

The Ultimate Cheat Sheet To Mastering Single & Double Wrapped Loop Bead Links

This Cheat Sheet Explains Tools, Wire, &

The Steps To Make Wrapped Loop Bead Links

Note: This cheat sheet is meant to be a QUICK reference guide of the exact steps for making single & double wrapped loop bead links to create a necklace and a bracelet.

STEP 1

Show & Tell: Tools Demystified

The tools you need for this workshop include Round Nose Pliers, Chain Nose Pliers and Flex Wire Cutters.

Images from left to right below: Round Nose Pliers, Chain Nose Pliers, Flex Wire Cutters







☐ Round Nose Pliers - Are round all the way around from the tip to the base and they are narrow at the tip and wider at the base. Make a small loop by wrapping the wire close to the tips but not too close; otherwise, the wire will slip out of the pliers while you are making the loop. Make a larger loop by wrapping the wire closer to the base but not too close to the base because the pliers are not quite round at the base.

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- ☐ Chain Nose Pliers - I recommend that you have two pairs handy because it is easier to wrap with a pair of chain nose pliers in each hand instead of using one pair in your dominant hand and using your fingers of your non-dominant hand to wrap the wire. It is also easier to open and close jump rings with two pairs of chain nose pliers than with one. Chain nose pliers for making jewelry are smooth on the inside so that they don't scratch your wire. Chain nose pliers are narrow at the tip and wider at the base and they are sort of triangular shaped from the tip to the base.

- ☐ Wire Cutters - There are wire cutters that have wider/thicker tips, but I prefer these types of wire cutters because it is much easier to get into tight spots where you want to trim your wire, since the tips are narrower. They also seem to be sharper and therefore more efficient for cutting wire of various gauges.

- ☐ "Cheap" vs. Inexpensive Tools - "Cheap" tools will scratch your wire but you can purchase inexpensive tools that are good quality and that won't scratch your wire. I highly recommend purchasing inexpensive tools that won't scratch your wire. A really good, high quality brand of inexpensive tools is the "Glitter Line" plier tools and you can google Glitter Line pliers to find them online. (*Please note that using good quality inexpensive tools does not guarantee that you won't scratch your wire. You may still scratch your wire in the process of learning how to wire wrap but good quality tools will reduce the likelihood that you will scratch your wire.) Craft wire is inexpensive so give yourself permission to scratch it while you are learning.

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Show & Tell: Wire Demystified



- Wire - comes in all different colors and gauges, which is one of the reasons I love working with it! The gauges of wire for making jewelry range from 12 to 34. This may sound counter-intuitive but the lower the gauge, the thicker the wire and the higher the gauge, the thinner the wire. It is best to use the thickest wire for the sizes of the holes of your beads to make your finished pieces strong and durable. So if you are using a mix of beads, some of which have smaller holes, like fresh water pearls, and beads that have larger holes, like metal beads, you can use thinner gauges of wire to wrap the beads with smaller holes and thicker gauges of wire to wrap the beads with larger holes as long as you are not going to string them onto the same piece of wire. If you want to string beads with smaller and larger holes onto the same piece of wire, then you will have to use the thickest gauge of wire that will fit through the beads with the smallest holes. I find that 20g wire fits through the holes of most beads, except for beads with tiny holes, like fresh water pearls, and it is pretty thick and durable for most of your wire wrapping jewelry projects. Your wire will harden as you work/wrap with it but if you

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work with it too much, it can still become brittle and break. You don't want to use gauges of wire that are too thin because they are not as strong or durable, and they won't hold their shape.

- ☐ My Favorite Brand is...Parawire - This brand of wire uses a coloring process whereby the "coloring process produces the brightest colors with the most resilient finish." The "metallic colors are 99% pure copper wire with ParaWire's exclusive non tarnish coating (parawire.com). The silver plated colors are copper wire plated with fine silver before the final color is applied" (parawire.com). All of the parawire brand wire is nickel free as well! If you don't want to order wire online, my second favorite brand is Artistic Wire and you can probably buy it at Michaels and Hobby Lobby, although it may not be available in a variety of colors and gauges in stores.

STEP 2

Determine the amount/lengths of wire to cut, depending on:

- ☐ The size and number of beads;
- ☐ The size of the loop you make;
- ☐ Single vs. Double Wraps;
- ☐ The number of wraps on each end.
- ☐ Cut the wire precisely to the length you choose.

STEP 3

- ☐ Straighten your wire and flush cut the ends;
- ☐ Make your first wrapped loop;
- ☐ Make a single wrap;
- ☐ Make a double wrap;
- ☐ String one or more beads onto the wire;

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- ☐ Make a single wrap on the other end;
- ☐ Make a double wrap on the other end;
- ☐ Trim & tuck the tail on each end.

STEP 4

- ☐ Make a wrapped loop on one end;
- ☐ String one or more beads onto your wire;
- ☐ Wrap it directly to the first bead link you made; OR
- ☐ Connect your bead links with jump rings;
- ☐ Repeat all the steps above until it is long enough for a necklace.
- ☐ Attach a clasp to finish your necklace.

STEP 5

- ☐ To make a bracelet, repeat all of the steps above using smaller beads and shorter wrapped bead links so that it will wrap around your wrist;
- ☐ Adjust your bracelet for the length for your wrist;
- ☐ Attach a clasp to finish your bracelet and adjust the length if necessary either by adding jump rings or removing one or more bead links.

STEP 6

- ☐ Wire, wrap & stone your bead links into a lariat necklace;
- ☐ Wire, wrap & stone your bead links into pendants and bead dangles;
- ☐ Wire, wrap & stone your bead links into bead components;
- ☐ Wire, wrap & stone your bead links into earrings, make them the same length & attach earring wires!

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