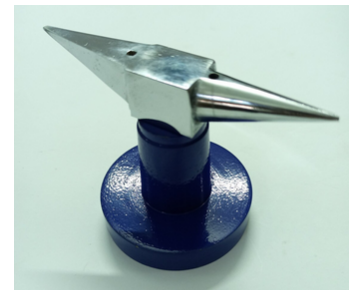


Earring Wires



HOW TO MAKE SIMPLE EARRING WIRES

1. measure 60mm of 0.8mm round wire (consider allergies when selecting metal) ball up one end of each wire. Do this by gripping the vertically in a third hand and applying the heat directly underneath, count as the metal melts so that you can repeat more evenly. Quench, pickle, rinse and dry.
2. use a cup burr or emery papers to soften the end that will go through the skin.
3. mark half way along the wire with a sharpie pen
4. mark your round pliers, a tiny anvil (or anything curved) with the place you intend to curve the metal - this must correspond to the size you'd like the top of the ear wire to be.
5. line up the centre of the hook with the centre of the mark on the stake (thing you bend the metal around) and push both sides of the wire down evenly.
6. use round nose pliers to loop up the end with the ball that will hold your embellishment
7. use flats to grip the end and slightly bend the wire at an angle.
8. you can hammer part of the wire flat to create more of a tension where it is most often stretched open.



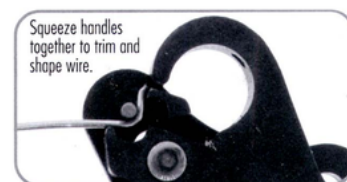
Readymade rom Cooksons: £1.60 per pair 925 or 75p plus making time

Can you think of any pros and cons of readymade vs handmade?

USING SPECIALIST PLIERS AND JIGS

There are ways to make identical earring wires on the market. The Beadalon Artistic Wire Findings Forms Round Ear Wire Jig is around £5 and the Beadsmith 1 Step Looper Pliers for £35.

The Beadsmith Wire Bending Pliers are good for consistently sized loops



WHICH DESIGN?

The ear wires, if they are the shepherd hook style, must always be longer than the earring itself. If not the earrings tip and fall out. Consider the proportions of the embellishment and the hook. Consider whether a classic or contemporary hook would suit the design better. Which is more comfortable? Which is more practical? Can the wire form part of the earring design rather than an add on?



FURTHER INFORMATION:

101 Wire Earrings & Handcrafted Wire Findings both by Denise Peck
Fastenings and Findings for Jewellers Paperback by Sarah Macrae