

How to Make a Coiled Wire Frame for an Undrilled Stone

by Donna Spadafore

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This is a very quick and easy wrap for an undrilled stone. It works great for crystal points (both single and double terminated) as well as tumbled stones. The pendant pictures only took about 30 minutes to complete. I've done some smaller ones in less time than that. This is a style that is great for men's jewelry because it's simple and not overtly feminine, but can also be worn by women as well.

This lesson assumes you already know how to do a few basic techniques. You will need to know how to coil and how to make a bail. You can use one of many methods for making the bail. The one shown here is only an example.

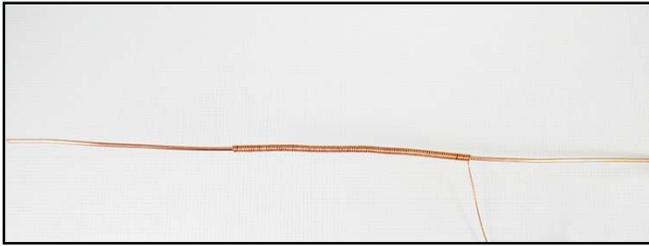
Supplies:

- 20g wire *
- 28g wire *
- Undrilled stone (crystal points and tumbled stones work really well for this design)

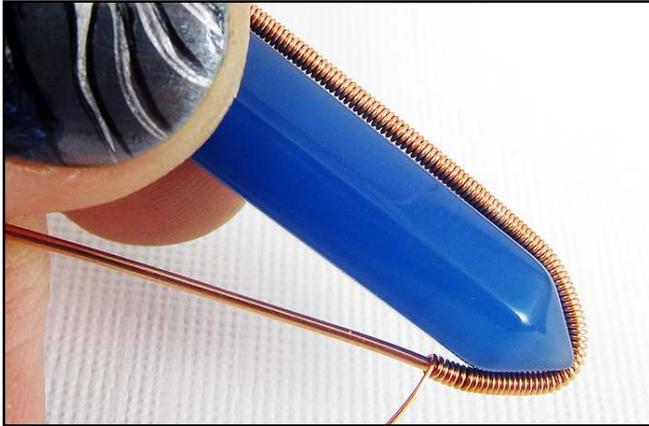
Tools:

- Wire cutters
- Chain nose pliers
- 4mm,6mm or 8mm mandrel (depending on the size you want to make the bail)

*The amount of wire used will depend on the size of the stone you are wrapping.

**Step 1**

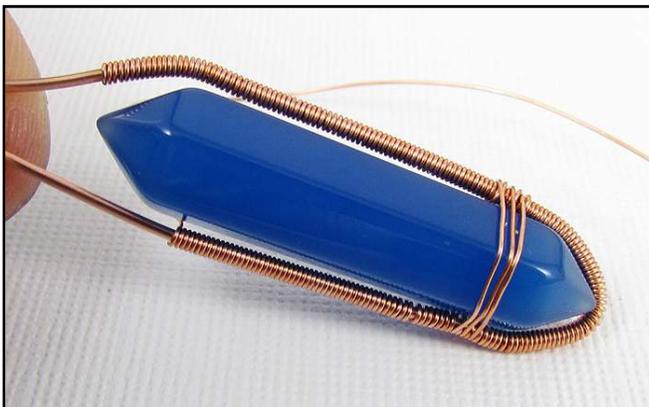
Start with a piece of 20g wire that is about 4" longer than the circumference of your stone. Cut about 5' of 28g wire and begin coiling it onto the 20g wire about 1 1/2" from one end. The length of the coil will be determined by the stone you are using.

**Step 2**

Shape the coiled section of the wire around the stone. You should stop coiling when your coil has gone around the bottom of the stone an about 1/4" up the other side of the stone.

**Step 3**

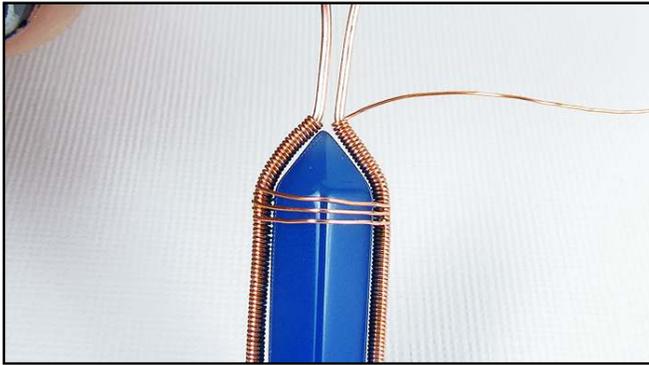
Holding the frame around the stone, wrap the coiling wire over the front of the stone, wrap it around the wire on the opposite side of the stone 1 time, then wrap it around the back of the stone. Wrap the coiling wire around the bare 20g wire again. I usually do this about 3 times, but you can wrap it more times than that if you think it is necessary.

**Step 4**

After securing the stone at the bottom of the pendant, continue coiling over the bare 20g wire until you reach the next place you want to secure the stone. For this pendant I am only securing it at the top and bottom, but you can do this in more than two places if you like.

**Step 5**

Wrap around the top of the stone the same way you did the bottom.



Step 6

Continue coiling again until you reach the top of the pendant.



Step 7

Make the bail (loop for the chain) in whatever style you like. For this one I wrapped both of the 20g wires together, shaped the loop, and then secured all of the wires together at the base of the bail with the coiling wire. You could also do a woven bail if you prefer, or you can just do a wrapped loop.

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