

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!



Briolette Wire Wrap

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



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Wire-wrapped loops are a challenge when you're first beginning, but soon they become a staple in every beader's technical repertoire. Briolette wire wraps (also known as *trapeze loops*), take the technique just a step further. Let Tamara Honaman show you how, and you'll be wire wrapping any top-drilled bead in no time!

Materials:

- Briolette or other top-drilled bead
- 3½ in. 22-ga. or 24-ga. Wire (or appropriate gauge that will fit through the briolette's drilled hole)

Tools:

- Bent chain nose pliers, chain nose pliers, round nose pliers, flush cutters

Instructions:

(*Note:* The trapeze loop holding the briolette in the step photos are large in order to show as much technical detail as possible. As you practice, your trapezes will become smaller, like the ones shown in the earring project sample.)

1. Using chain nose pliers, grasp the wire about 1½ in. from one end and bend until the wire forms a "V" shape. Slide the briolette onto the longer end of the wire and slide it close to the bend in the wire (**Fig. 1**).

2. Grasp the other side of the wire about ¼ in. from the hole in the briolette. Bend the wire until it crosses the first wire, forming a triangle (**Fig. 2**).

3. Grasp the shorter length of wire where it meets the longer wire at the top of the triangle, and then bend it to the side so it is angled to the left or right of the briolette (**Fig. 3**).

4. Grasp the longer wire where it meets the shorter wire at the top of the triangle,

and then bend so the wire stands straight up from the briolette. The angles of the triangle should now be nice and sharp.

5. Place the tip of the bent chain nose pliers across the triangle section, below the bend. Using regular chain nose pliers, grasp the end of the shorter wire and wrap it around the straight length of wire above the bend, making approximately two tightly wound wraps (**Fig. 4**). Trim any excess wire, and then press in the cut end with chain nose pliers.

6. Hold the round nose pliers horizontally and grip the wire directly above the last wrap you created in Step 5.

7. With your free hand, bend the tip of the wire to form a 90° angle. Place the pliers into the angled section vertically so one barrel is above and one is below the wire. Bring the wire up and over the top barrel of the pliers so it is now facing down at an angle.

8. Reposition the pliers so they are horizontal again, with one barrel in the loop and one out and to the right. With chain nose pliers (or your free hand), grasp the tip of the wire and direct it behind the length of wire extending below the loop you just created.

9. Grip across the loop with bent chain nose pliers. Grasp the tip of the wire with the regular chain nose pliers and wrap it around the straight length of wire below the loop, making approximately three tightly wound wraps (**Fig. 5**). Trim any excess wire, and then press in the cut end with chain nose pliers.

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

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Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

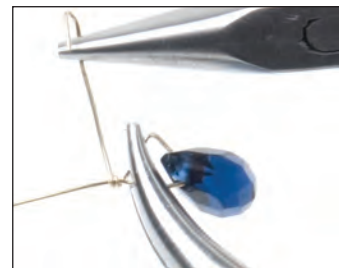


Fig. 4



Fig. 5

