

Stud Earrings

by Jeanette Blix Ryan

Oxidized wire spirals with posts.

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



I am fascinated with spirals. Many of my wire designs are created by starting with a spiral, and seeing where it will take me. For these earrings, by spiraling both ends, I came up with my own twist of wire stud earrings. You can also modify this design by adding a loop at the bottom of the earring, and attaching a bead of your choice. It's a fun earring design that can be dressed up or kept casual.



MATERIALS:

18-gauge dead soft sterling wire, 9"
24-gauge 2" balled headpins, 2



TOOLS:

Round nose pliers
Chain nose pliers
Flush cutters
Cup burr or file
Liver-of-sulfur (optional)
Polishing cloth or tumbler (optional)



TECHNIQUES:

Wirework, spiraling.

Step 1: Flush cut two 4 1/2" pieces of 18g wire. Make a right angle bend about 1/2" from the wire end with round nose pliers.

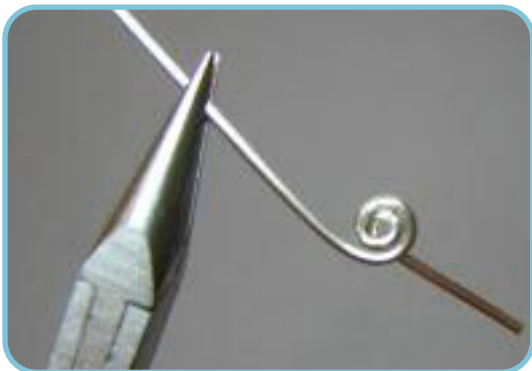


Step 1

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Step 2: Make a small loop with round nose pliers, and make a spiral until you have completed four rotations.



Step 2

Step 3: Make the second earring in the mirror image, by spiraling in the opposite direction as the first.



Step 3

Step 4: Line up both posts, and cut the tails to same length. The tails should measure 3/4".



Step 4

Step 5: Coil a slightly looser spiral with the tail, toward the larger spiral, until you have spiraled the smaller spiral in front of the larger one. The larger spiral is coiled tightly, and the smaller spiral is made with small spaces between each rotation.



Step 5

Step 6: Spiral until the centers of spirals are lined up.



Step 6

Using your fingers or pliers, make sure the studs are round.

Step 7: To give your spiral dimension, insert the round nose pliers into the back of each spiral's center, and gently push the spirals outward. Use your fingers to gently push the spirals back together.



Step 7

Step 8: Insert a balled headpin through the center of the spiral, and wrap around the post three times in back. Use a cup burr or file to remove rough spots from the end of the earwires, and attach ear nuts to the backs.



Step 8

To achieve an old world look, oxidize the earrings with liver-of-sulfur and polish with a cloth or tumbler.

JEANETTE BLIX RYAN

began making jewelry over three years ago working in several media and quickly migrated to wireworking. She published the Glass Art Calendar - a celebration of lampwork art. Based in Reston, Va. she currently teaches wireworking classes throughout the greater Washington D.C. metro area. To contact Jeanette, please visit her Web site at jeanetteblix.com.



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