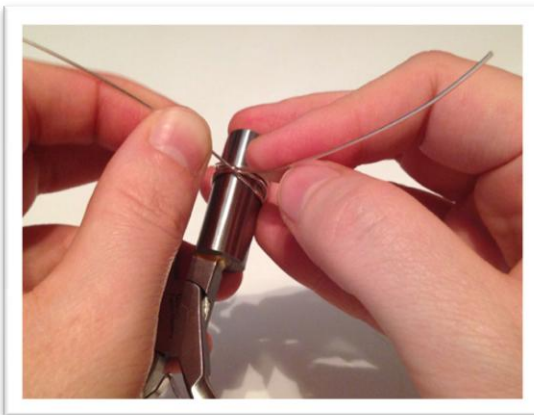
### Step 30

Once the ends of wire are on the other side, wrap the ends of wire in the same manner as before. Start by wrapping each end around each other in a clockwise motion.



### Step 31

Repeat wrapping the wires around each other (so that the wires are wrapped around twice, in the same manner as just completed on the opposite side).

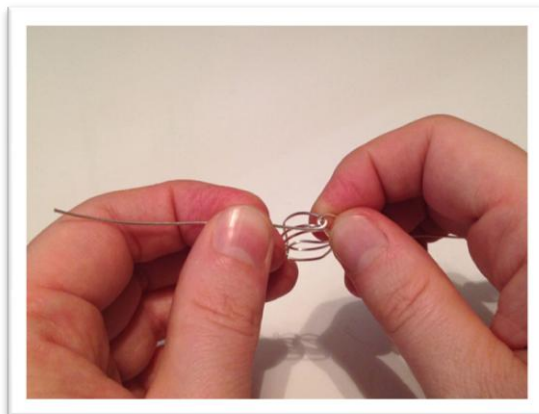


## Adding the Focal Bead

### Step 32

Remove the wrapped oval from the mandrel jaw.

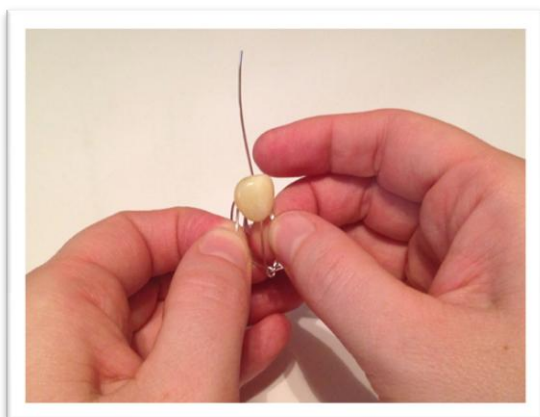
Choose one of the ends of wire to fold down the wrapped oval to the opposite end. Select two wraps of wire as near the center as possible to thread the end of wire through and fold the end of wire down through the wrapped oval.



### Step 33

Place the focal bead on one of the ends of wire.

Spread the wraps of wire oval open to squeeze the bead through.



### Step 34

Once the bead is encased in the oval, bend the wraps of wire back in place.



## Creating the Folds

### Step 35

Next create folds on either end of the bead. Each fold will prevent the focal bead from moving around too much.

To create the folds, start on either end. Take the bent nose pliers. Grasp the wire close to the narrowest part of the inside of the oval between the jaws of the pliers. Rotate the pliers away from you until a fold is created.





### Step 36

The first fold is complete, but the wire is not centered securely in the oval. If this happens in your piece, go ahead and form the other bend on the opposite side as follows, and the problem will be addressed next.



### Step 37

To bend the second end of wire in the oval, repeat the same steps as before. The pliers will still rotate away from you.



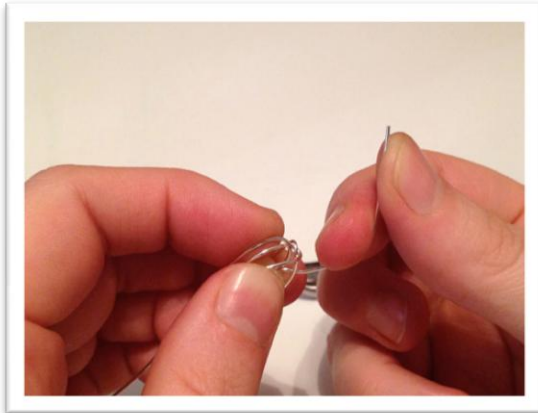


## Securing the Wire in the Center

### Step 38

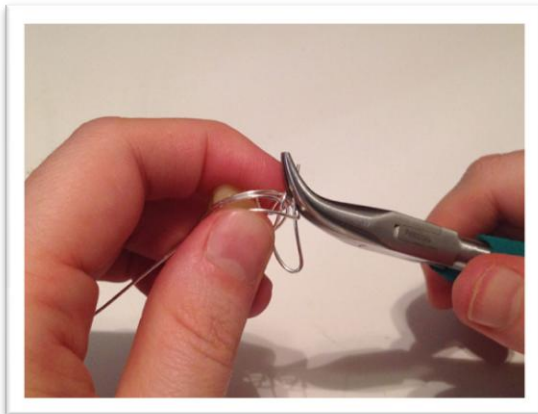
If this step does not need to be done, skip ahead to the next heading.

Gently squeeze the wraps of wire together to open the center wrap to pass the wire through. Bend the end of wire to bring it through the opening.



### Step 39

Pull the wire through the opening with the bent nose or chain nose pliers.



### Step 40

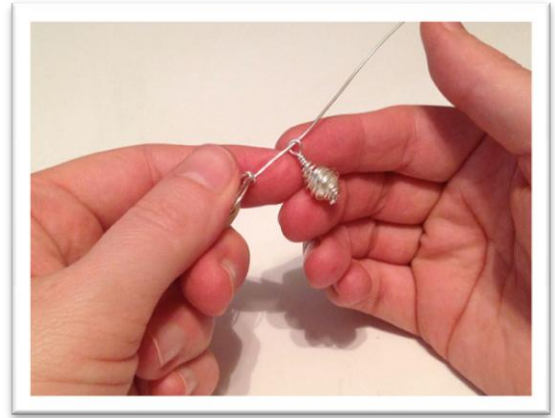
Straighten the wire with the nylon nose pliers.



## Attaching the Spiral Encased Bead to the Oval Focal Element

### Step 41

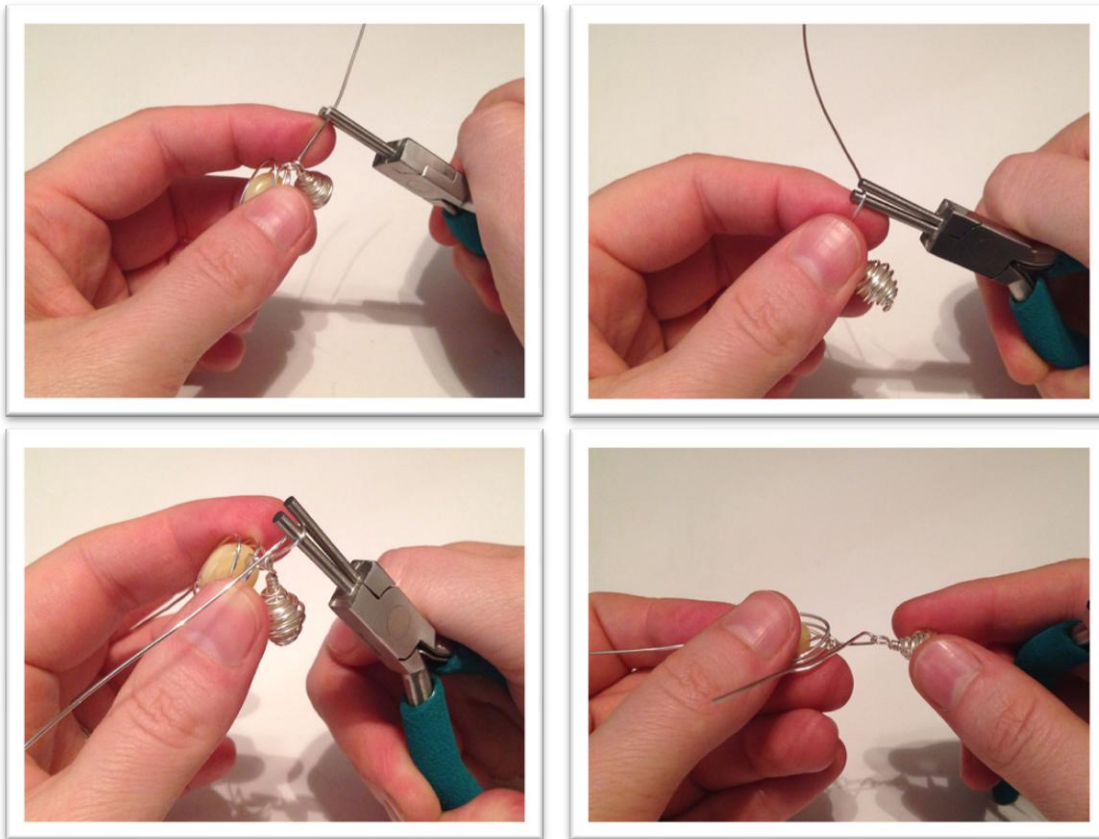
Thread the spiral wrapped bead on one of the ends of wire protruding from the Oval Focal element.



### Step 42

Take the small round mandrels and begin to create a loop.

Before the loop is complete, slide the spiral encased bead into the partially formed loop.



### Step 43

Place the jaw of the round mandrels back in the loop with the spiral wrapped bead behind it.



### Step 44

Finish wrapping the loop, and begin wrapping the wire around the length of wire below the loop in the same manner as completed with the spiral encased bead.







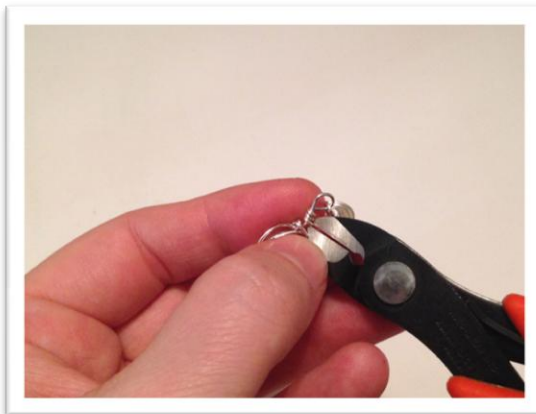
### Step 45

If needed, use the chain nose pliers to squeeze the wrapped wire closer together.



### Step 46

Trim and flatten the trimmed edge of wire as before.



### Step 47

If the loop is not centered, it may be straightened as before, or with the following similar method.



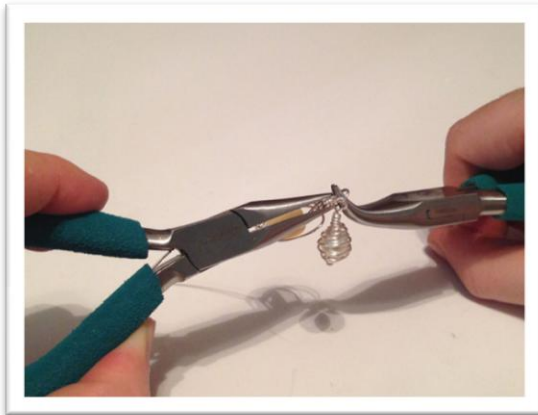
### Step 48

Place one of the jaws of the bent nose pliers in the loop with the loop angling toward you. Grasp the coiled wire section below the loop with the chain nose pliers.



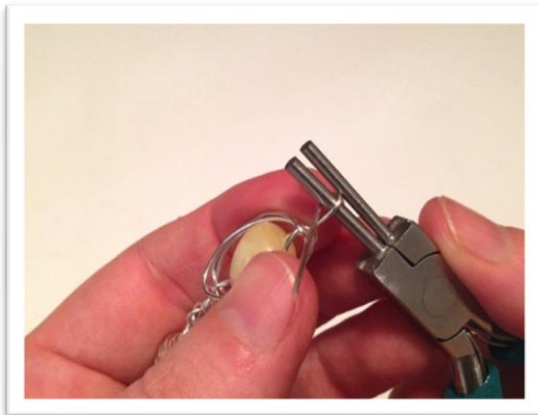
### Step 49

Rotate the bent nose pliers away from you until the loop is centered.



### Step 50

Create another wrapped loop on the opposite end of the oval in the same manner.





## Finishing the Earring

### Step 51

Take an earring wire and open the bottom loop with the chain nose pliers by grasping the loop and rotating pliers to open the loop.



### Step 52

Slip the empty loop of the wrapped oval through the earring wire loop. Close the earring wire by grasping the loop with the chain nose pliers and rotating it closed.



### Step 53

Now the earring is complete. Create another, if a matching set is desired, or with asymmetrical earrings being in vogue, reverse the design with the wrapped bead on top and the yellow agate or focal bead on the bottom. Have fun.



## Review Questions

- 1) How do you form a spiral?
  - a) Wrap the wire around the mandrel jaw several times until the desired length is reached.
  - b) Form a loop. Then insert the loop flat in the jaws of the chain nose pliers. Use your thumb to push the wire up. Readjust the loop and continue pushing up until the desired size is reached.
  - c) Form a loop, and bend the wire around the mandrel until the desired length is reached.

- 2) What is the best way to trim wire?
- a) Bend the wire forward, and then bend the wire back. Repeat this motion until the wire cracks. Twist the wire until the end comes off.
  - b) Snip the wire with the uneven side of the side cutters.
  - c) Use the flush end of the side cutters.
- 3) How do you create wraps around a wire below a loop?
- a) Take the wire with your hand or chain nose pliers, and wrap it around the neck of the wire as many times as needed to form the desired number of wraps.
  - b) Grasp the wire with the round nose pliers, and wrap it around the jaw of the pliers as many times as desired.
  - c) Take the chain nose pliers, and grasp the end of the wire. Bring the wire through the loop. Wrap the wire around the loop and bring it through as many times as needed to form the desired number of wraps.