

Freeform Wire Earrings

by Leeza Khoury

Two versions of beautiful framed earrings, with stones and crystals.

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



Leeza designed these earrings while working at Turquoise-StringBeads in Fall River, Mass. The owner of the store, Nancy Valentine, had some gorgeous semi-precious beads, and asked Leeza to use them in a funky freeform wire earring. These are hot sellers at their store.

Earrings Version 1: right (brown), Earrings Version 2: left (purple).



MATERIALS:

Version 1 Earrings:

22-gauge round sterling wire, 18"
15mm x 20mm rectangular semi-precious stones, 2
Sterling earwires, 1 pair
Sterling headpins, 2
4mm crystal bicones, 4
4mm sterling daisy spacers, 2
1mm x 1mm sterling microcrimps, 4
6mm crystal bicones or donuts, 2

Version 2 Earrings:

22-gauge sterling round wire, 16"
18mm x 25mm rectangular semi-precious stones, 2
Sterling earwires, 1 pair
Sterling headpins, 2
4mm crystal bicones, 4
6mm crystal bicones or donuts, 2



TOOLS:

Chain nose pliers
Round nose pliers
Flush cutters
Micro crimping pliers

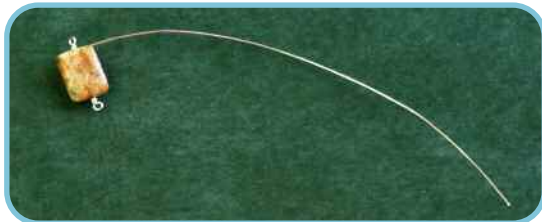


TECHNIQUES:

Wirework, coiling, twisting, wire and beads.

Earrings Version 1

Step 1: Cut the wire into two 9" pieces. Take one piece, and make a wrapped loop about 1 1/4" down from the end of the wire. Trim the excess wire from the loop, leaving a long tail. Add one semi-precious stone, and wrap another loop on the other side of the stone, but this time DO NOT cut off the excess.



Step 1

Step 2: Making sure the end of the wire is parallel the top horizontal line of the stone, place the chain nose pliers about 1/4" away from the stone, and make a 90° angle.



Step 2

Step 3: Continue this process along the side and bottom of the stone, and wrap around the wrapped loop once to anchor the wire, then go up the other side of the stone.



Step 3

Step 4: When bending the wire, going back up toward the top, add a microcrimp, a 4mm crystal, a daisy spacer, a 4mm crystal, and microcrimp. Use the top slot ONLY of the micro crimping pliers to secure the microcrimps so everything is lined up halfway up the stone.



Step 4

Step 5: Make a 90° angle, and bring the wire up parallel to the top of the stone where you first started, and anchor it around the wrapped loop. Snip off the rest of the wire and tuck in any sharp ends.



Step 5

Step 6: Attach the earwire to the top loop. Place a 6mm bicone or donut onto a headpin, wrap a loop, and attach it to the bottom loop of the earring. Repeat Steps 1-6 for the other earring, making sure it is a mirror image of the first earring.



Step 6

Earrings Version 2

Step 1: Cut the wire into two 8" pieces. Take one piece and make a wrapped loop about 1 1/4" down from the end of the wire. Trim the excess from the loop, leaving a long tail. Add on a semi-precious stone, and wrap another loop on the other side, but this time DO NOT cut off the remainder of your wire.



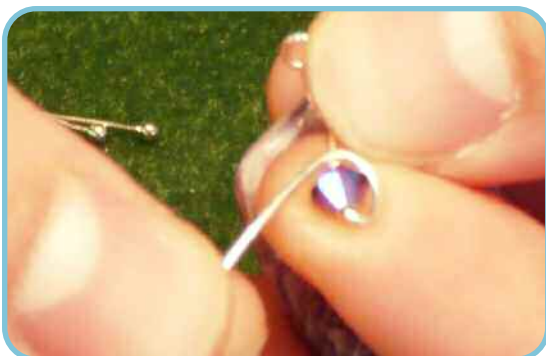
Step 1

Step 2: End the wire in front of the stone, and put one 4mm crystal bicone onto the wire. Place the bicone close to the top of the stone, and hold it in place.



Step 2a

Note: It is easier to twist the wire around the stone "in the air," then up against the stone.



Step 2b

Step 3: Twist the wire around the bicone three times.



Step 3

Step 4: Form the wire into an S-shape, and add the second bicone. Place this bicone closer to the bottom of the stone, and twist the wire around the bicone in the other direction to complete the S-shape.



Step 4

Step 5: Twist the wire around the bicone three times. Anchor the wire around the bottom loop.



Step 5

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Step 6: Place the 6mm bicone or donut onto a headpin, wrap a loop, and attach it to the bottom loop of the earring. Attach the earwire to the top loop.

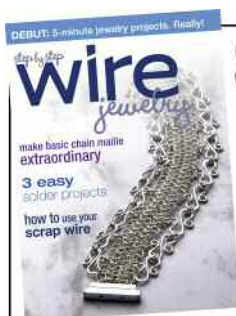


Step 6

Repeat Steps 1-6 for the other earring, making sure it's a mirror image of the first earring.

LEEZA KHOURY

has been working at Turquoise-StringBeads in Fall River, Mass. since she was 17-years-old. Today she is 23, and a junior at the University of Massachusetts College of Visual and Performing Arts.



Step by Step Wire Jewelry

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