



Tutorial: Treble Clef Ear Cuff and Ring

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This lesson teaches you how to make an ear cuff, shaped like a treble clef, that would make a great gift for any music lover. Also included in this tutorial is a way to adapt the treble clef design to a ring instead of an ear cuff.

Materials:

- 14" 20g dead soft round wire (for the ear cuff)
- 17" 20g dead soft round wire (for the ring)

Tools:

- Chain nose pliers
- Round nose pliers
- Wire cutters
- Flat nose pliers
- 8mm mandrel or stepped round nose pliers with 8mm barrel
- Marker
- Ruler
- Needle file or cup bur (wire rounder)
- Ring Mandrel (only if making a ring)



Step 1:

The ring and the ear cuff both start out exactly the same. If you are making the ear cuff, continue straight through to step 22. If you are making the ring, stop at step 14, then skip to step 23.

Find the middle of the wire and bend it in half.



Step 2:

Using just the tip of your round nose pliers, hold the wire at the bend created in Step 1.



Step 3:

Bend one of the wires up around the tip of the pliers that is outside the bend created in Step 1.



Step 4:

Curve the remaining wire so that it follows the bend created in the previous step.

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Step 5:

Take the wire off the pliers and position it so that the spiral is pointing to the left. This will be the center of the ear cuff. From this point on, all work is done with the spiral facing the left side.

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Step 6:

Measure 1 1/8" up from the bottom of the spiral and place a mark on the wire.

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Step 7:

Holding both wires together, curve them to the right so that the wires are all almost parallel to each other on both sides of the curve.

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Step 8:

Cross the wires over in front so that you have what appears to be an upside down teardrop at the top of the treble clef. I usually just do this by feel instead of measuring, however, this crossover should be approximately 8-9mm below the top of the ear cuff.

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Step 9:

Curve the wires back down and towards the center of the treble clef. This time the curve wires need to go behind the center wires, just above the starting spiral.

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Step 10:

Keep curving upward now towards the top of the treble clef.



Step 11:

At this point it can get a little bit tricky. You still have to hold the wires together and try to keep it smooth to finish the curve, but you will be going from the front of the cuff to the back at the same time. This particular area takes a bit of patience and practice to get just right.

Bend the wires so that you can angle them downward from the front of the cuff to the back going between the curve on the left of the cuff and the center wires.



Step 12:

Being very careful to keep the curve smooth and not create any sharp angles, pull the wires all the way through to the back while finishing the curve.



Step 13:

Working behind the center wires, bring the wires back around to start shaping another smaller curve in the center of the larger curve.



Step 14:

Pull the wires back to the left and tighten the center swirl.

If you are making an ear cuff, continue with the next step. If you are making a ring, skip to step 23.



Step 15:

Measure 14mm from the center of the ear cuff and place a mark on the wire.



Step 16:

Holding both wires together, curve them upwards, then back behind the treble clef. Measure again to make sure that the outside of the curve is still at 14mm from the center of the ear cuff. If not, make any necessary adjustments until that measurement is correct.

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Step 17:

Measure 1 3/8" from the outside of the curve created in the previous step and mark the wires.

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Step 18:

Cut the wires at the mark made in the last step and file the ends smooth.

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Step 19:

Using your round nose pliers, curl the ends of the wires so that they make small loops. After curling them, check the measurement. The total length from the outside curve to the outside of the loops should be 1 1/8". If not, adjust the loops but either opening or closing them just a little bit at a time until that measurement is correct.

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Step 20:

Start shaping one side of the cuff around a mandrel or using stepped round nose pliers. Curve it until the mandrel or pliers are centered behind the treble clef.

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Step 21:

Repeat step 20 on the other side of the cuff.

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Step 22:

Remove the cuff from the mandrel and make any necessary adjustments so that the cuff fits comfortable and securely on your ear.



Step 23:

Adapting this design to a ring

After completing step 14 above hold the treble clef against a ring mandrel at the size you want the ring to be. Wrap the wire behind the clef around the mandrel, bringing it back up around the top of the mandrel, behind the top of the treble clef.



Step 24:

Pulling tight to keep the size correct, pull the wires down, keeping it behind the center of the treble clef.



Step 25:

Bring the wires back over to the right hand side, still keeping them behind the treble clef. You can see in this picture that as you do this it will sort of fill in the opening of the center swirl.



Step 26:

Pull the two wires upward again, still keeping them tight and behind the treble clef, until they cross over what is now the ring band.



Step 27:

Pull the ring off the mandrel and bend the wires around the back of the ring band. Press them tight against the band as you would if you were binding wires.



Step 28:

Still keeping the wires together, wrap them all the way around the ring band once more.



Step 29:

Cut the wires so that the ends are even with the edge of the band. File them smooth and press them against the inside of the band.



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