



Gailavira Tutorials

Freeform Woven Swirls Pendant Wire Jewelry Tutorial

Created by Donna Spadafore



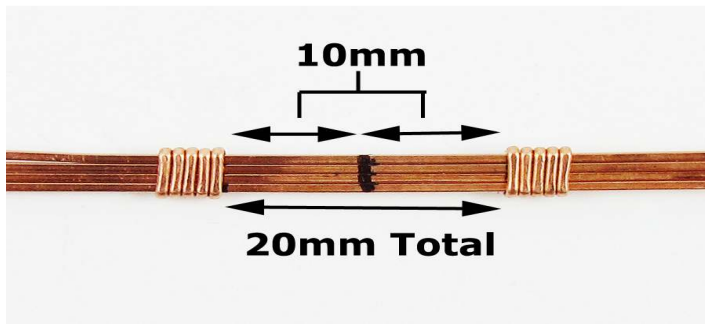
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Materials:

- 4 13" (32.5cm) pieces of 20g square half hard wire
- Approximately 8" (20cm) 20g half round half hard wire
- Approximately 19' (5.8 meters) 28g round dead soft wire
- 5" (12.5 cm) 26g round dead soft wire
- 1 1" (2.5cm) round cabochon
- 1 4mm round bead

Tools:

- Chain nose pliers
- Round nose Pliers
- Flat nose pliers
- Wire flush cutters
- 8mm Mandrel OR 8mm barrel pliers



Step 1:

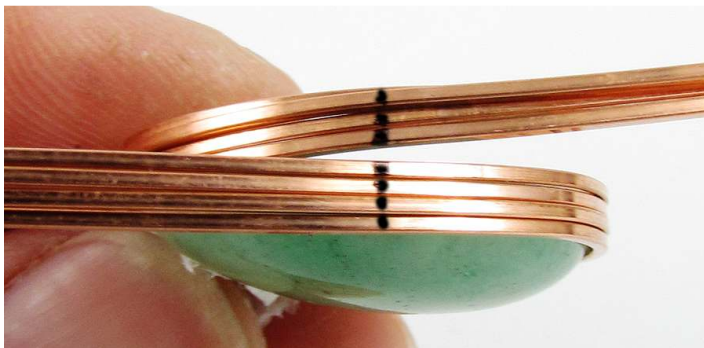
Find the center of the square wire and mark it. Then measure 10mm from each side of the center and mark those measurements. You should now have a section that is 20mm total. Using the half round wire, bundle the square wires together, wrapping outward from the markings. I usually wrap the bundles with 5 full wraps across the front of the wires.



Step 2:

Shape the bundled wires to the cabochon. Keep the center mark at the center of the bottom of the cab.

***TIP:** Beveled stones can be rather slippery when you are trying to shape wires around them. If you have a wire wrapping template that is the same size as the cab it can be very helpful in this step. If not, you may be able to find another object that is the same size, such as a pill bottle or wooden dowel that will work as well.



Step 3:

Mark the place where the wires overlap at the top of the cabochon.



Step 4:

At the mark from step 3, bend the wires upwards at about a 90° angle. Hold the wires around the stone so you can check the fit. If it doesn't fit right, you can make small readjustments until it does.

***NOTE:** Usually for a border wrap you want the wires to be snug against the stone. For this however, a small amount of space will make it easier to attach the swirls to the frame.



Step 5:

Bundle the wires together at the top of the frame by wrapping them together with the half round wire about 7 times.



Step 6:

Using your needle nose pliers, push one of the wires from the bottom of the frame toward the center of the circle right next to the wrap.



Step 7:

Repeat step 6 on each side of both of the bundles and on both wires at the top of the frame. This will create a basket for the cabochon to sit into.



Step 8:

Turn the frame over so that it is upside down and put the cabochon into the basket, face down. Push the back wire up over the back of the cab the same way you shaped the front wire to secure the stone in place.



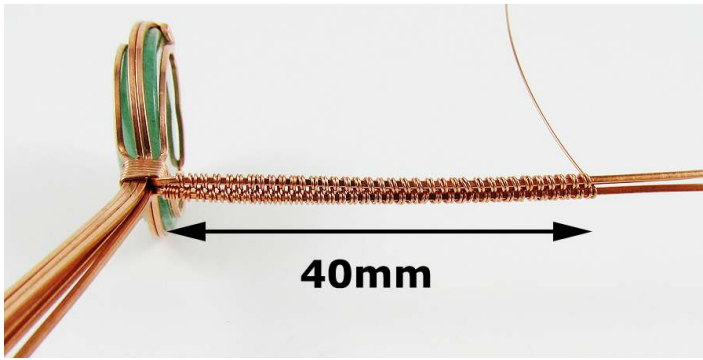
Step 9:

Separate the two wires from the back of the bundle at the top and carefully bend them slightly backward.



Step 10:

Cut a 3' (9/10 meter) piece of 28g wire and wrap it around one of the two back wires 4 or 5 times just above the bundle. Cut the starting tail wire and press it close to the frame wire.



Step 11:

Weave over the two back wires with the 28g wire by wrapping it in a figure 8 pattern between the two wires. Keep going until you have a 40mm section.

***TIP:** As an alternative to weaving, you can also use half round wire to wrap the wires together.



Step 12:

Wrap the end of the 28g wire around one of the frame wires 5 times. Cut the wire as close to the frame as you can and press it tight with your needle nose pliers.

***NOTE:** This is how the ends of all 28g wires will be secured throughout this project



Step 13:

Cut both frame wires 3/8" (9mm) past the end of the 28g wire.



Step 14:

Shape the woven section over the 8mm mandrel so that the end of the 28g wires rests just above the bottom "basket" wire in the back.



Step 15:

Using your round nose pliers, curl the ends of the wires underneath. Catch them underneath the bottom basket wire and press them closed with your needle nose pliers.



Step 16:

Press the woven section against the back of the cabochon as closely as you can, leaving an opening at the top for the bail.



Step 17:

Turn the pendant over and separate the remaining wires into three sections. The two front wires will be one section. The two wires behind them and to the left will be another section. The last two on the right will be the third.



Step 18:

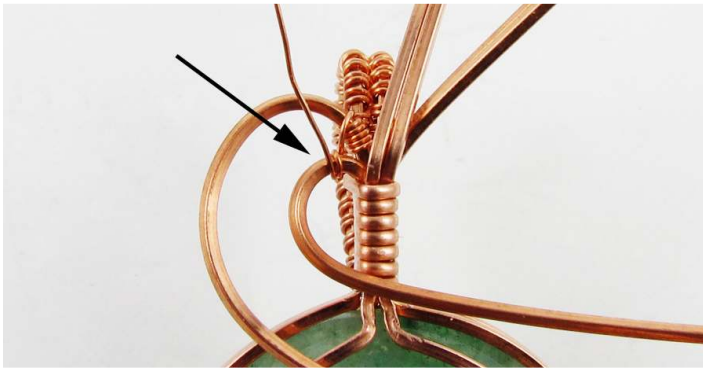
Shape the two wires in the hand section so that they form a curve coming out from the side of the bail. For this pendant the wires, once they reach the left side of the curve are about 4-5 mm apart. However, because this is a freeform pendant, that measurement does not have to be exact.



Step 19:

Cut a 5' (1.5 meter) piece of 28g wire. Attach it to the upper curve wire by wrapping it 5 times. Cut the beginning tale wire and press the end close to the frame with your needle nose pliers.

***NOTE:** This is how all 28g wires will be attached throughout this project.



Step 20:

Pass the 28g weaving wire between the two curved frame wires and wrap it one full time around the lower frame wire.



Step 21:

Pass the 28g wire back between the two frame wires and wrap it around the upper frame wire again.

This is where the weaving will get a little bit tricky. The number of times you wrap around the outer frame wire will vary as you go around the curve. The best way to determine if you have wrapped it enough times is to imagine that you are cutting a cake from one edge to the center. When you hold the wire across the two frame wires and it looks like it's the perfect angle for cutting that piece of cake, then you have wrapped it enough times.



Step 22:

Continue weaving around the curve until you reach the point where the wires run almost parallel to each other. At this point you will need to curve the ends of the wires so that they follow the curve of the cabochon.



Step 23:

Keep weaving, wrapping one full turn over each frame wire before passing between the frames, until you reach the point that the wire begins to curve in the opposite direction. At that point, start wrapping two full times around the outer curve wire and one full turn around the inner curve wire.



Step 24:

Keep weaving just a little bit more around the curve. If you were to compare the pendant to a clock face, you would stop at approximately the 2 o'clock position.



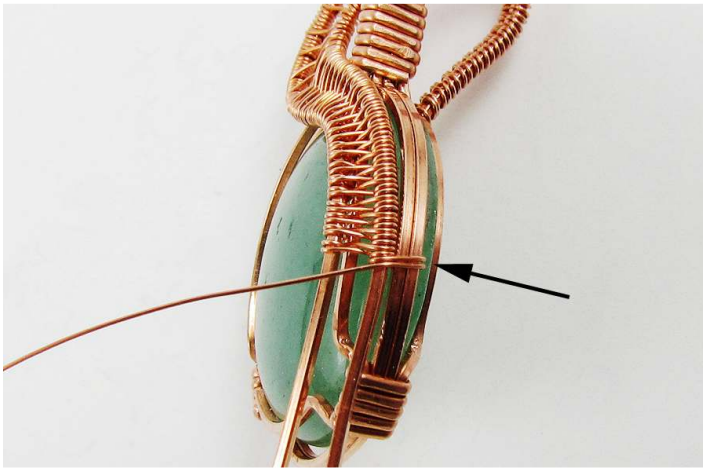
Step 25:

Secure the weaving to the pendant by wrapping the 28g wire around the inner frame wire and the basket wire one time.



Step 26:

Continue weaving as before until you reach the 3 o'clock position.



Step 27:

Secure the outer frame wire to the cabochon frame wires by wrapping them together twice with the 28g wire.



Step 28:

With the pendant facing you, shape the two frame wires so that they make another swirl, similar to the one you've already made, but curving toward the top of the pendant instead of the bottom.



Step 29:

Continue weaving this swirl the same way you did the one at the top of the pendant, adjusting the size and shaping the frame wires as you go.



Step 30:

Coil the 28g wire around the frame wire that is coming out of the center of the swirl. You will need a 1/2" (12mm) coil. Cut the frame wire 1/8" (3mm) from the end of the coil



Step 31:

Make a spiral out of the coiled frame wire and press it against the center of the swirl.



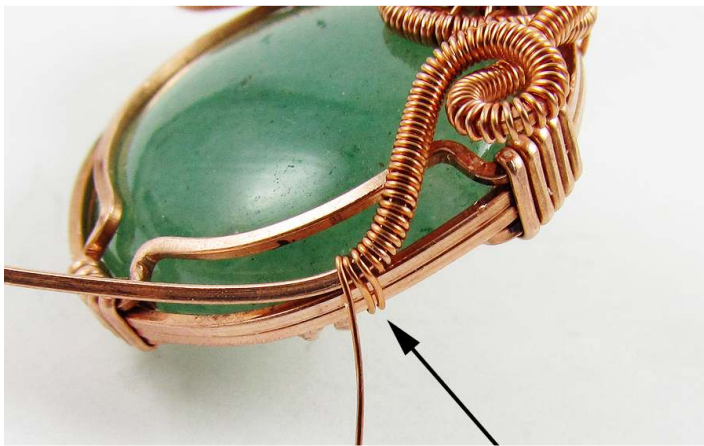
Step 32:

Cut a 2' (60cm) length of 28g wire and attach it to the second frame wire. Coil along the frame wire till you have about a 1 3/4" (43mm) section.



Step 33:

Shape the coiled frame wire into a loop, bringing the end back towards the bottom of the pendant as it comes out of the loop.



Step 34:

Continue coiling the 28g wire onto the frame wire until you reach the point that it is even with the cabochon frame. Attach the coiled frame wire to the cabochon frame wire by wrapping them together with the 28g wire as you did in step 27.



Step 35:

Continue coiling for another ½" (12mm) after the attachment. Finish off the 28g wire. Cut the frame wire approximately 1/8" (3mm) away from the end of the coil.



Step 36:

Spiral the end of the wire so that it goes all the way up to the attachment point and rests on the bottom of the front of the pendant.



Step 37:

Shape the two wires from the right hand section at the top of the pendant in a similar fashion to how you shaped the wires on the left side, only going in the opposite direction.



Step 38:

Working with a 5' (1.5meter) piece of 28g weaving wire, weave the right side the same way you wove the left side. Stop the weave when you reach the 10 o'clock position.



Step 39:

Attach the inner curve wire to the cabochon basket wire by wrapping them together with the 28g wire.



Step 40:

Continue weaving as before until you have woven all the way to the bottom of the pendant. Again, attach the inner curve wire to the cabochon basket wire at the bottom.



Step 41:

Bring the 28g wire back to the outer curve wire and coil a $\frac{3}{4}$ " (18mm) section. Finish off the 28g wire and cut the outer curve wire $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3mm) away from the end of the coil.



Step 42:

Curl the coiled wire into a spiral facing downward from the bottom of the pendant.



Step 43:

Attach an 8" (20cm) piece of 28g wire to the inner curve wire and coil a $\frac{1}{2}$ " (12mm) section. Cut the inner curve wire $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3mm) away from the end of the coil.



Step 44:

Spiral the end of the inner curve wire so that it curls up towards the top of the pendant. Press it s close to the face of the stone as you can.



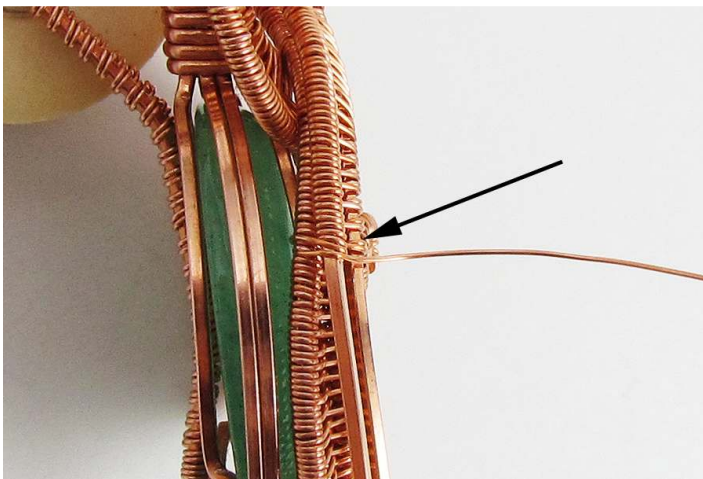
Step 45:

Shape the two remaining wires at the top of the pendant into a sweeping curve that creates a $\frac{3}{4}$ circle.



Step 46:

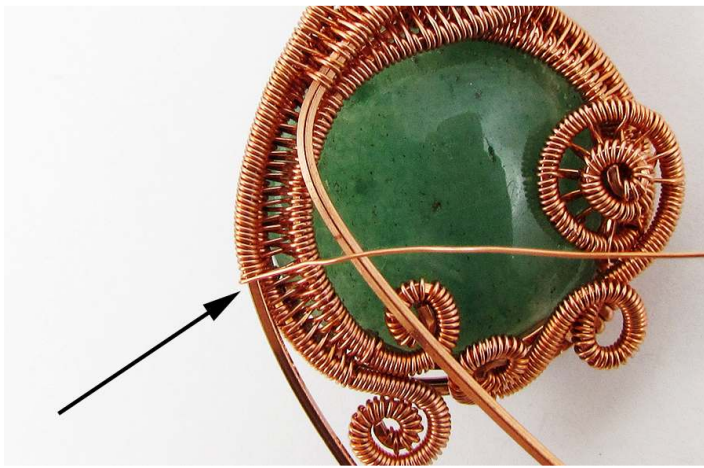
With another 5' (1.5 meter) piece of 28g wire, weave around the curve and down the top of the side of the pendant similar to the way the right hand section was done. Stop weaving when you reach the 10 o'clock position.



Step 47:

Attach the outer curve wire from this swirl to the outer curve wire of the previous swirl by wrapping the two wires together with the 28g wire.

***TIP:** If you have difficulty getting the 28g wire into the weave so you can wrap the wires together, you can use a straight pin to create a small space in the weave for the wire to fit through.



Step 48:

Coil the 28g wire onto the outer curve wire until you reach the 9 o'clock position. Attach the outer curve wire to the outer curve wire of the previous swirl as you did in step 47.



Step 49:

Continue coiling after the attachment for another $\frac{3}{4}$ " (18mm). Finish off the 28g wire and cut the outer curve wire $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3mm) away from the end of the coil.



Step 50:

Attach an 8" (20cm) piece of 28g wire to the inner curve wire and coil a $\frac{1}{2}$ " (12mm) section. Finish off the 28g wire and cut the inner curve wire $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3mm) away from the end of the coil.



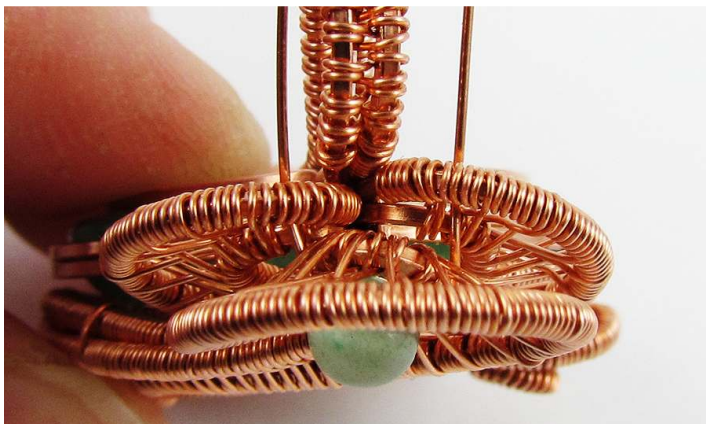
Step 51:

Spiral both wires so that they curl upward and press them into place.



Step 52:

Cut a 5" (12.5cm) piece of 26g wire. Center a 4mm bead on the wire and bend the wire back on each side of the bead.



Step 53:

Position the bead so that it is in the center of the third swirl at the top of the pendant. Push the wire through the weave in the front swirl. The wire should also pass through the weave of both of the rear swirls (one wire in each swirl) near the top of the curves.



Step 54:

Wrap the 26g wire around the outer curve wires at the top of the two rear swirls 4 times each. Cut the ends of both wires and press the wire as close to the frame as you can with your needle nose pliers.



***TIP:** This project can easily be adapted to cabochons of different sizes and shapes. The swirl patterns in this lesson are more of a suggestion. You can alter them to fit the stone using the same techniques shown here.



You aren't limited to using a basic border wrap for the base of this style. It's easy to adapt this design to work with a woven bezel. You can also modify the back to suite your needs. Differently shaped stones may need more support in the back.

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