

Wire Wrapped Cabochon Enhancer Pendant

by *Christiane Ross* for



	Tools
	Flush Cutters
	Chain Nose Pliers
Materials:	Flat Nose Pliers
Large Cabochon	Round Nose Pliers or Bail Making Pliers
20g Square Wire	Ruler
20g 1/2 Round Wire	Permanent Marker
Painter's Tape or Quilter's Tape	Pin Vise or other Wire Twister
Paper for Drawing	Polishing Cloth or Nylon Jaw Pliers



	<p>First trace your cabochon onto your paper and loosely design your wrap. Remember you should have one bind per plane generally.</p>	<p>Measure the diameter of your cabochon by rolling it along your ruler, wrapping a soft measuring tape around the cab or wrapping a paper strip around the cab, marking where it meets and measuring it on the ruler.</p>	
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Add 4" to that measurement.

Straighten your Square Wire with your nylon jaw pliers or your polishing cloth.

Cut 5 pieces of Square Wire at the length of your Cab +4"

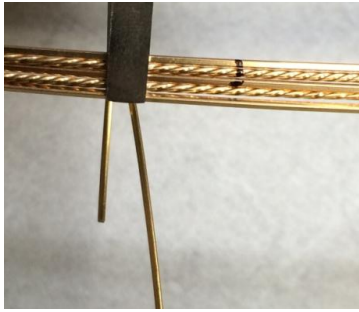
Hold your 5 pieces together and compare them to the height of your Cab. You need to be able to sit the cab base on one bottom wire and be able to bend a wire over the top. Add more wire if you need more height.



	<p>Twist 2 of the square wires (if you want twisted wires in your design).</p>	<p>Stack your wires together in the order you want and tape them together tightly.</p>	
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Cut 5" of your 1/2 round binding wire.

	<p>Use the end of your flat nose pliers to bend a U shape into your binding wire. Make sure the flat side is on the inside.</p>	<p>Bend the small end of the U slightly to the side so when they stack, the next wire will be perpendicular or straight across the front.</p>	
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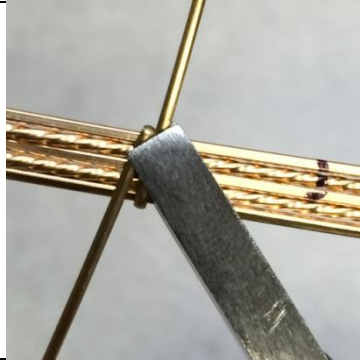


Find the middle of your stack. Hook your binding wire over that middle and hold with your flat pliers. Come from the bottom or the top. Find which is more comfortable for you.

Use your flat nose or chain nose pliers to press this wrap. I think of it as "ironing a crease".

Bend the binding wire over the edge of your stack and wrap over.

Use your flat nose or chain nose pliers to press this wrap.



Continue to wrap the number of times that create the length of binding you want.

Complete your other bindings remembering to keep checking fit along the way.

Bend your wire stack to follow your stone.

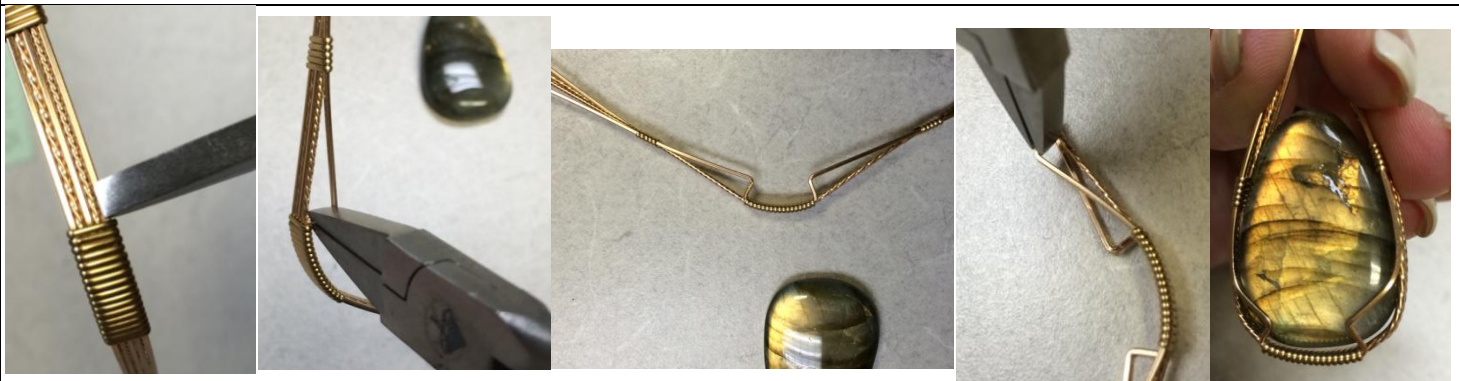


**Tip-If you have a curved stone, it is helpful to use a mandrel to bend your stack. Medicine bottles, fingernail polish bottles, markers, etc. work great.

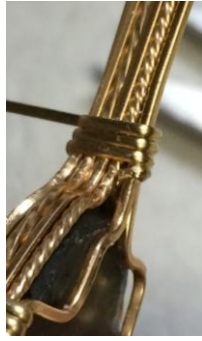


Complete your other bindings remembering to keep checking fit along the way.

*Here is where I'm a little different. Most people will wrap their other bindings, wrap around the stone, connect everything then "pull" their holding wires. I start my pulls before the next binding because I find it easier.



After you curve your wire stack around your cabochon, bend the leftover wire stack 90 degrees up where they meet at the top. Tape those ends together.



Take another piece of your 1/2 round wire and make a U shape in it as if you are starting another wrap, but this time go up higher on your flat nose pliers to make a wider U. This will have to go around 2 rows of stacked wires.

Wrap the wires where they meet at the top of the stone at least three wraps. Make sure both ends point toward the back. Don't cut your binding wire.

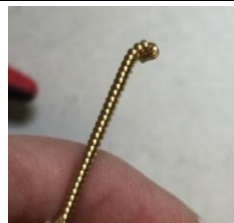


Unwrap your tape.

Separate the back 2 upright wires. Don't use them for decoration. Use the other wires to decorate your pendant.



Wrap the last 2 wires in your binding wire.



Decide where you want the ends of the bail to be. Cut the wires a little below and use the tips of your round nose to curl the ends under.

Use your round nose pliers or your bailmaking pliers to bend the last two wires in the back into half of a keyhole shape. First bend the wires over the pliers. Rotate the pliers down and lean against the wires. Grab the wires with your chain nose pliers and pull out a little. Tuck all of your wires neatly and enjoy your enhancer!

