

# 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!



## Using a Metal Hole Punch

By Tamara Honaman for *Fire Mountain Gems and Beads®*

This easy-to-use steel hole punch makes holes with smooth edges and a good round shape. Holes can be made in soft metal of varying thickness, ranging from 28-ga. (approximately 0.3mm) to 10-ga. (approximately 2.6mm) depending on the type and hardness of the metal. The hole punch creates hole sizes approximately 1.5mm (accommodating up to 14-ga. wire) and 2mm (accommodating up to 12-ga. wire) in diameter. This nifty little hole punch was used to create holes in the metal components for the bracelet example shown here!

### Instructions:

1. Slide a piece of metal into the opening at the end of the tool with the desired hole-punch size. Position the metal so the hole will be in the desired location (**Fig. 1**).
2. Slowly twist the handle in a clock-

wise motion, lowering the punch into position (**Fig. 2**).

3. Continue to twist the handle as the punch makes contact with the metal you are punching. You will feel a resistance. Twist until the hole has been made all the way through (**Fig. 3**).

4. Once the hole is completed, turn the handle counterclockwise to raise the punch and release the metal (**Fig. 4**).

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

### Materials:

- *Fire Mountain Gems and Beads®* Metal Sheet, 18–28-ga.

### Tools:

- *Fire Mountain Gems and Beads®* Steel Hole Punch, #H20-3084TL



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

