



Gailavira Tutorials

Swirly Adjustable Ring Tutorial

Created by Donna Spadafore



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This lesson will teach you how to use very basic techniques to make a beautiful adjustable ring with graceful swirls that climb up and down your finger.

This ring makes an excellent matching piece to go with my Swirly Ear Cuff design. You can find the tutorial for the ear cuff on my web-site, <http://tutorial.gailavira.com>.

Materials:

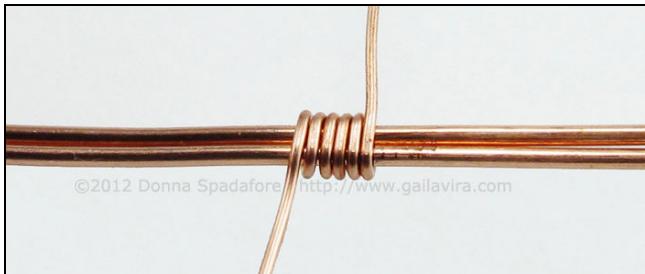
- 10" 18g round wire (dead soft or half hard)
- 6" 22g round wire (half hard)

Tools:

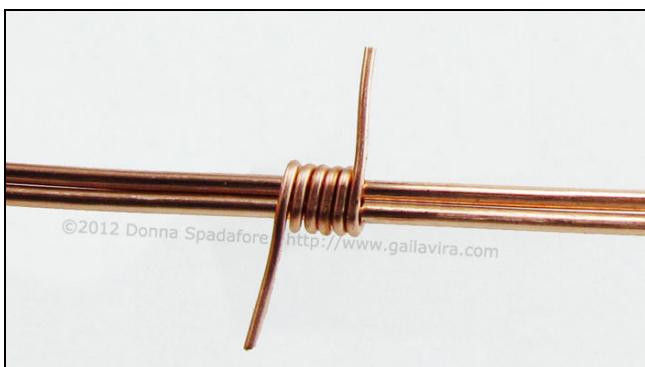
- Chain nose pliers
- Round nose pliers
- Wire cutters
- Metal Hammer
- Metal Bench block
- Ring Mandrel

**Step 1:**

Cut two 5" (12.5 cm) pieces of 18g wire. Mark them both 1" (2.5"cm) from one end.

**Step 2:**

Cut a 3" (7.5cm) piece of 22g wire. Starting at the mark you made in the previous step, wrap the 22g wire around the 18g wires wrapping away from the ends of the wires. Keep the wraps as close and even as possible. The ends of the wraps will both need to be on the front of the 18g wires. There should be 6 wraps showing across the front, including the first and last wraps.

**Step 3:**

Cut the 22g wires so that they are each $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) long.

**Step 4:**

Curl the two 22g wires into small spirals or loops and press them flat against the front of the 18g wires.

Ring Size	Distance
4-7	2" or 5cm
7-10	2.25" or 5.6cm
9-12	2.5" or 6.3cm

Step 5:

This ring is adjustable, but to keep the design lined up, one ring will not be able to span all sizes. You will need to determine here what size range you want the ring to be. See the chart below to determine where to make the next wrap. Measure from the end of the previous binding.



Step 6:

Repeat steps 2, 3 and 4 at the mark made in step 5.



Step 7:

Measure 1" from the last wrap and mark it with a marker.

Cut the wires at the mark made in the previous step.

At this time it would be a good idea to file all 4 ends of the 18g wires to make the ring more comfortable to wear.



Step 8:

Curl the bottom wire on the left hand side downward into an open spiral shape.



Step 9:

Curve the top wire around the spiral so that it sort of hugs it.



Step 10:

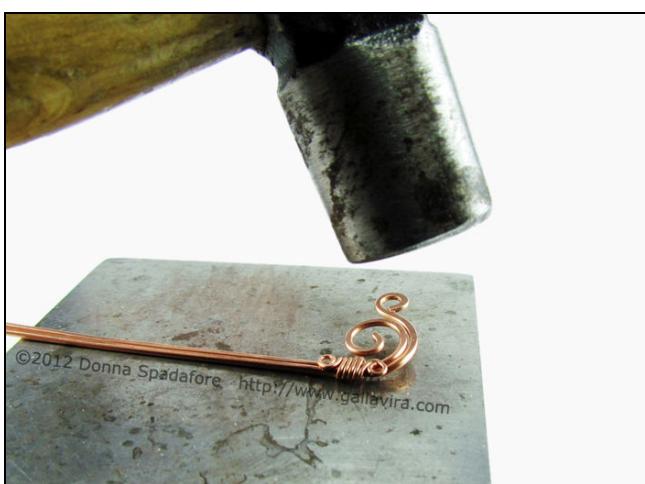
Curl the end of the wire from the previous step into a small spiral or loop that goes in the opposite direction as the larger spiral.



Step 11:

Repeat steps 8, 9 and 10 on the other side of the ring, curling the spirals upward instead of downward. (You'll use the top wire for the larger spiral this time).

TIP: By starting with longer wires you can create different swirl patterns for each ring you make, making each one a one of a kind work of art!



Step 12:

Using your hammer, flatten the swirls. Be careful not to hammer over the 22g wraps.

TIP: Use a textured hammer, or a ball peen hammer, to add visual interest to the finished ring.

Step 13:

Shape the ring on a ring mandrel at the size you want the ring to be.

Tip: If you don't have a ring mandrel, you can use various other objects that you have around the house to shape adjustable rings. Small pill bottle and thick markers work well. Wooden dowels are great too, and you can find them in many sizes. In a pinch, even lipstick tubes and tops from a bottle of nail polish can work.

Tip: For adjustable rings, sometimes it is easier to first shape the ring to a smaller size than needed. Then you can adjust it to the larger size without losing distorting the shape of the ring shank.



You can also wrap beads onto the swirls to add extra flair to the ring. Another way to alter the style of the ring is to use a torch to ball up the ends of the wires before shaping the ring (start with 2 5 1/2" pieces of wire, and incorporate the extra length into the swirl pattern instead of measuring and cutting).

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