

# How To; - Wire Spirals

You will need: -

Wire  
Snipe (Chain) Nose Pliers  
Side Cutter Pliers  
Masking Tape or Tool Dip



**Tip** - Tool dips (liquid rubber) such as Tool Magic or Plasti Dip, or masking tape can be used to temporarily soften the jaws of your pliers and leave less marks on your wire. Nylon jaw pliers are also available. Alternatively carefully file or sand your plier tips to remove any particularly sharp areas.

## Step 1 - Start a Curl

Creating a spiral starts from the centre - creating the neatest, smallest loop you can to start with, will give a good start to creating a neat spiral.

Use the fine tip of your snipe nosed pliers to make the smallest loop you can, at the very end of your length of wire.

Only curl the wire round about 3/4 of the way, leaving the loop open.

Use the snipe nosed pliers to squash the loop fully closed, making it even smaller.

## Step 2 - Wind it Up

Grip the loop flat in your snipe nose pliers, so that the wire tail is coming out to the side and you are gripping the loop, just where the tail separates from it.

With your free hand, pull the tail of the wire forwards so that it starts to wrap around the side of the loop.

Adjust your grip so that you are again gripping the loop / start of the coil, just where the wire tail separates from it, and again pull the wire tail forwards so that it continues the



spiralling form.

Continue repeating this until the spiral is the size you want.

Working in small movements, just curling the wire round a little at a time will give most control and the neatest effect.

## Uses...

Spirals are a very useful way to create a decorative end on a length of wire, as an alternative to trimming wire and tucking the cut end away out of sight.

Spirals are also a handy way to create a stopper at the end of a length of wire, to create your own decorative headpins.

Spirals can be used on their own to create decorative wire shapes for use as links or decorations in jewellery designs.

