

How To; - Dainty Wire Rings

You will need: -

1mm wire

Chunky Marker Pen or Ring Mandrel

Ruler

Side cutters

Round Nosed Pliers

Snipe Nosed Pliers

File or emery board

Soft hammer and solid block



Tip - This is a fun quick project for making wire detail rings with no soldering / using just wire and pliers. With a little experimenting, you can make any shape for the front detail of the ring, this heart shape is fun to start with however.

Starting Off

The rings I made started with 15cm lengths of 1mm wire.

Use a file / emery board to smooth one end of the wire so there are no sharp or scratchy areas. This will be the end of the wire you start creating the shape with.

Shaping the Front

To make the heart shape for the front of the ring - start by gripping the end of wire that you just filed, in your round pliers and make a medium sized loop.

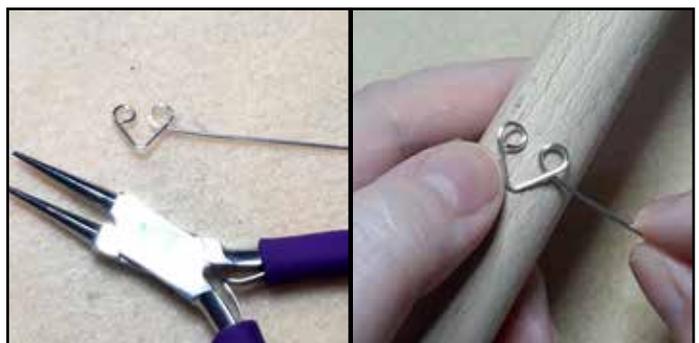
Now use the tips of your pliers to fold the wire up to make the bottom point of the heart.

Position the pliers on the wire to make the

second loop - trying to keep this level with the first loop. Wrap the wire right round to complete the loop so that the long tail of the wire finishes pointing off to the side, ready to form the shank of the ring.

Making the Ring

Use a ring sizer to find your ring size, and temporarily mark the point where this sits on a wood or steel mandrel. If you don't have a ring sizer, you can use an existing ring that fits you, or use a piece of string or paper. If you don't have a mandrel - either use a marker pen, or roll up some newspaper - adding sheets until it becomes the right size.





To shape the ring - hold the heart carefully against the mandrel, and smooth the wire around the mandrel until it comes all the way around and meets the heart.

Cut off any excess wire, leaving just around 5mm in length above where the tail meets the heart form. Carefully smooth the sharp cut edges with a file or emery board.

Securing the Ring

Make a very small loop with the open end of the wire - but don't close it completely.

Hook this loop into the nearest loop of the heart, and use your snipe nosed pliers to gently press this loop closed so that it fastens on here. Pop the ring back onto the mandrel and use your fingers to smooth any remaining lumps and bumps.



Work Hardening

Wires - especially thinner wires, will need to be work hardened once shaped, to strengthen them - if left as they are, these rings will distort easily. The more you work the wire - the tougher and more springy it gets.

The easiest way to strengthen these rings is to sit them on a ring mandrel and gently hammer with a soft hammer - a nylon, rubber or wooden or hide mallet - alternatively lay the ring shank flat on a hard surface - ideally a steel block (with the shape detail sitting off the edge), and use a soft hammer to carefully tap it.

Keep repeating and turning the ring until the wire feels springy rather than bendy.

Ready to Wear

Once the wire is work hardened, the ring is ready to wear.

If you want to you can use these as a base for further embellishment - wrapping or hanging beads on using a finer wire, or creating a variety of different shapes to start with.

To make other shapes - experiment with the wire - you need to make the shape relatively solid, and have something that the wire can hook onto - do a test first in some scrap wire if you like, to try out different shapes and ideas!

