

Trillium Traces Bracelet

Patti Bullard, Ph.D.



Reminiscent of the three-petal Trillium flowers found in nature, this new and unique jewelry design portrays the stark contrast between linear angles and soft, flowing curves. One of the first patterns developed by Patti Bullard using her exclusive Wubbers Designer Triangle Mandrel Pliers, it holds unlimited possibilities for intricate jewelry designs that were previously impossible to achieve. Use the Trillium Traces link to make chains, earrings, and pendants, and be prepared to let your imagination flourish!

Materials for an 7.5-Inch Bracelet

Sterling silver wire—18-gauge, dead soft round (3.5 feet)

Sterling silver jump rings—18-gauge, 3.5mm inside diameter (14)

Note: Each finished, 1-inch link requires approximately 5 inches of wire (4 inches for the clasp). The Trillium Traces Bracelet pictured above has 7 links plus the clasp and measures 7.5-inches.

Tools

Wubbers Medium Triangle Designer Mandrel Pliers

Wubbers Medium Bail Making Pliers

Wubbers Chain Nose Pliers (Baby or Classic)

Wubbers Round Nose Pliers (Baby or Classic)

Italian Heavy Duty Flush Cutters

EuroTool Bench Block Helper

Dome-faced Chasing Hammer

Six-Inch Ruler

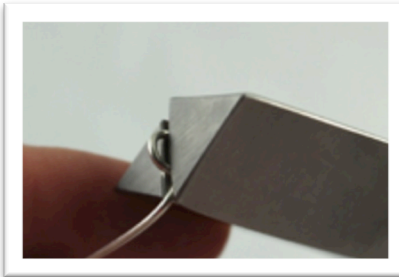
Step 1

With 18-gauge wire that has been flush cut, use the small jaw of your Wubbers Medium Bail Making Pliers to make a round loop. Working directly off the coil or spool will save wire and virtually eliminate waste.

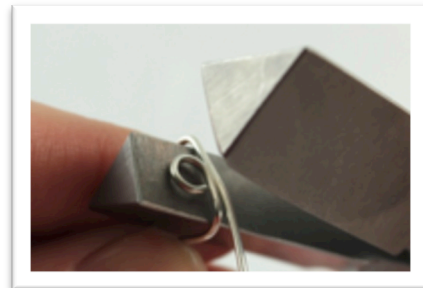


Step 2

Grip the round loop in the center of the jaws of the Wubbers Medium Triangle Mandrel Pliers as shown, and form the wire around the larger jaw.

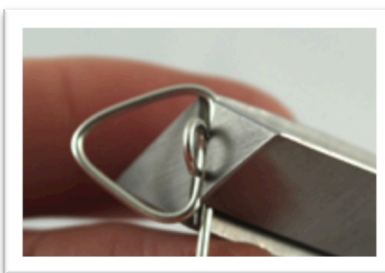


You will need to open the jaws of the pliers to cross the wire through as shown. Press the wire into place to complete the triangle.



Step 3

Turn the pliers over, aligning the smaller jaw with the first triangle just formed. The first triangle should angle off the pliers as demonstrated.



Bend the wire around the smaller jaw once again, crossing it through the jaw of the pliers. Press the wire into place to finish shaping the second triangle.



Step 4

Center the small jaw of the bail making pliers inside the second triangle and begin to wrap the wire around the small jaw of the Wubbers Medium Bail Making Pliers.

Reposition the Bail Making Pliers to finish the loop so that it can be formed perfectly round and centered in the triangle.

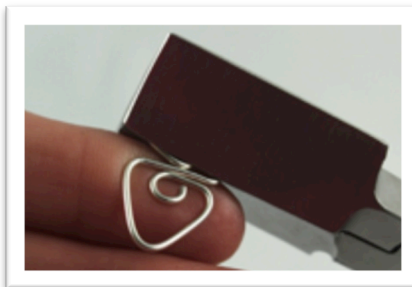
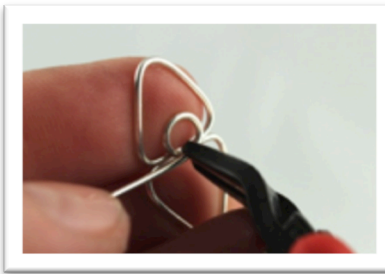


Step 5

Flush cut the wire so that the second loop closed but not overlapping the side of the triangle.

With your hands, bend and shape the loops and the triangles into a flat link. When you lay the link down on a flat surface, none of the wires should be overlapping each other.

Placing the link in the jaws of the Wubbers Triangle Mandrel Pliers and pressing gently will help arrange the wires so that they do not overlap each other.



Step 6

Arrange the links end to end on your work surface end to end, making sure that the loops are all turned the same direction. Gently hammer the links with a polished, dome faced chasing hammer to flatten the wire slightly. After hammering, readjust the links so that the loops are closed and the triangles are aligned with each other, being mindful to keep the links turned in the same direction.



Step 7

To make the hook for the clasp, repeat steps 1 and 2. Grip the center of the link as shown, and make a 90-degree bend using a pair of Wubbers Chain Nose Pliers.



Step 8

Flush cut the straight end of the wire to a length of 1.25 inches.



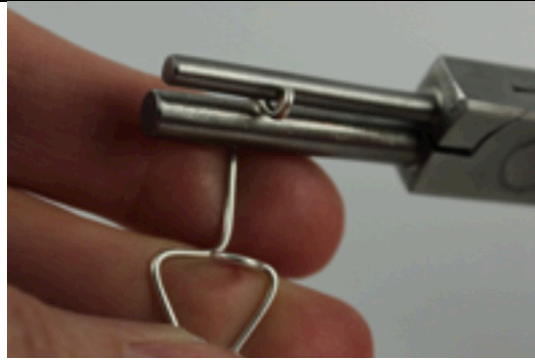
Step 9

Make a small loop on the end of the wire with a pair of Wubbers Round Nose Pliers.



Step 10

With the Wubbers Medium Bail Making Pliers, grip the wire so that the smaller jaw is snug against the cut end of the small loop. Roll the wire around the larger jaw of the pliers to complete the hook.



Step 11

Connect the links end to end using 2 of the 18-gauge 3.5mm sterling jump rings between each. In the same manner, connect the hook to the end of the chain.



Trillium Traces Pendant



The Trillium Traces Pendant pictured above features the basic Trillium link. Seven links were made using round 14-gauge dead soft Argentium® Silver wire. Each link required approximately 6 inches of wire and was made on the smaller jaw of the Large Wubbers Triangle Mandrel Pliers and the larger jaw of the Medium Wubbers Bail Making Pliers. Once the links were formed and hammered, six of them were fused together to form the pendant. The matching bail was made by curling the seventh Trillium link into a tubular shape with the Wubbers Bail Making Pliers. A 14-gauge 6.5mm jump ring joins the Trillium Bail to the pendant.

Trillium Butterfly and Earrings



The Trillium Butterfly and the Trillium Earrings shown show additional design ideas using the Trillium Link. These pieces were made using 16-gauge dead soft Argentium® Silver wire and the Medium Wubbers Triangle Mandrel Pliers and Medium Bail Making Pliers.