

Round in Circles Earrings

by Nicola Ryan

Coiled wire circles with lampwork beads.

Photo of finished piece by Jim Lawson; all other photos courtesy of the author.



In the Summer Preview 2008 issue of *Step by Step Wire Jewelry* you learned how to make the Round in Circles bracelet. Here you can learn to make Nicola Ryan's earrings to match.

MATERIALS:

- 20-gauge dead soft wire, 9"
- 24-gauge dead soft wire, 26"
- 5mm OD jump rings, 22-gauge, 4
- 2 lampwork beads
- 2" headpins, 22-gauge, 2
- 2 daisy spacer beads

TOOLS:

- Round nose pliers
- Long round nose pliers
- Chain nose pliers
- Bent nose pliers
- Flush cutters
- Polishing cloth
- Calipers
- 15mm mandrel or thick marker
- Ruler
- Pen
- Tumbler (optional)
- Hammer
- Bench block

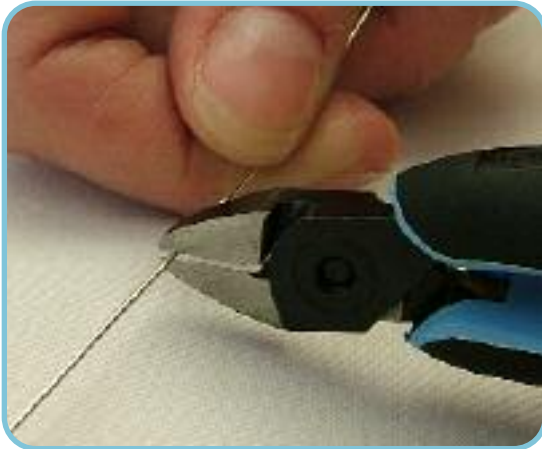
Resource: *Lampwork beads by Laura Spurling, beadsbylaura.co.uk*

TECHNIQUES:

Wirework, coiling, beads and wire.

Round in Circles Earrings

Step 1: Using a polishing cloth, straighten out a length of 20g wire, to remove kinks and harden the wire. Cut it into two 2 1/4" lengths with your flush cutters.



Step 1

Step 2: With a pair of calipers, measure the round nose pliers at 1.8mm wide, and make a mark on the pliers with a pen or tape. Place the tip of the wire at this mark, and with your thumb bend it around until it forms a P shape.



Step 2

Step 3: Put the chain nose pliers into the base of the P, and bend the tail of the wire back to form a right angle. Place the round nose pliers back into the loop, and bend the wire back a little to form an eyepin.



Step 3

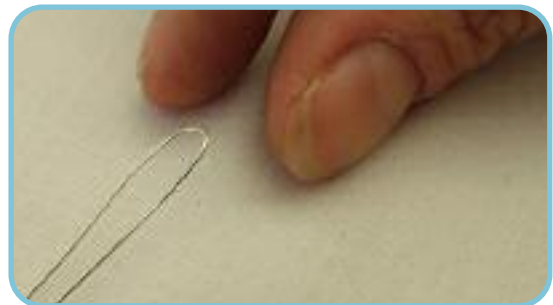
Step 4: Repeat the same method to form a loop at the other end of the wire, but make sure the loop is going in the opposite direction of the first to create a double eyepin.



Step 4

Repeat with all the lengths of the wire, and set them aside.

Step 5: Take the 24g wire, cut into two 13" lengths, and straighten with the cloth. Take one length, and fold it in half.



Step 5

Step 6: Place the bend in the middle, and while holding one end, wrap the other around the body of the eyepin. Keep your wire taut and straight, to help keep your coils even.



Step 6

Round in Circles Earrings

Step 7: Continue wrapping to the end, and turn it around to coil the remaining wire. Trim any excess with flush cutters and flatten any tails with chain nose pliers.



Step 7

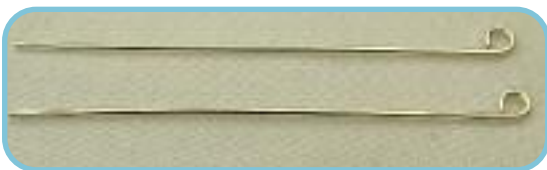
Repeat with the other double eyepin, and set them aside.

Step 8: Take one of the wrapped eyepins, and using either a 15mm mandrel or thick marker, bend it around to form a circle. It should be just short of meeting in the middle. Make sure you push the loops down flat against the mandrel. Repeat with the other eyepin. Connect the eyepins with a jump ring.



Step 8

Step 9: Polish and straighten a length of 20g wire, and cut two 2 1/4" pieces. Make both pieces into single eyepins by turning a loop using the 1.8" mark on the round nose pliers. Do not bend the wire back.



Step 9

Step 10: Take one of your eyepins and hold it against the mandrel, with the loop proud. With your thumb just above the loop, use your other thumb to bend the wire around the mandrel as far as it will go. Repeat with the other eyepin.



Step 10

Step 11: Hold the tails level in between your thumb and forefinger, and with bent nose pliers, bend approximately 5mm of the tails upward.



Step 11

Step 12: Thread a daisy spacer, a lampwork bead, and another spacer onto a 22g headpin. Form a loop on top of the second spacer bead.



Step 12

Open the loop up to the side, and slip the whole piece onto the circle connectors.



Step 12

Step 13: Using chain nose pliers, hold the loop still. Wire wrap the base of the loop. You might find it easier to turn the bead around and do this in small steps, rather than doing it all at once. You should get at least two or three wraps.



Step 13

Snip the leftover wire as close as you can. Use the bent nose pliers to tuck in any wire that may be sticking up. Take the earwire and open up the loop, slip the circle connector onto it, and close. Repeat for the other earring.

NICOLA RYAN

has been designing and making jewelry since 2004. Living in Southampton, England with her husband and two children, she successfully juggles her love of jewelry design with her family life. With



no formal training but a long love of art and craft, she first started making jewelry as a means of relaxing. She now creates unique pieces using sterling, gemstones, and artisan lampwork that are exhibited in local galleries. She also sells her creations via outlets and on her Web site sparklytreasures.co.uk.



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