

TECHNICALLY

Speaking...



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Technically Speaking features in-depth tutorials for beading techniques that you can adapt to your own creations. Take an intensive look at a new technique every issue!



Memory Wire Basics

By Tamara Honaman for
Fire Mountain Gems and Beads®

Materials:

- Bracelet memory wire
- 1 Head pin
- Assorted beads/crystals of choice

Tools:

- Memory wire shears
- Chain nose pliers
- Round nose pliers
- Wire cutters

Instructions:

1. Using the memory wire shears, cut 2½ loops off the spool of memory wire (**Fig. 1**). (Note: When cutting memory wire, be sure to use ONLY memory wire shears or heavy-duty wire cutters; the wire will destroy the blades of anything less sturdy.)

2. Grip one end of the wire with round nose pliers. Rotate your wrist away from your body, forming a loop around the nose of the pliers (**Fig. 2**).

3. Slide desired beads onto the wire until you have about ½ in. of wire remaining.

4. Use the round nose pliers to form a loop on the remaining wire end (**Fig. 3**).

5. To add the dangles, stack a few beads onto a head pin and begin to create a wrapped loop at the top (see Technique Guide, p. 85), stopping after the loop is made and before wrapping. Attach the

open loop to the loop on one end of the bracelet (**Fig. 4**), close the loop, and complete the wrap (**Fig. 5**). Trim excess wire, and then press the cut end down with chain nose pliers. Repeat to attach another dangle to the other end of the bracelet.

Another way to finish the ends of your memory wire is to glue on bead ends with G-S Hypo Cement: Insert the tip of the Hypo Cement into the bead end and fill the hole with glue, insert one end of the memory wire into the bead end, and hold for a few seconds until the glue grabs. Set the wire aside so the glue can cure completely before you string on your beads. Finish the other end in the same way, and then allow the entire piece to dry overnight before wearing.

If you have questions concerning this tutorial, contact the editors of *Bead Unique Magazine*.

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Fig. 1

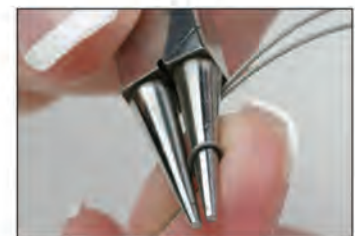


Fig. 2

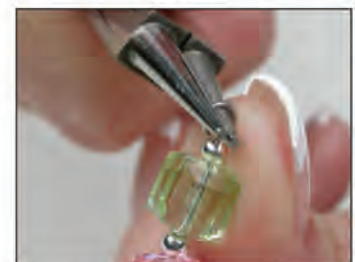


Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

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