



# GOPAR AINGEAL

YGGDRASIL PENDANT TUTORIAL BY JULIE HULICK

## Materials:

54.5 Inches (1.4 meters) of  
20g dead soft round wire.

12.5 Feet (3.9 meters) of 28g  
dead soft round wire for the  
tree.

16 Feet (5 meters) of 28g  
dead soft round wire for  
frame weaving and binding.

40x30mm Oval Cabochon



GOPAR AINGEAL



## Tools:

Round Nose Pliers,  
Chain Nose Pliers,  
Wire Cutters,  
Bail Pliers (or knitting needle,  
chopstick, etc for bending the  
bail),  
Kumihimo Bobbin Recommended  
for holding Weaving Wires,  
Ruler,  
Nylon Jaw Pliers for compressing  
your weaving if needed.



### Step 1:

Picking your cabochon! For this tutorial you really can use just about any size or shape of stone. The bigger the stone the better your tree will look up to a point. I recommend using a cabochon between 30-40mm.



### Step 2:

For this tutorial, to make it easier, I am going to use a 40x30mm ( $1 \frac{37}{64}$ " x  $1 \frac{3}{16}$ " ) calibrated cabochon. They are very easy to find in a huge variety of stones.



### Step 3:

We are going to cut the 28g wire to make up your tree. As you twist and bend the wires to form the tree they will get shorter. You will want to also have extra length to attach them to a frame. 5 Inches (13cm) will be plenty long enough.



#### Step 4:

Cut a total of 30, 5 inch (13cm) long pieces of 28g dead soft wire.



#### Step 5:

Gather up all of the 28g wires at once, you are going to start twisting 2 inches from the end, the larger side will be the branches and the smaller, the roots.



#### Step 6:

The trunk should only be about  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1cm). That may seem small but you want room for lots of branches.

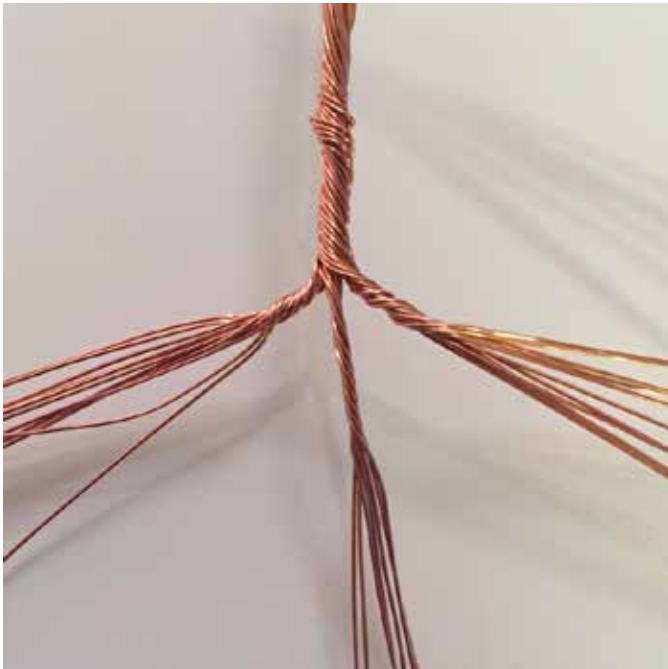
The most important part of twisting a tree is to be sure that you ALWAYS twist in the same direction. Clockwise or counter-clockwise, either is fine, whichever direction you twist the tree trunk, every branch and every root must go in the same direction.





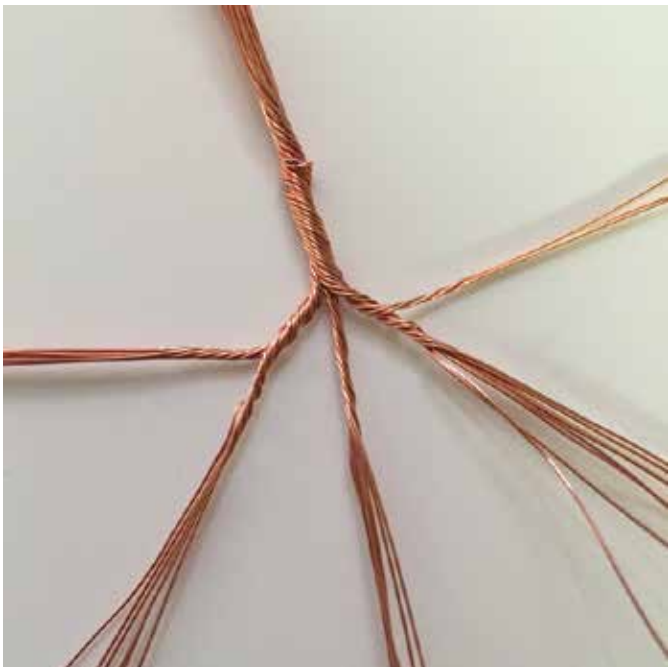
Step 7:

Separate the bottom, shorter wires into three groupings, these will make up the roots.



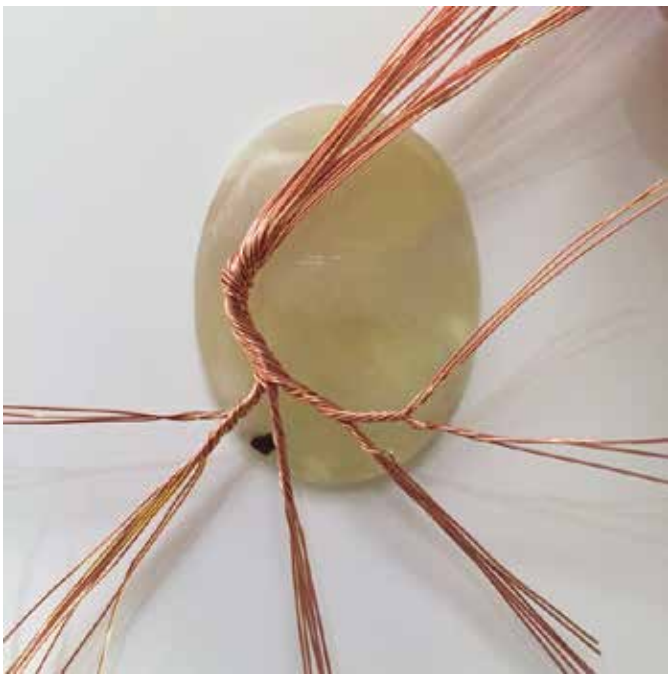
Step 8:

Give each root section one or two twists (going in the SAME direction as the trunk).



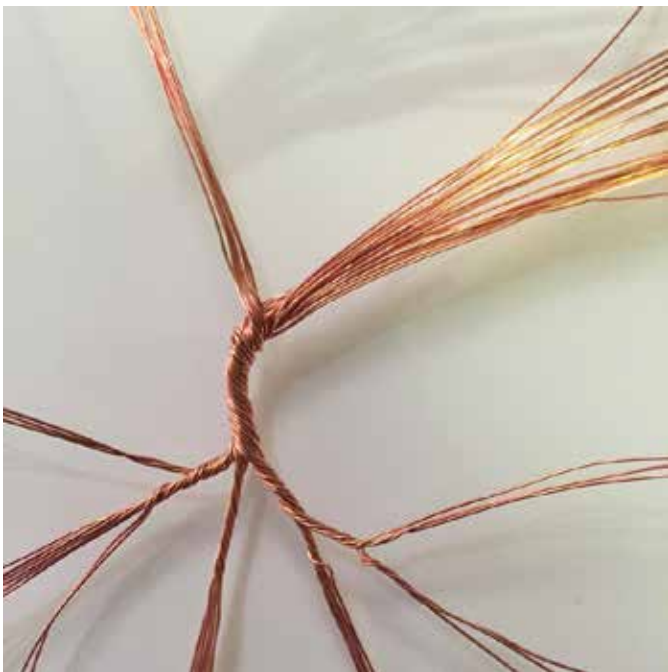
Step 9:

Separate two of the three root sections to make smaller root offshoots. Give each of these next 5 sections another twist.



#### Step 10:

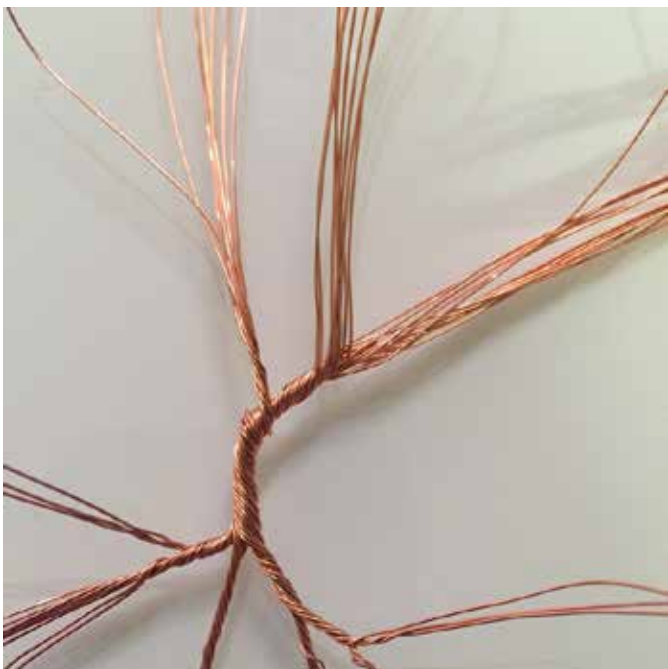
Line your tree over your cab. Give yourself an idea of how much surface your tree will cover, decide on a curve for your trunk and spread out your roots.



#### Step 11:

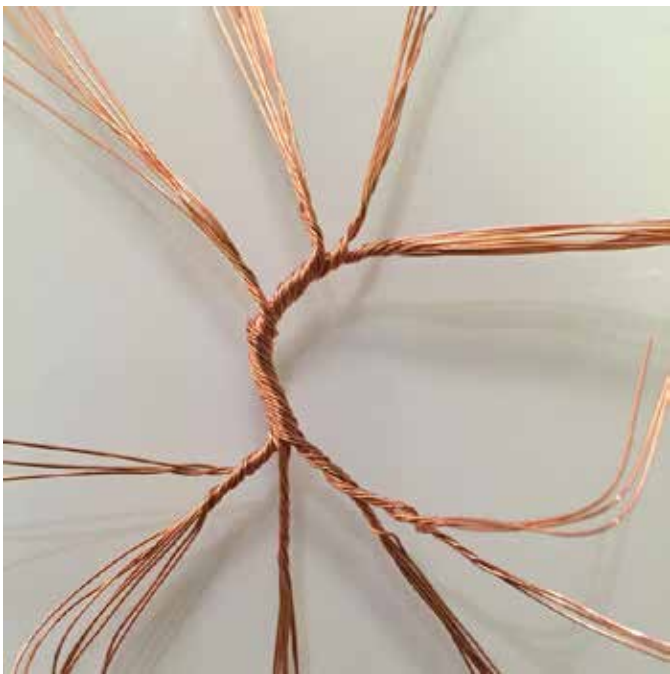
I like making, what looks to me, like a bonsai form. The majority of the trunk will curve to the right with branches coming off of the top side. Take a look at Step 14 to see what that will look like.

By no means do you have to make your tree as I do. Each little curve and branch will make each tree unique.



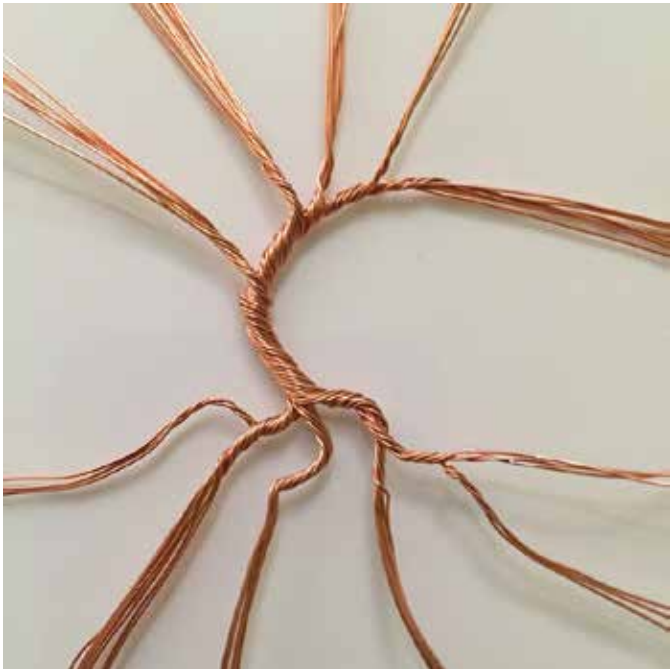
#### Step 12:

Every quarter inch (4mm) I separate out another branch. Each branch should consist of 2-6 wires. If your branch is only two wires, it will simply twist out until it reaches the edge of the cabochon, larger groupings will allow for more smaller branch options.



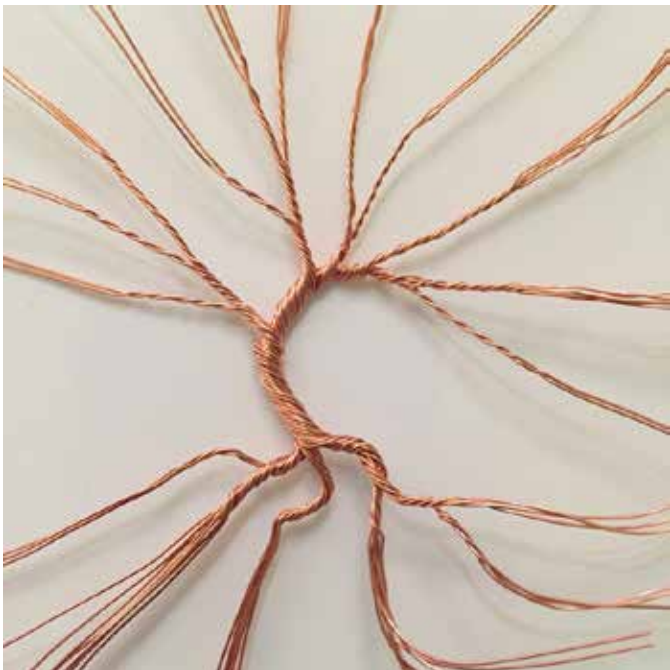
### Step 13:

As you pull branches out from the trunk, be sure to continue twisting the trunk between the branches.



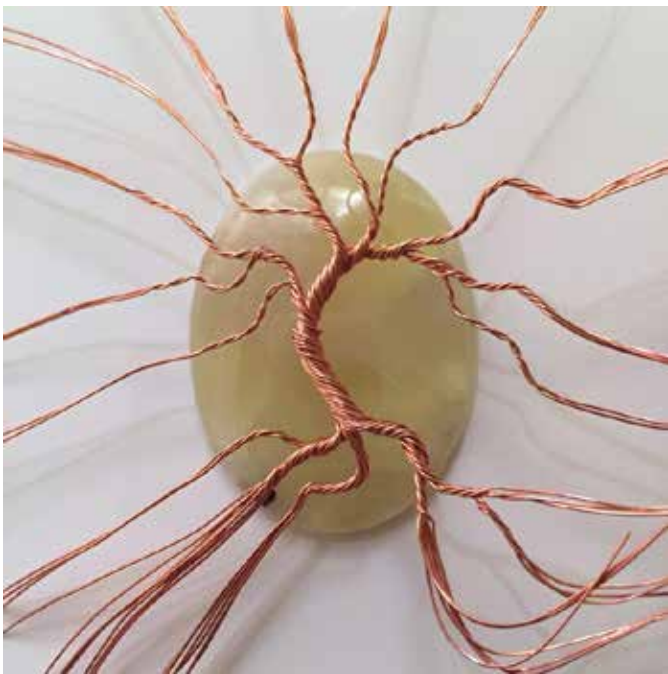
### Step 14:

As you build out your trunk, bend it into a pleasing curve. Even if your tree shape isn't completely true to nature, as long as your curves are soft and pleasing it will look wonderful.



### Step 15:

Divide and twist your branches. Try making your tree top even and full. You don't want to have uneven gaps.



#### Step 16:

Working over your stone for visual reference, bend your roots and branches, giving your tree more identifiable shape.

NOTE: If you have half or full hard wire for Step 17 I would recommend using it. If you only have dead soft on hand you can harden it yourself by rubbing it with a folded piece of old blue jeans. You could spend 5-15 minutes to harden it by hand. Something easy to do while watching TV.



#### Step 17:

You need a 20g wire, 8.5" (22cm) long to circle your cabochon and hold your tree in place.

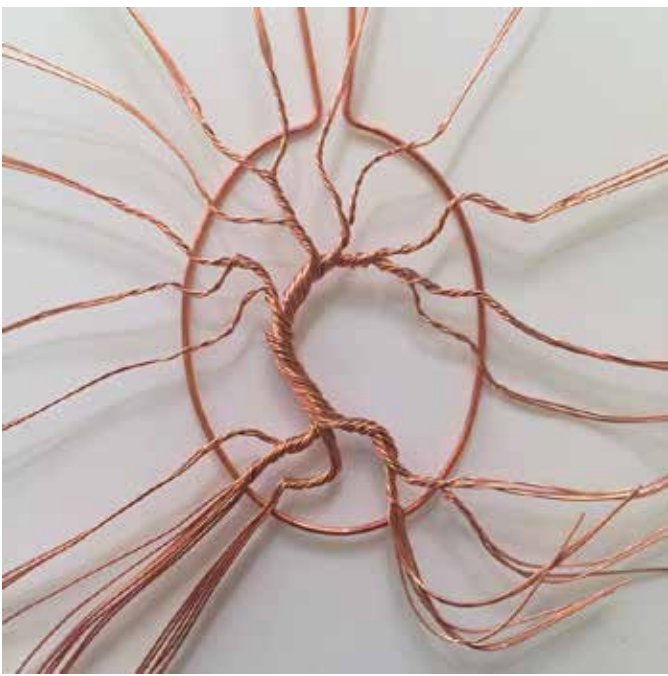
Find the center of your 20g wire and line it up with the center on the base of your cabochon. Wrap the wire firmly around your cab. It is OK to have a little bit of wiggle room but you want the shape to be as close as you can. It is easiest to do this on a table or hard book in lap.



#### Step 18:

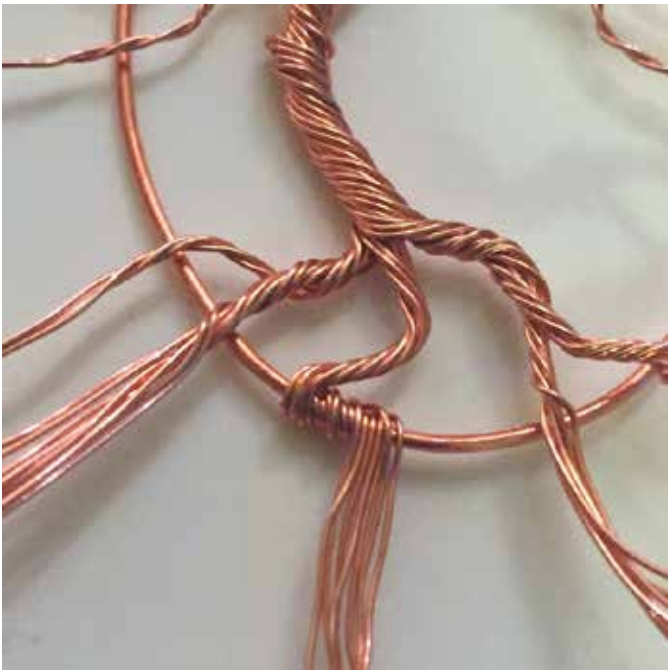
At the top of your cabochon, where the 20g wire meets itself, bend both ends of the wire straight upward, using your chain nose pliers.





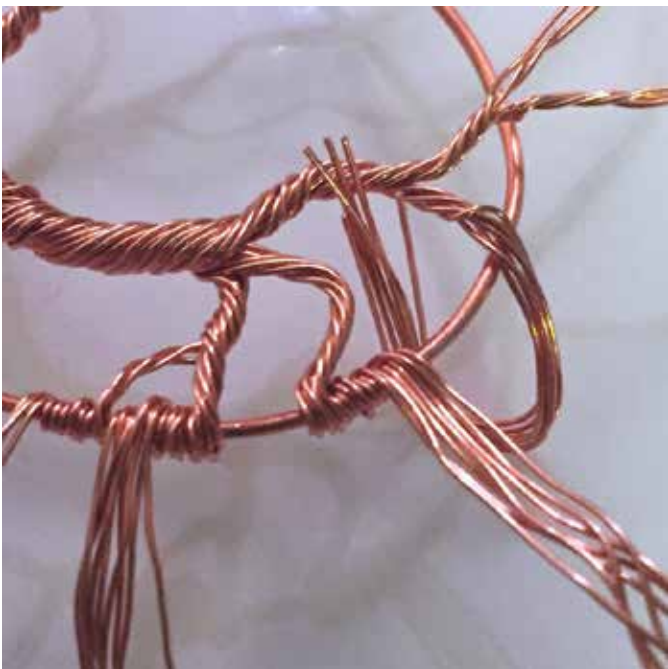
#### Step 19:

Line up your tree over the frame that you just made. Adjust your tree form as desired and make sure that each branch and root is twisted until it meets the frame.



#### Step 20:

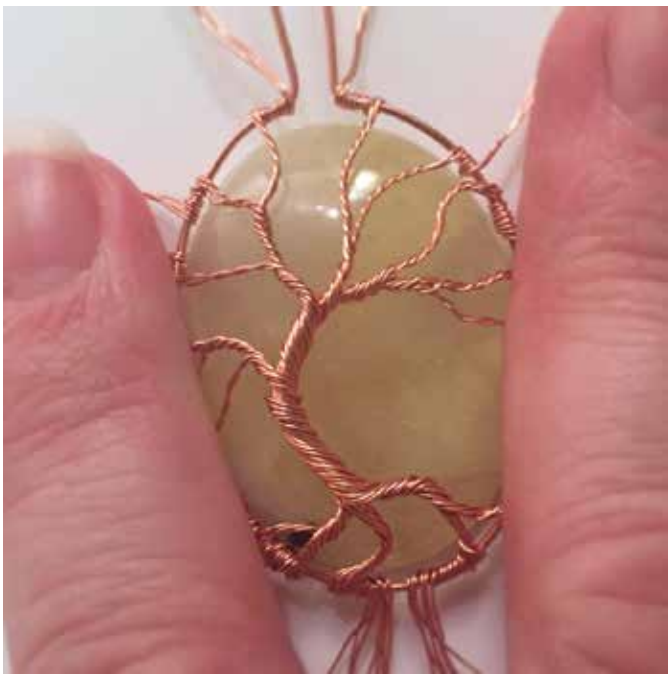
Starting at the bottom of the tree, wrap each root and branch around the 20g frame. You can wrap between 3-5 times, the amount of space to bind will vary as the distance will vary between each root or branch.



#### Step 21:

As you work around the frame, wrapping the roots and branches, be careful not to distort your frame shape. It will be easy to bend the frame, but it will also be easy to bend it back. Just take your time and after each branch or root attachment.





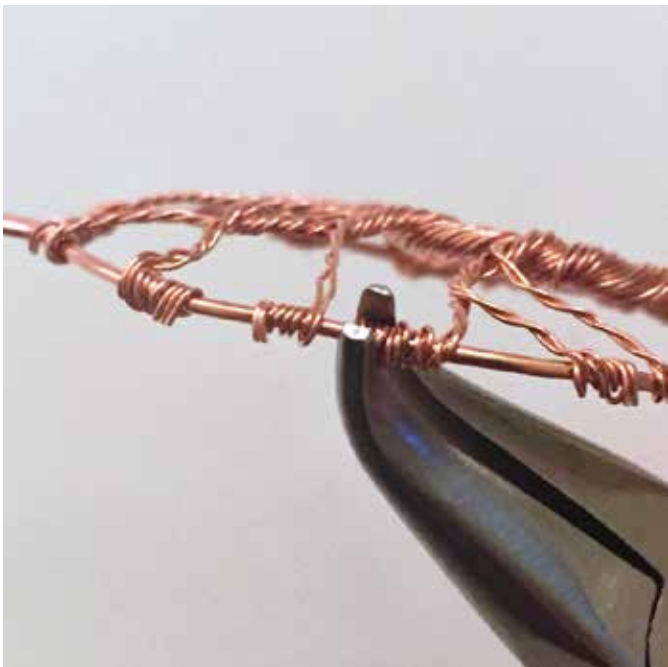
### Step 22:

When you are finished binding all of the branches and roots and before you trim any of the 28g wires you will want to press your tree into your stone. The goal here is to make the tree rounded and push the frame down to the sides of your cabochon.



### Step 23:

Bend all of your 28g wire tails pointing to the back of your tree and trim them all off.



### Step 24:

With your chain nose pliers squish all of your trimmed ends into the frame.



#### Step 25:

Place your tree over your stone and make any needed adjustments in your tree and frame.



#### Step 26:

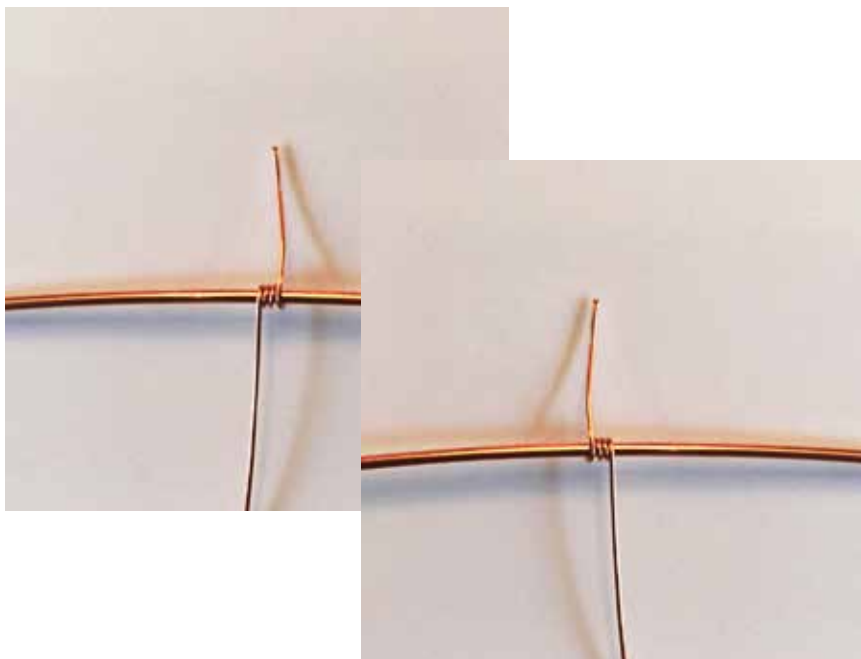
Now you get to set aside your cabochon and tree and weave the boarder for your stone. Cut 4 pieces of 20g dead soft wire, each 11.5" (30cm) long.

#### Step 27:

We will be using a basic zig-zag weave but you are of course free to use any weave you'd like for the boarder.

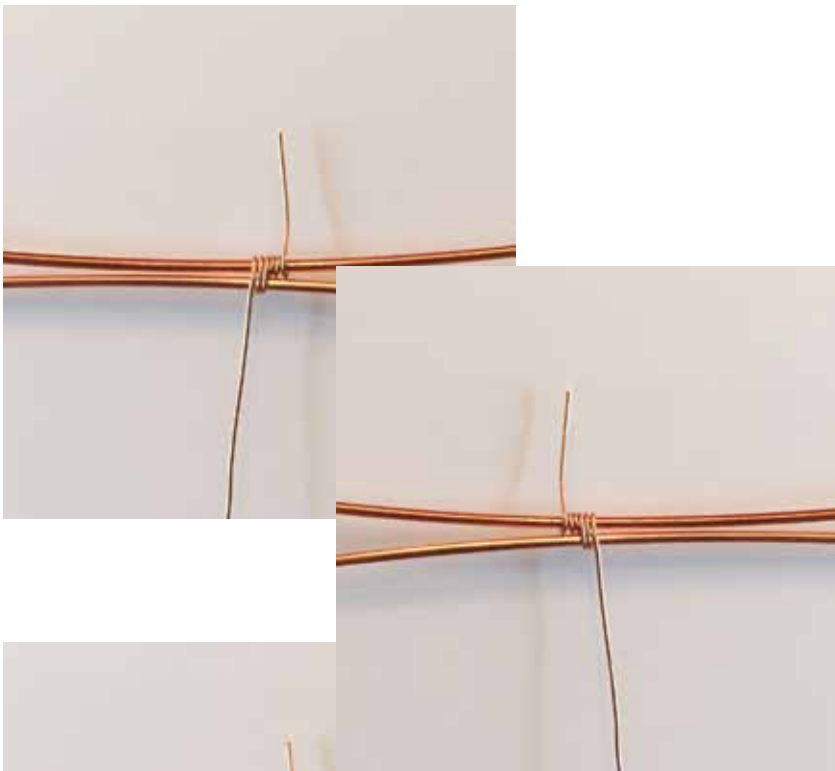
Starting with just one of the 20g wires, wrap your 28g weaving wire around it 3 times.

NOTE: The left images are for left handed weavers and the right images for right handed weavers.



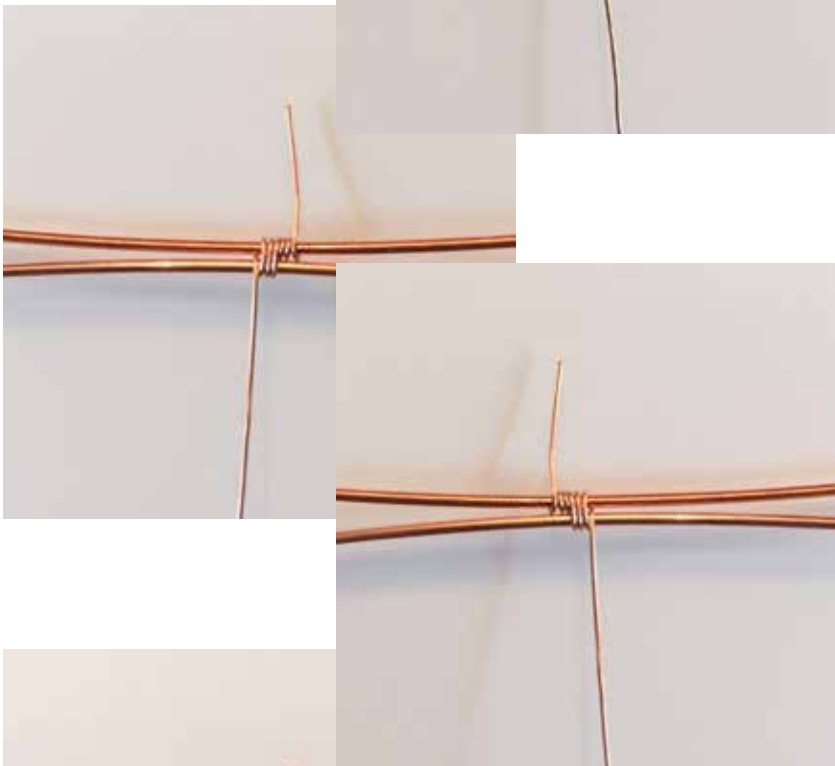
### Step: 28

Place the second 20g base wire under the first and wrap both wires together, three times.



### Step: 29

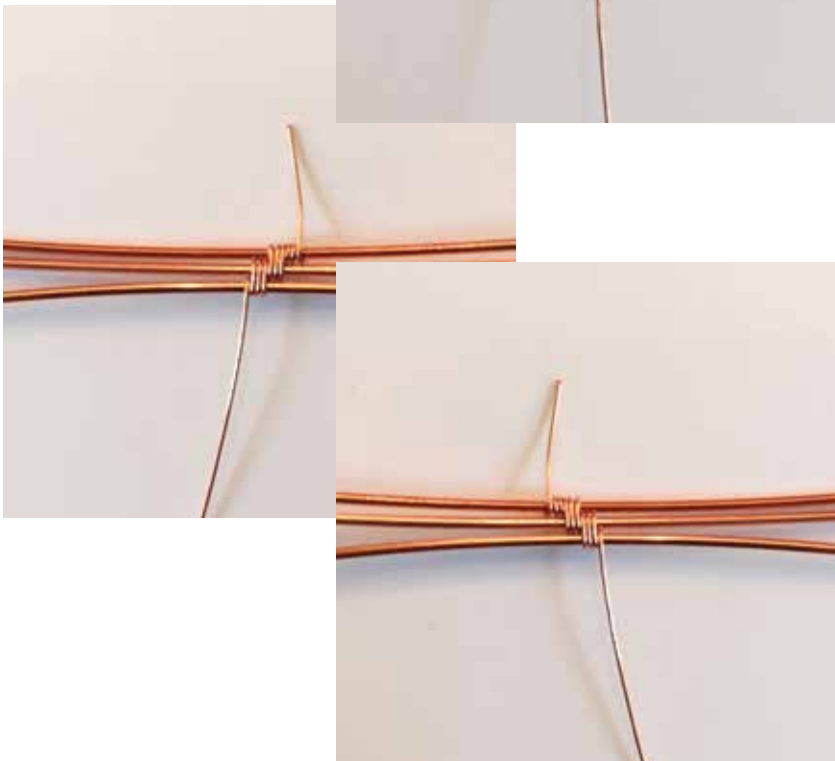
Bring the weaving wire up from the back and between the two base wires.



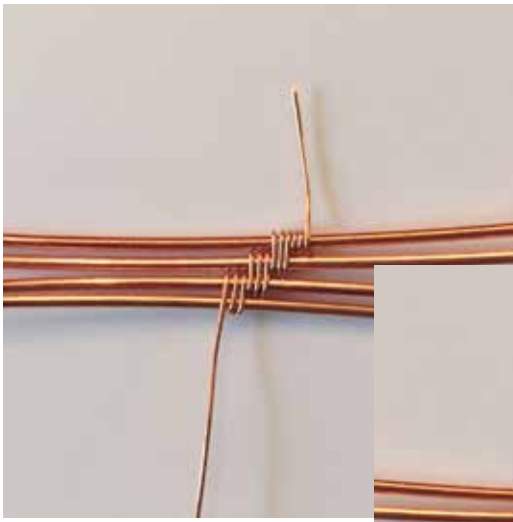
### Step 30:

Add in the third base wire at the bottom of the previous two and wrap your weaving wire around the second and third base wires, three times.

Bring your weaving wire up from the back and between the second and third base wires.

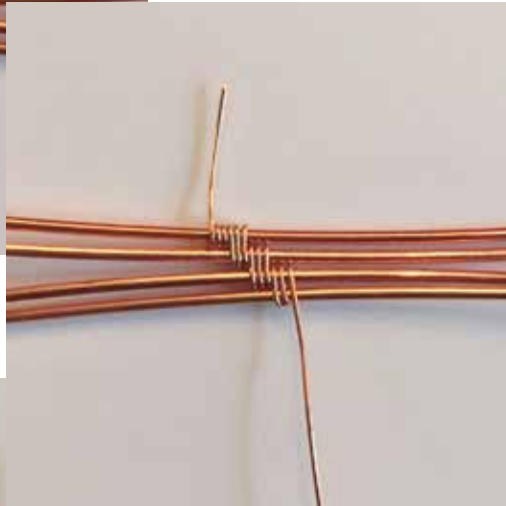






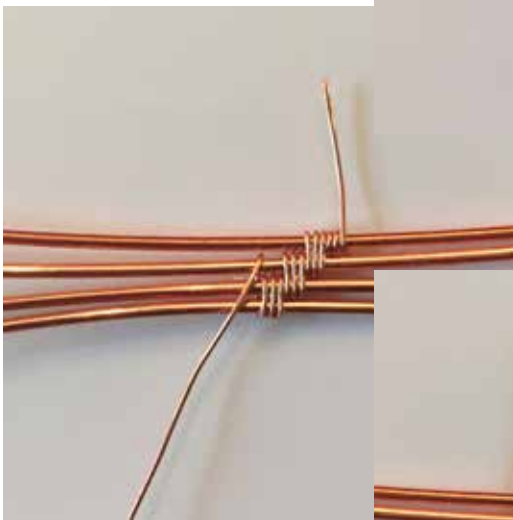
Step 31:

Bring in the forth and final base wire at the bottom of your work and wrap your weaving wire, three times, around the third and fourth base wires.



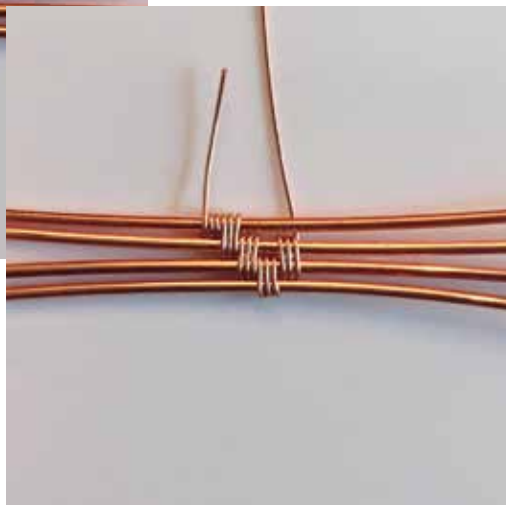
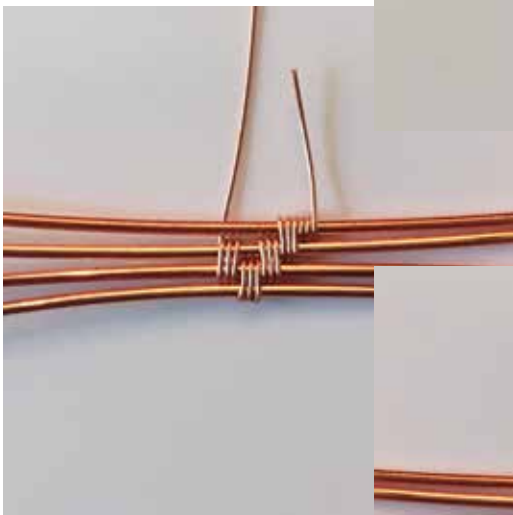
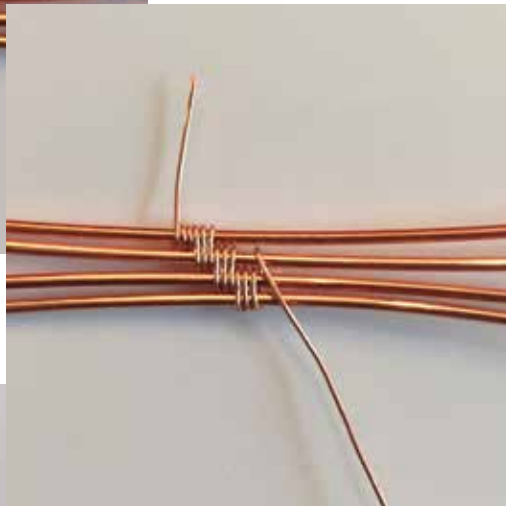
Step 32:

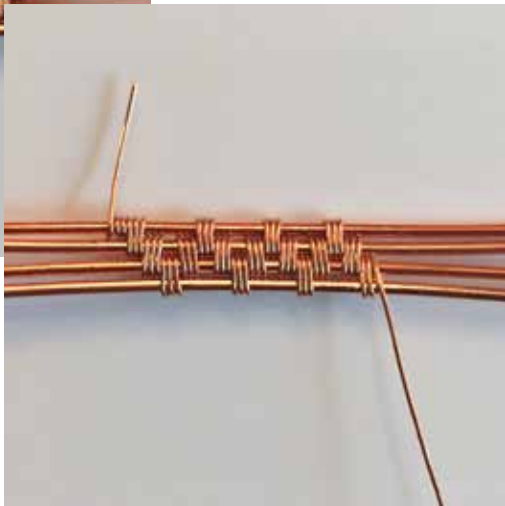
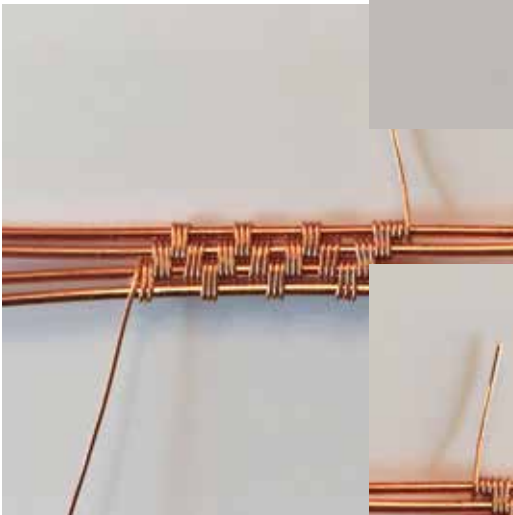
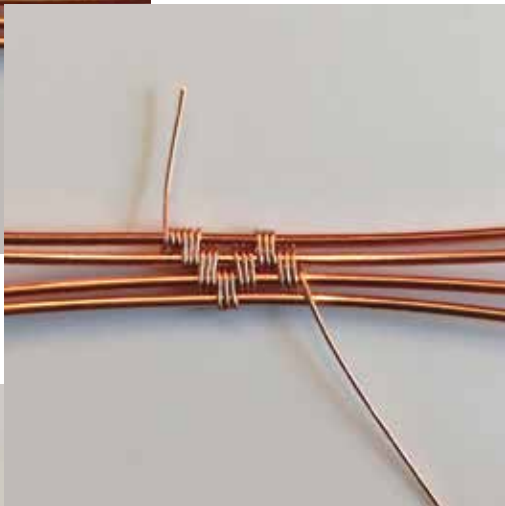
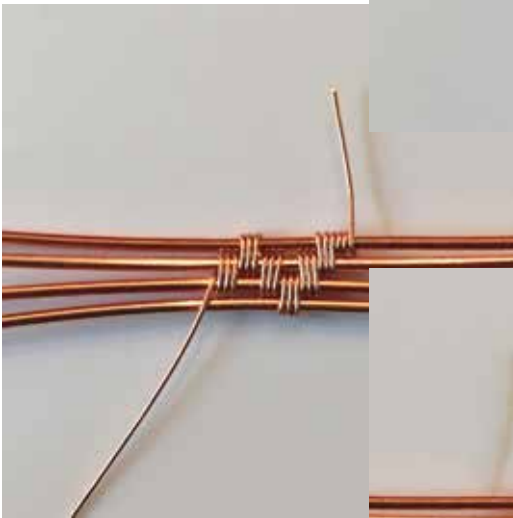
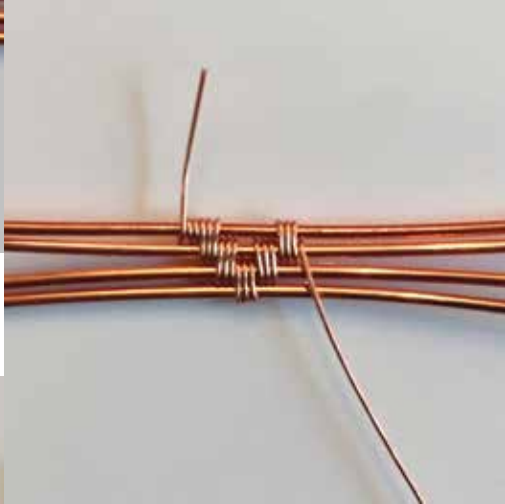
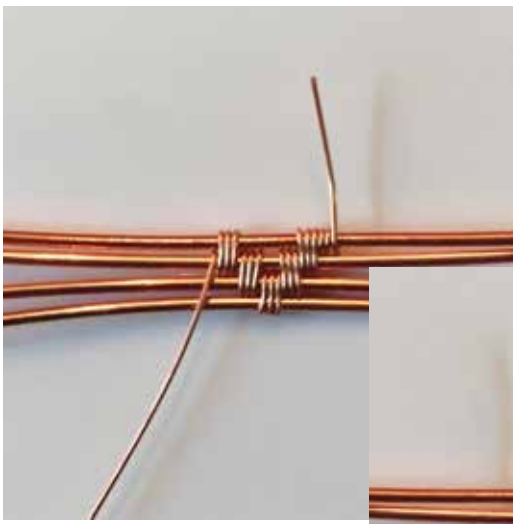
Bring the weaving wire up the back of your work and bring it forward between the first and third base wires.



Step 33:

Wrap your weaving wire three times around the second and third base wires.





Step 34:

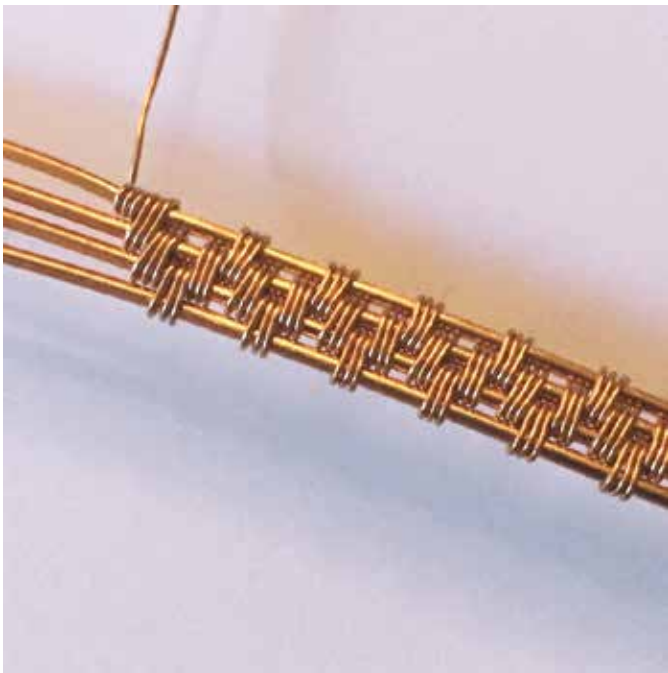
Wrap your weaving wire three times around the first and second base wires.

Step 35:

Repeat the Steps, 28-34, 27 more times.

Step 36:

If your tension is different than mine, you will want to complete 4.5 inches (11.5cm) to go around your stone.



### Step 37:

End your boarder weave on the same first base wire that you started on. Do not trim off your weaving wire just yet, we will continue on weaving the bail with the same weaving wire.



### Step: 38

Bend your boarder wire so that it will fit around your tree frame. Careful to keep the center of the boarder at the center base of the tree frame.



### Step 39:

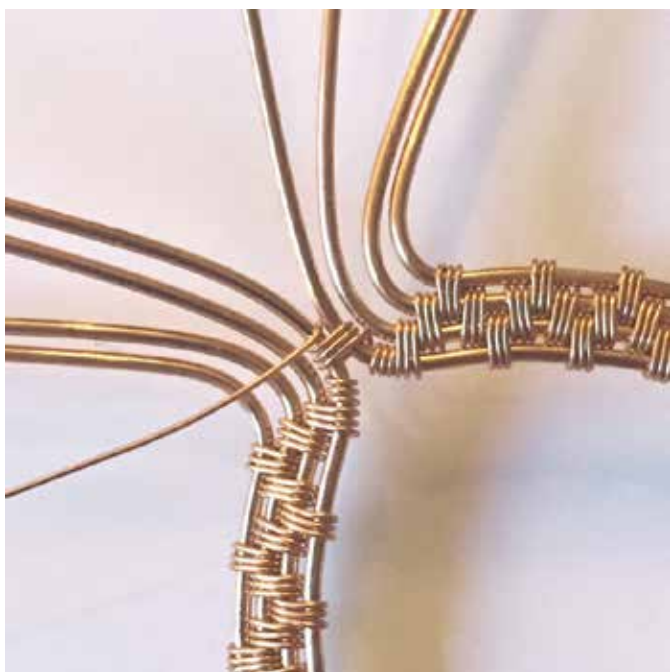
Your boarder weave should fit so that it covers the tree frame wire but not too much of the tree itself.





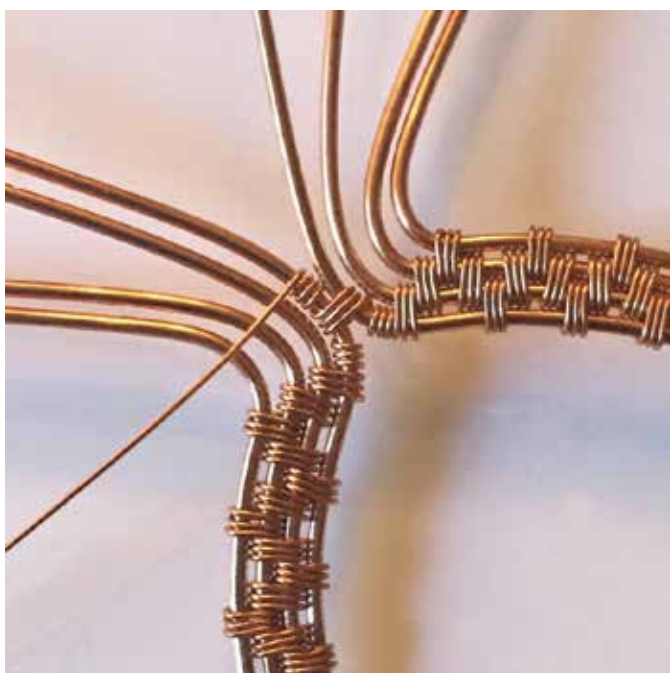
#### Step 40:

Once your boarder weave shape is formed, bend out the outer two 20g wires on each side. We are going to be using the center four 20g wires to make the two small curls on the sides of the bail.



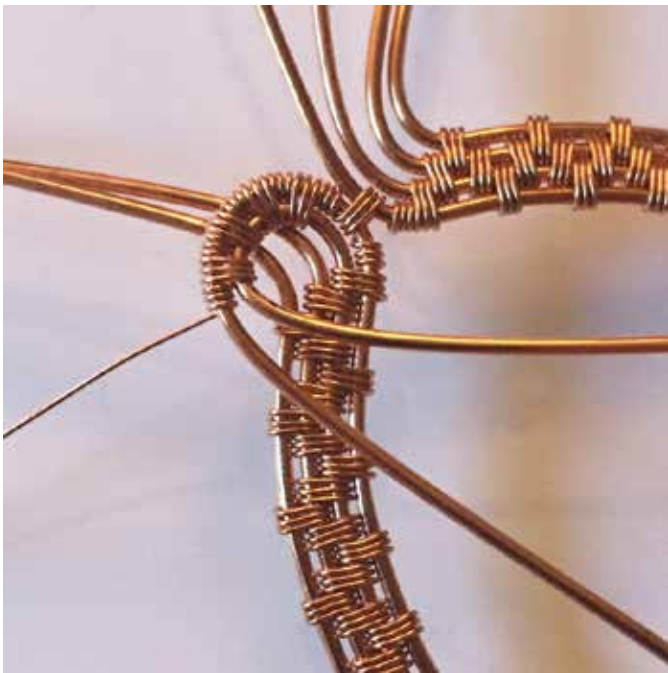
#### Step 41:

With your weaving wire that is still attached, wrap the center two 20g base wires three times. Not too tightly, you are going to also be working between them.



#### Step 42:

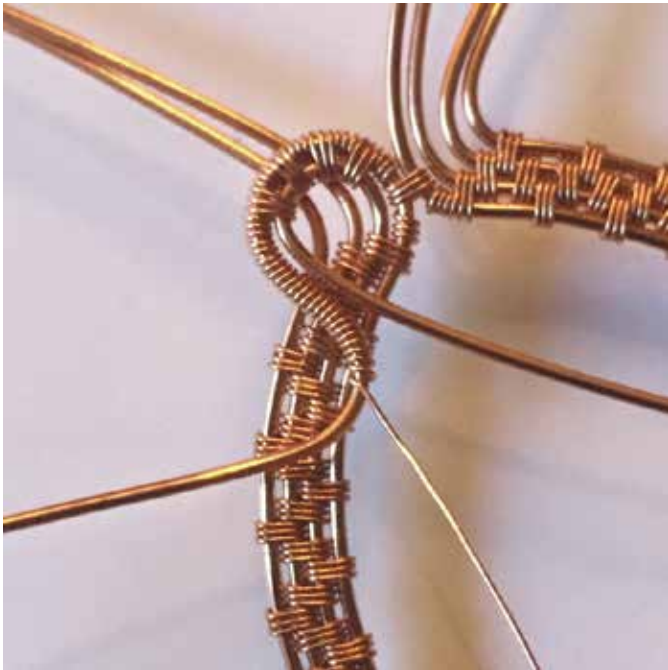
We will wrap the left side coil first. Wrap your weaving wire three times around the first left wire, as shown.



#### Step 43:

Using a repeating zipper weave, you will be wrapping three times around the two wires, then three times around the top wire as you curve the coil inward, as shown here.

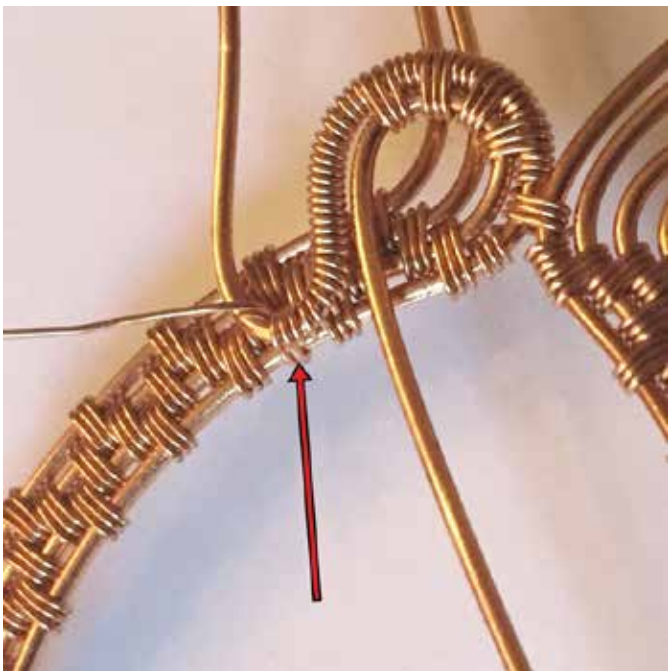
You will repeat the zipper pattern 4 times.



#### Step 44:

Continue coiling your weaving wire around the top 20g base wire until your curve meets with the second space in the inner side of the frame.

Cut your weaving wire leaving a 6 inch (15cm) tail for binding.



#### Step 45:

Pass the end of your weaving wire into the second space of your frame, on the inner part, as shown, three times to secure.

Coil your weaving wire around this base wire 4-5 more times, then trim off your weaving wire.



#### Step 46:

Trim both 20g wires that make up your coil. From the apex of your curve to the end of the wires should be about 1/4" (6mm).



#### Step 47:

Reattach your weaving wire to the other side of center and repeat the coil build in reverse on the other side, from Steps 42-46.



#### Step 48:

Using your round nose pliers, bend the four 20g wire ends into nice tight curls.





#### Step 49:

Recheck your frame and boarder shapes and readjust if needed. We are going to join the two parts together in the bail.

#### Step 50:

Coil your weaving wire 3-4 times around one of the two center 20g base wires.

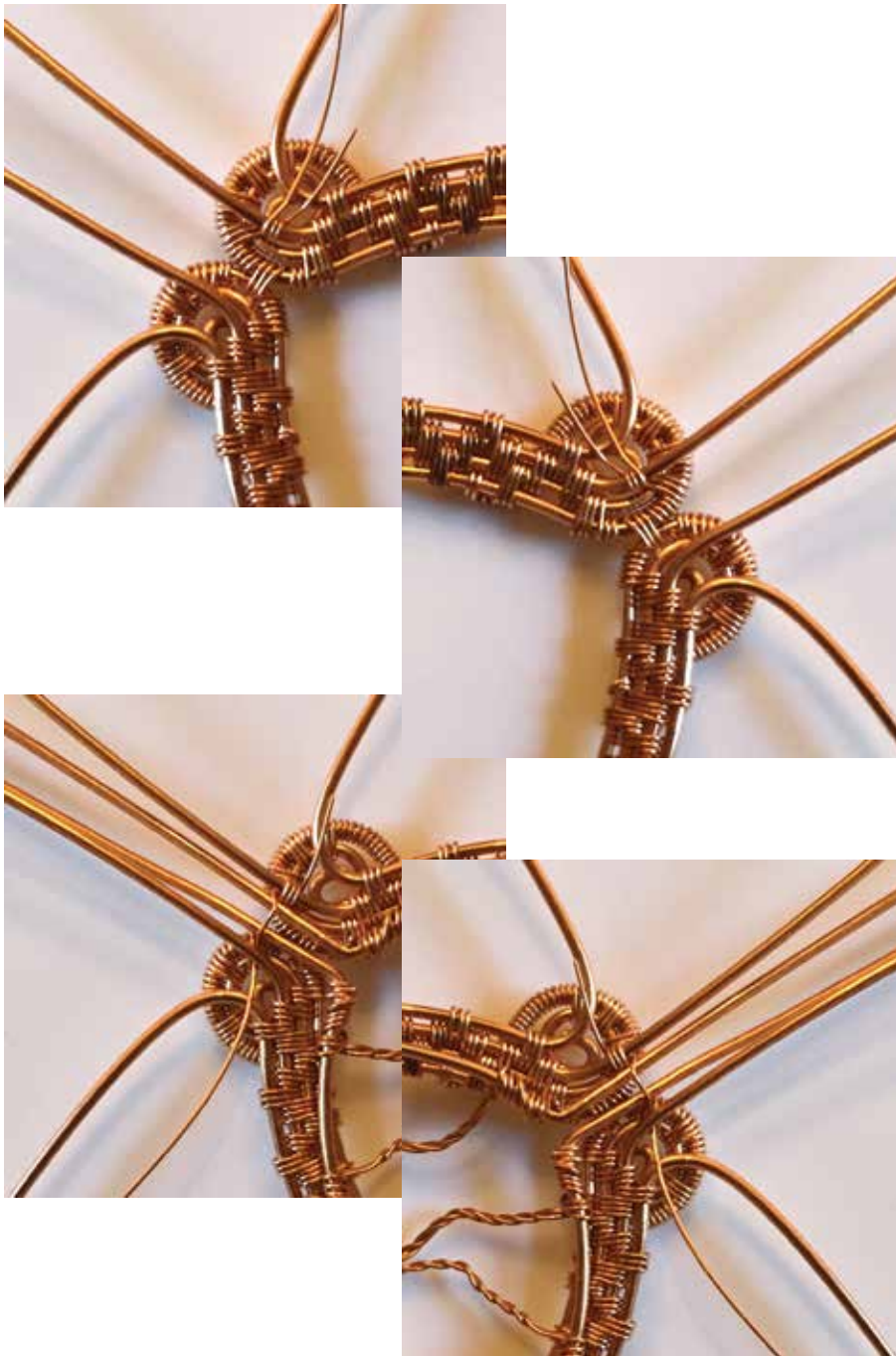
NOTE: Ignore the two outside base wires, we will be using them to secure the bail and strap the stone into the pendant after we weave the bail.

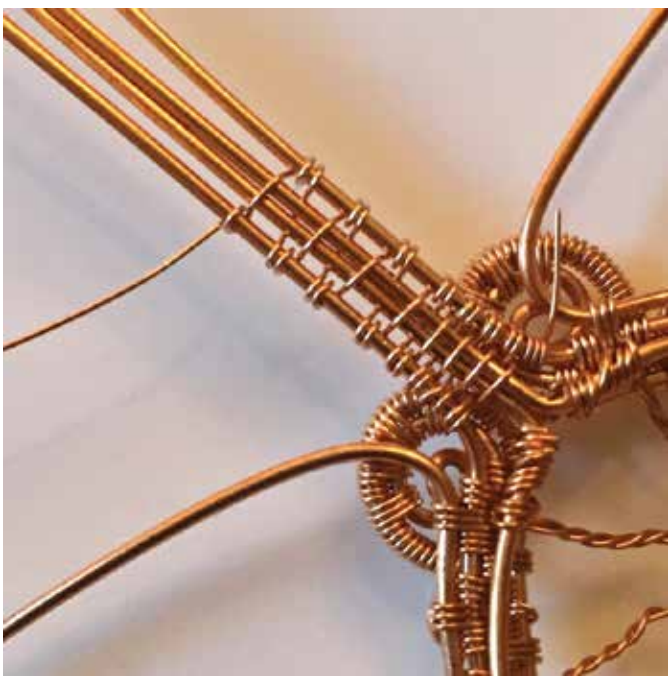
#### Step 51:

Place the tree frame into the back of the pendant. Be sure that the curve of the tree is facing the boarder. The boarder and stone will sandwich the tree into the center of the pendant.

Go over the two 20g frame wires and wrap your weaving wire one time around the opposite 20g base wire from Step 50.

The weave we are using for the bail is the same weave that we used in the Temporal Vessel Tutorial.





### Step 52:

The pattern of this weave is easier to see when I spread it out, like this. But as you are weaving it be sure to keep it tight.

You will wrap your weaving wire one full rotation around the left outermost 20g wire, then pass the weaving wire over the top of the two center wires (The tree frame wires) Then going under the right side 20g wire, wrap one full rotation. Then run your weaving wire across the back of the two 20g center wires. This weave would be just like skating a figure 8 if the 8 had three circles instead of two.



### Step 53:

Continue weaving the bail for 1 1/4" (3cm).

Wrap your weaving wire around the 20g wire where you end your weave, three times. Then trim off your weaving wire.



### Step 54:

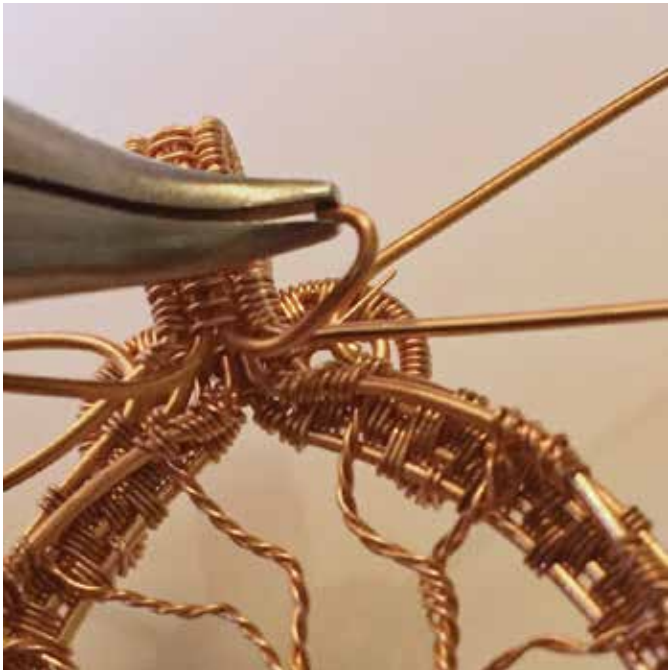
Using a bail plier or a knitting needle or chopstick, bend your bail backward. Make the bail weave end just above the top of the tree frame.





Step 55:

With your wire cutters, cut the two center 20g wires of your bail  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (9mm) long



Step 56:

With your chain nose pliers, bend the tip of small 20g wire tail upward and roll it into a small spiral.

Press the small spiral into the back base of the bail.



Step 57:

Repeat Step 56 on the second small 20g wire tail.





#### Step 58:

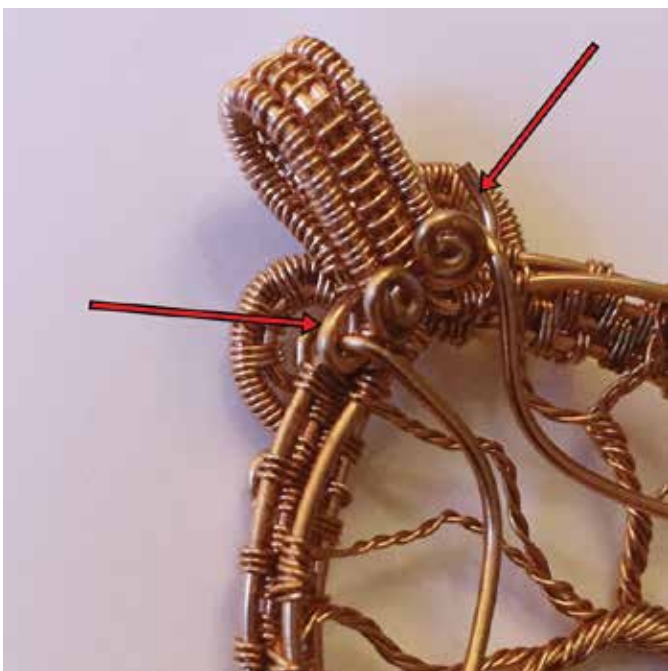
The last two wires of your bail should be pointing outward, at the sides of the bail, as shown. Bend the remaining two 20g boarder wires over the two bail wires, as shown here.

We are going to use the two boarder wires to bind in the stone and the overlap will lock the bail into place.



#### Step 59:

Bend the two 20g bail wires upward and trim them off to 3/16" (5mm).



#### Step 60:

With your chain nose pliers, crimp the two small 20g wire tails around the two 20g boarder/backing wires. You can hide the ends of these two wires in the bail if needed.

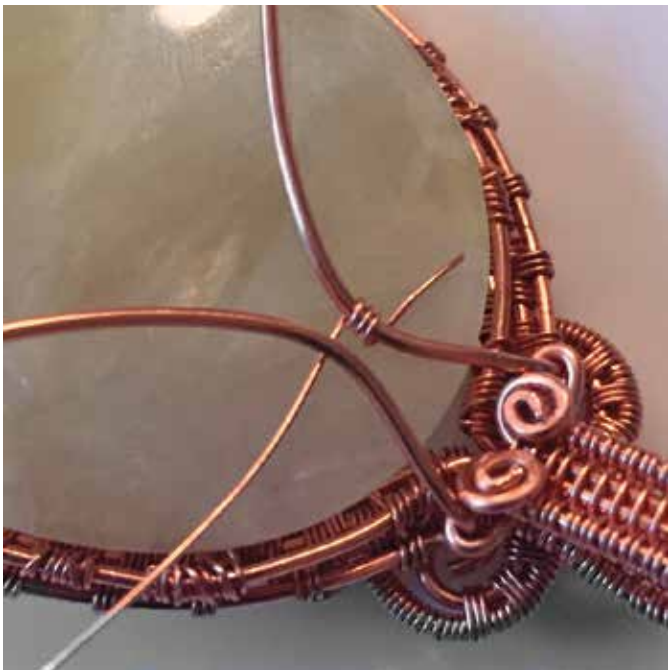


Step 61:

Look at this! We're almost finished!

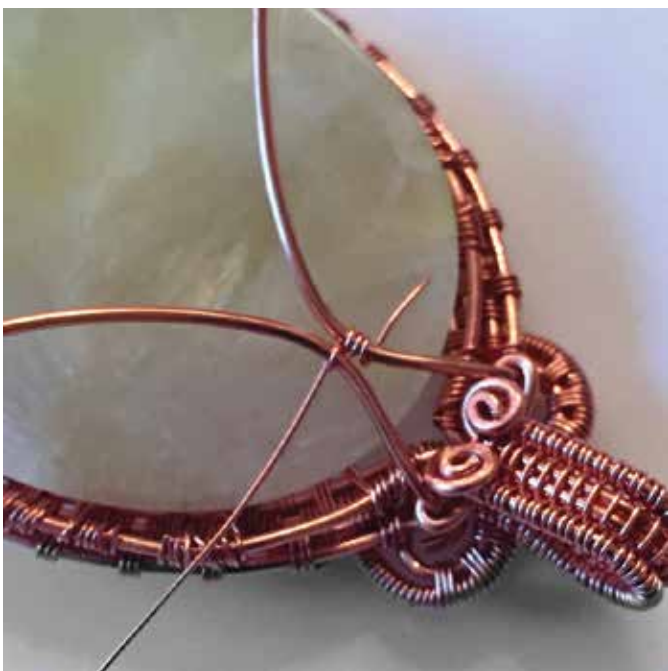
All we need now is to bind the stone into the pendant.

Place your stone into the back of your piece. the flat side of the cabochon will face the back of your pendant.



Step 62:

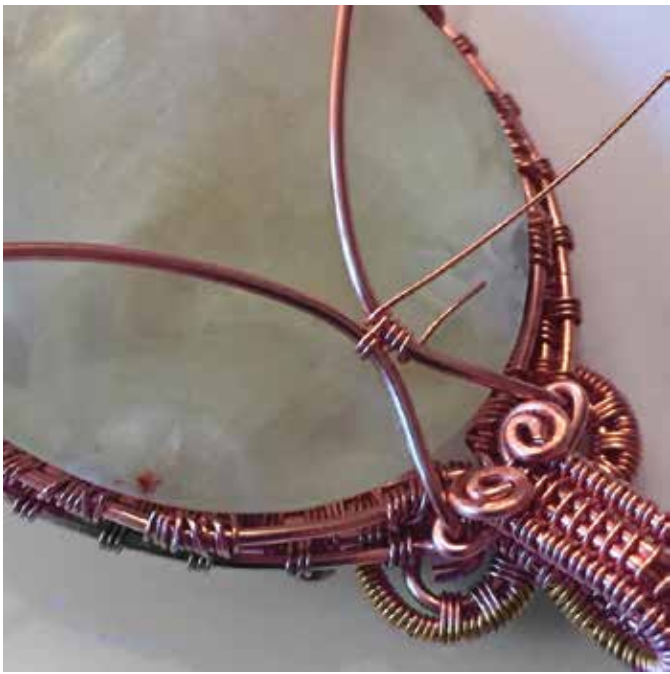
Wrap the weaving wire three times around one of the 20g backing wires.



Step 63:

Wrap the weaving wire one time around the other backing wire, bringing the two 20g wires firmly side by side.

When binding back wires, I always use a ladder weave, but if you prefer a butterfly weave, or just a coil, either would also work.



#### Step 64:

Wrap your weaving wire around your right backing wire one time, then bring the weaving wire back across the back to be wrapped again around the opposite backing wire.

Wrap your weaving wire one time around the left backing wire. Then continue the weaving wire around the front to the right base wire.



#### Step 65:

Continue circling the two backing wires with the weaving wire in this manner, wrapping the weaving wire one time around each backing wire as it wraps around to the other side.

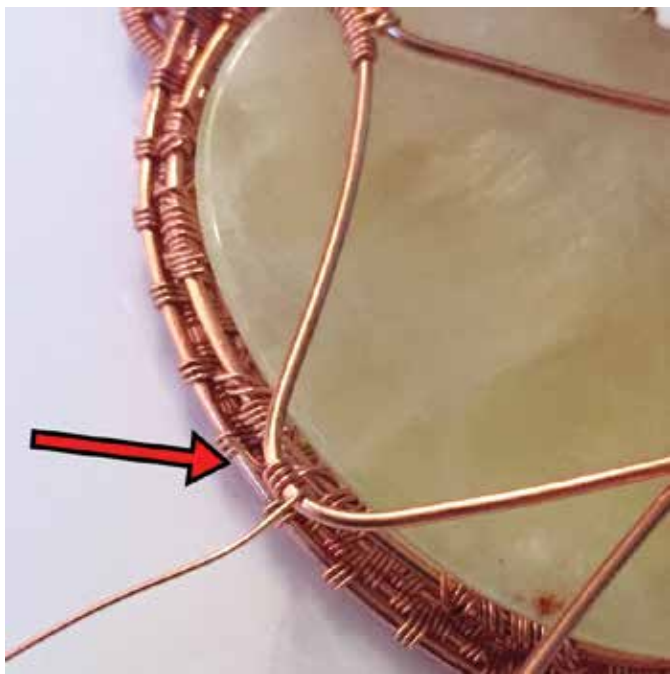
You only need to continue these rotations about 3 times. End by coiling 3 times around whichever backing wire you end on, then trim your weaving wire off.



#### Step 66:

Bend your two backing wires as shown here. Each wire should meet the boarder weave at a place where you can stitch into an opening in the weave.





#### Step 67:

Wrap your weaving wire 4-5 times around one of the backing wires, at the bend where the backing wire reaches an opening in the boarder weave.



#### Step 68:

Cut your weaving wire, leaving yourself a 6 inch (16cm) tail. Stitch your backing wire to your boarder weave, three times. Then wrap your weaving wire 4-5 times around your backing wire and trim off the ends of your weaving wire.

Repeat this binding on the other side in the opposite side of your boarder weave.



#### Step 69:

Bend your backing wires as shown. Bind the weaving wires together where they meet in the middle, as you did in Steps 62-65.





Step 70:

Curl up your backing wires as shown. You want the backing wires to touch two openings in the boarder weave. You are going to bind your backing wires to your boarder weave in these two spots to finish securing your cabochon.



Step 71:

After you have stitched your backing wires to your boarder frame, trim them evenly to about 3/8" (1cm).



Step 72:

With your round nosed pliers, curl in your backing wire ends, as shown. I usually push these curls into the base of the cabochon to keep the cabochon in place so it doesn't slip downward at all.



### Step 73:

Take a look at your finished pendant and adjust your tree if you need to, being careful not to scratch the surface of your stone.

Well done! Now give it a try with any size or shape cabochon you'd enjoy working with. Thank you for purchasing this tutorial and allowing me to continue to teach. Your support is very important to me!