

# Wrapping an Open Shape with Anodized Aluminum Wire





Wrapping a large bead, donut or, in this case a large open rectangle, with 12 gauge anodized aluminum wire is an attractive design concept. Because the aluminum is quite soft it's easy to work with and it snugs up to the stone much more effectively than other types of wire.

The only tools srequired for this project are a 1/4" wooden dowel and a pair of round nose pliers. I recommend dippeing the plier jaws in Tool Magic. Because the wire is so soft the Tool Magic will help avoid marring the wire with the plier jaws.

For this project I've chosen the 12 gauge wires in both the plain and embossed surface in the copper color; 18" of each.



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step One: Find the center of the wires, holding them side by side take a wrap around a 1/4" dowel (or larger if you need a bigger bail). Be sure to keep the wires side by side.

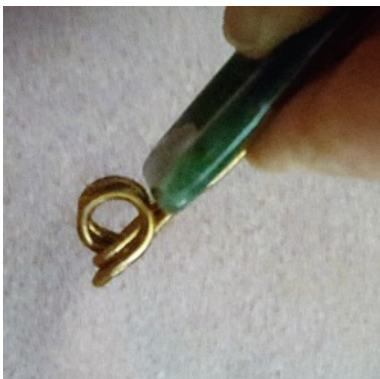
Step Two: Pull the ends of the wires in opposite directions so that close over top of the wrap.

Step Three: Bring all 4 wires to one side of the dowel.

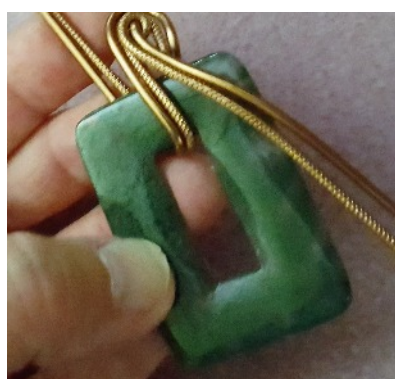
Step Four: Remove the dowel. Place the donut, front side facing you, so that the bail rests on the top of the donut. You want the bail so that it sets at the top of the donut. The donut should be snugged up against the loop of the bail.

Step Five: Bring one set of wires through the hole (from front to back).

Step Six: Bring the same set of wires over to the front of the donut. Pull this set of wires off to the right hand side of the dount.



Step 4



Step 5



Step 6

Step Seven: Wrap the other set of wires around the back of the donut and bring to the front at the bottom on the opposite side.

Step Eight: Bend this set of wires downward. Photo shows this done on the back of the piece.

Step Nine: Holding the bottom set of wires in place bend them upwards over the face of the donut and the wires that are already in place.

Step Ten: Using your round nose pliers turn all of the ends into tight curls and press the curls against the stone.



Step 7



Step 8



Step 9



Step 10

The more you play with this technique the more you will begin to freeform the wraps and curves. Beads with very large holes also lend themselves nicely to this technique. The one thing to remember is to keep the bail positioned toward the back of the donut or bead to ensure that it will lay flat on body.