

How To; - Wrap Around Bracelet

You will need: -

- Beads
- Bracelet Sized Memory Wire
- Strong Wire Cutter Pliers
- Round Nose Pliers
- Bead Mat
- Headpins



Tip - Memory wire works best with lightweight beads, and beads that are no larger than approx 10mm diameter, as using large or heavy beads will affect how it curls and how it grips the wearer.

Step 1 - Design your bracelet

Lay out your beads on a beading mat (the mat stops them rolling away)
Experiment with designs by laying out your beads in different sequences
For a two row bracelet you will need about 40cm of beads



Step 2 - Making your bracelet

Decide how long you want to make your bangle and cut off the appropriate amount of wire from your reel - allow 2cm extra to make small loops at each end.

Use round nose pliers to create a small loop at one end of the wire coil - grip the very tip of the wire with your pliers, then holding the wire securely in your other hand, turn the hand with the pliers away from you.

Ensure your loop is neat and the sharp end of the wire won't be scratchy

The loop will stop the beads coming off the end of the wire.

Thread your beads on in order as previously planned - it can be a regimented

sequence or a random series of beads in a single theme which can work just as well.

You don't need to thread each individual bead right down, just pause in your threading every now and then to stretch out the coil and let them slide down.

Once you have all your beads in place and are happy with your design and length, trim the wire (if needed) to leave about 1cm of empty wire at the end.

Create another small loop with your round nose pliers as you did at the start.

Ensure the sharp ends of your wire are tucked in away from the wearer.

Enjoy wearing your fantastic new bangle!

If you like - put some extra beads onto headpins, create loops at the top of the pins and attach these as decoration/s to the loops on your bangle.

Using end caps

As an alternative to looping the wire ends, you can glue an end cap (a bead with just one hole) onto each end of the wire. Any half drilled bead with an appropriately sized hole will work, or specialist metal end caps are also available.

Make sure to use strong glue for end caps - the last thing you want is for one to come loose and all your beads fall off.

Super glue is too brittle, so use a two part epoxy glue (e.g. Araldite), or a jewelers cement, and ensure it glues just the wire, and doesn't touch the beads - this is best achieved by using a pin or toothpick to apply the glue.

Test the glue in advance on a sample if you haven't used it before.



Why Memory Wire?

Easy to wear, Holds its shape

Fits a lot of different people

Great for anyone who has difficulty with clasps

Great for children

Easily creates the look of wearing several bangles in one

Tip - Keep the cutters you use for memory wire separate to others, as the memory wire is tough and will blunt them so they no longer cut other wires neatly. Memory wire cutters are available, but any strong cutters will work.



Tip - If you are using a just single coil of wire, make it long enough to overlap by at least 5-8cm, as a single coil, or a coil with a gap, or that only just meets, will be insecure and fall off easily. If in doubt, overestimate - you can always trim it back later!