Bluebell Pendant

Level: Advanced Intermediate
By: Nicole Hanna

Materials & Tools

1 Piece 300 cm 28 Gauge Round Wire
3 Pieces 25cm 22 Gauge Round Wire
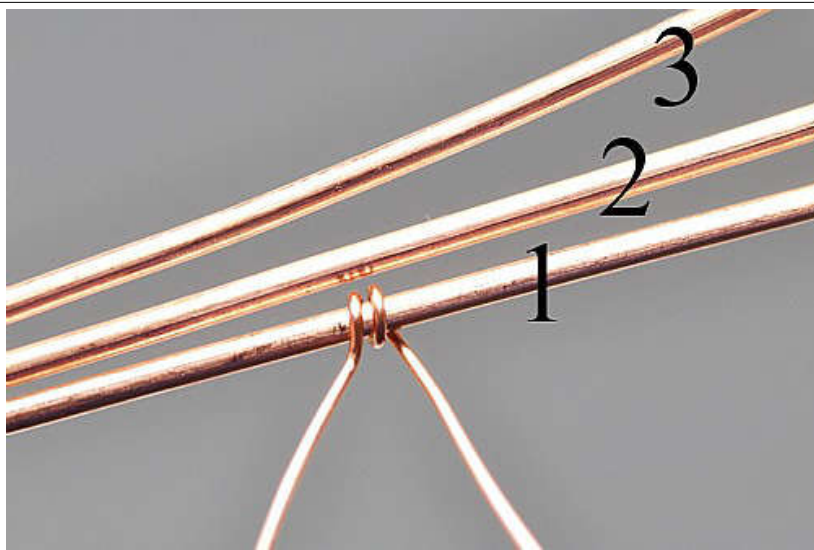1 Piece 10mm 16 Gauge Jump Ring
1 Piece 10 x 14mm Oval Bead
2 Pieces 4mm Round Beads
4 Pieces 3mm Round Beads
Needle Nose Pliers
Wire Cutters

*Measures 3.5cm in length.

Step 1

Cut three 25cm pieces of 22 gauge round wire. These will be referred to as the base wires. Hold these wires horizontally with ends even to one another. Mark or note 8cm from the left.

Cut one 300cm piece of 28 gauge round wire. This will be referred to as the weaving wire. Leave a small tail for leverage and, at the mark noted previously, coil once or twice around the bottom base wire, or base wire 1.
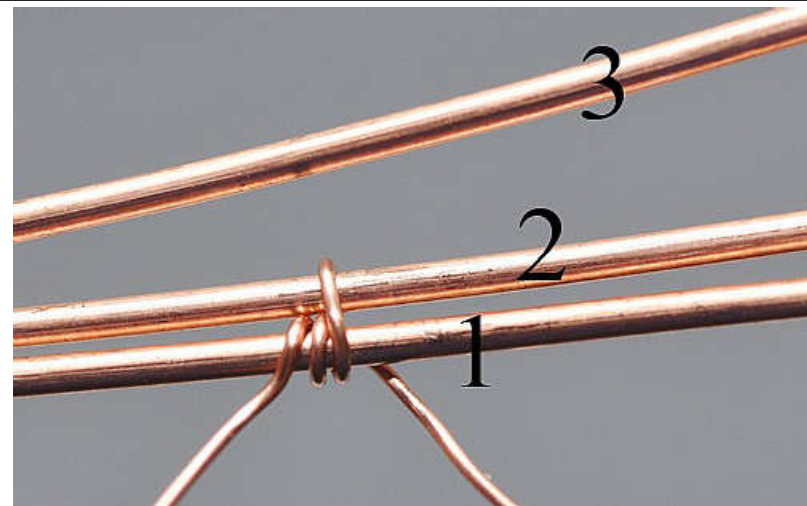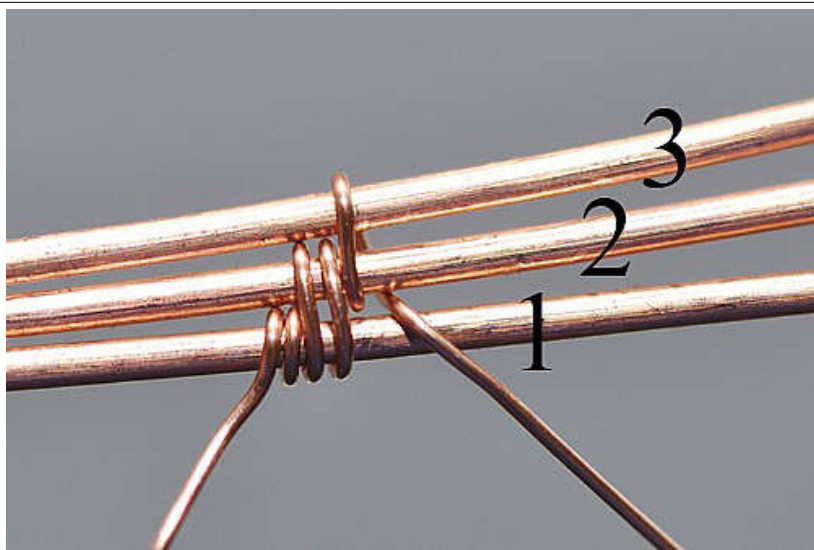
Step 2

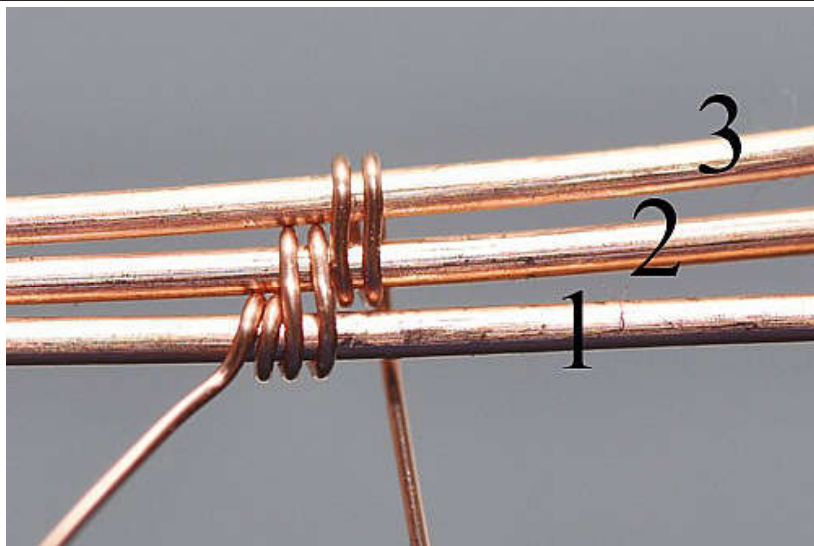Wrap the weaving wire over base wires 1 and 2, between 2 and 3, then behind 1 and 2.
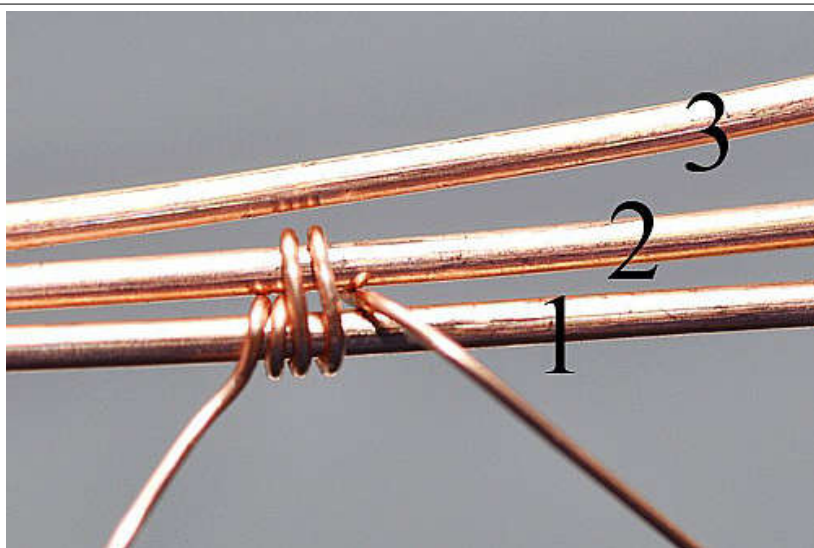
Step 3

Wrap the weaving wire over base wires 1 and 2, between 2 and 3, behind 2, then between 1 and 2.
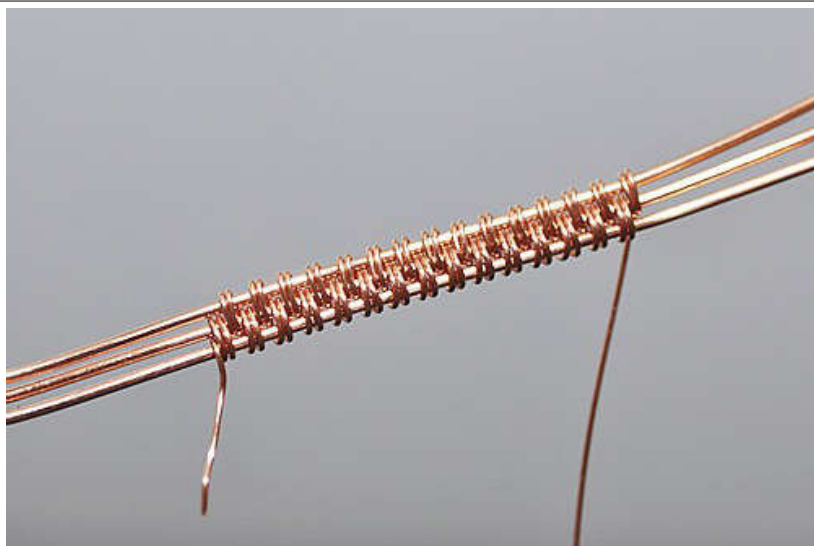
|	
	Step 4 Wrap the weaving wire over base wires 2 and 3, behind 2 and 3, then between 1 and 2.
	Step 5 Wrap the weaving wire over base wires 2 and 3, then behind all three base wires. Steps 2-5 completes one rotation of the 2/2 weave (two coils around two wires, twice).
	Step 6 Complete 15 rotations of the 2/2 weave. With wire cutters, trim the tail left at the beginning of the weave. Using needle nose pliers, pinch this trimmed end flush against the base wire around which it is wrapped. This will prevent the end from catching on clothing or scratching skin when worn. This pinch-and-trim process should be practiced whenever weaving wires are cut.
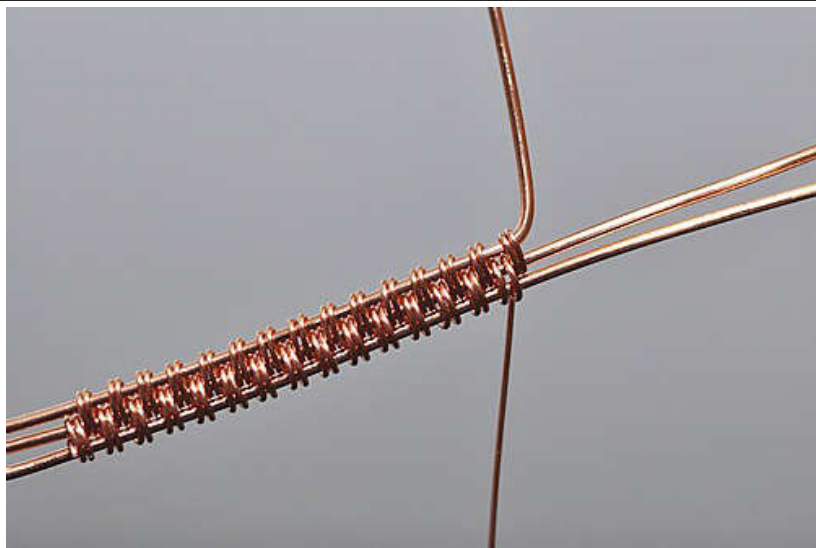
Step 7

Using fingernails, pinch the ends of the weave in towards one another. This compresses the weave, which adds stability to the design and creates a compact, finished final look. In this manner, compress any weave upon completion.

At the end of the weave, bend the top base wire, or base wire 3, upwards at a 90 degree angle.
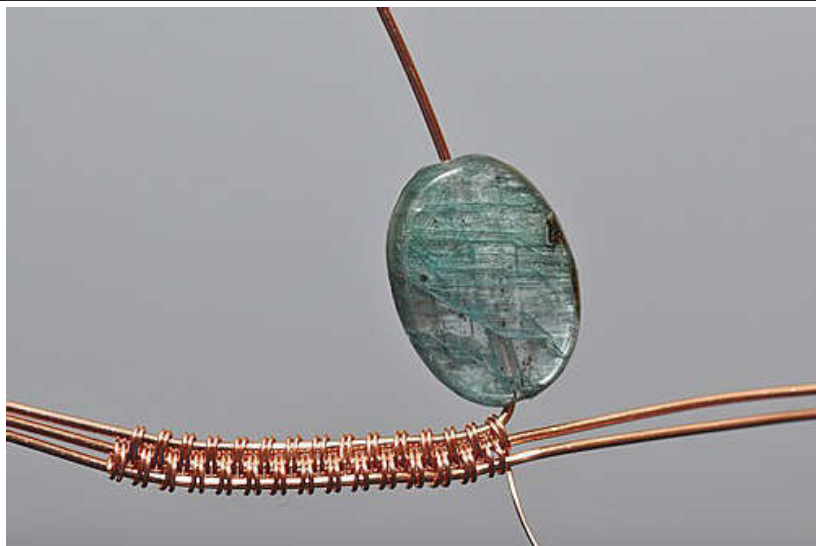
Step 8

Add a 10 x 14mm oval bead to the bent base wire. This wire will be referred to as the bead base wire.

Step 9

Curve the weave around one side of the bead.

Note how, for the purposes of this tutorial, the weave is pointing down and the wire ends are pointing up. There is now a bead base wire pointing left, three left base wires and two right base wires.
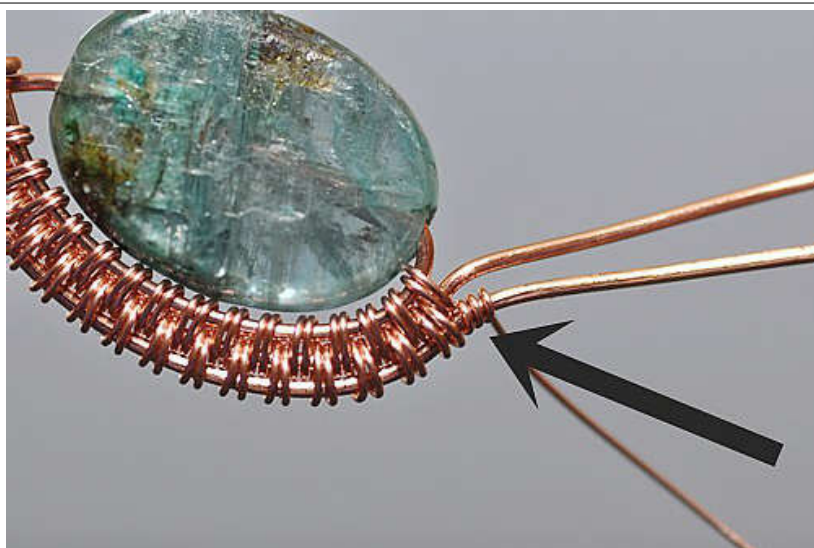
Step 10

Wrap the bead base wire around all three left base wires one complete rotation.

Step 11

Bend the three left base wires until they extend out to the left of the bead. The bead base wire should also be positioned in this manner, as indicated by the arrow.

Step 12

With the weaving wire, still attached, coil three times around the outer right base wire.

Step 13

Coil three times around both right based wires.

Steps 12-13 completes one rotation of the 3/3 weave (three one-wire coils, three two-wire coils).

Step 14

Complete 20.5 rotations of the 3/3 weave, beginning and ending this weave with the one-wire coils.

Coils around a single wire are tighter than those around multiple wires, thus acting as a stopper and preventing the weave from shifting or traveling along the base wires.

Step 15

Utilizing the 3/3 weave, create a tight counter-clockwise loop, just to the right of (and slightly over) the bead.
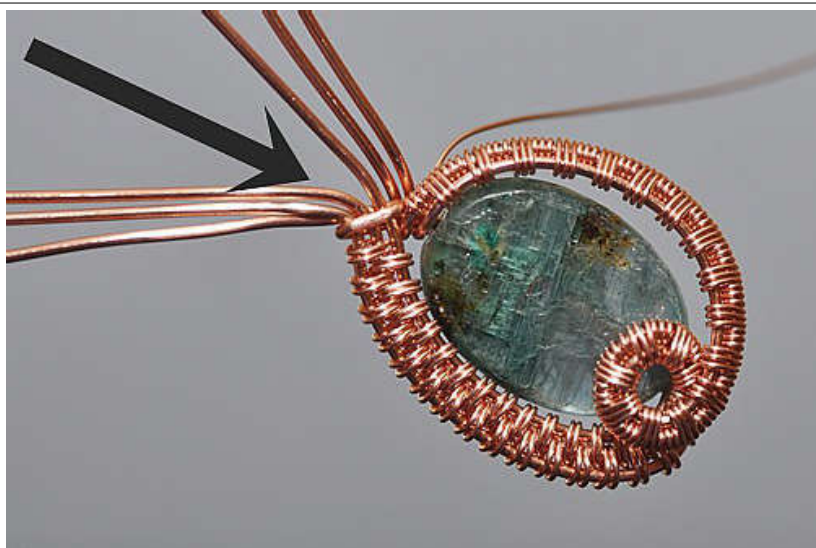
Step 16

Curve the 3/3 weave over the top of the bead.

The end of the weave should reach the bead base wire, as it exits the bead.

Step 17

Wrap the 3/3 weave base wires around the bead base wire, from front to back, as shown.
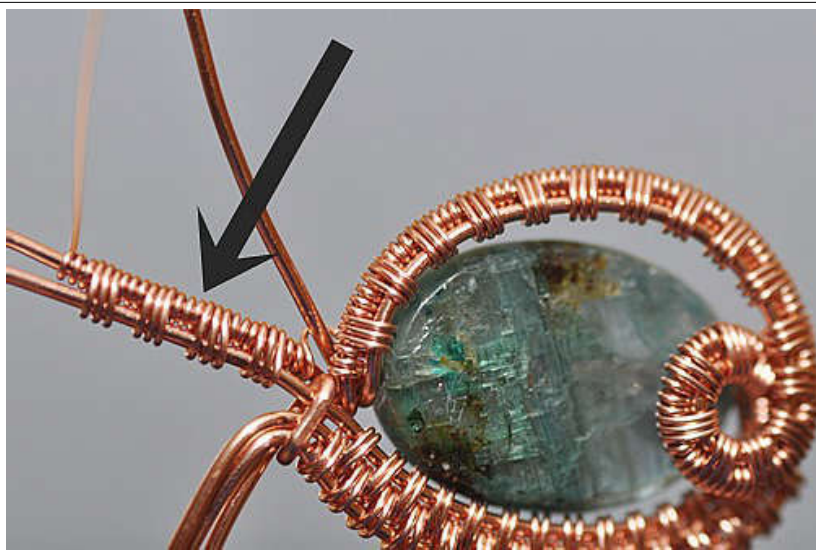

Step 18

All six base wires should be positioned pointing away from the left of the bead, but in a V formation as shown, with two sets of three base wires.

This is simply to help navigate between the wires in the following steps, and prevent tangles.

There is a top set of three base wires and bottom set of three base wires.

Step 19

Utilizing the top set of three base wires, complete the following:

Move the top most base wire out of the way.

Complete 4.5 rotations of a 3/3 weave on the remaining two top base wires, beginning and ending this weave with the one-wire coils.

Note how the one-wire coils are on the middle of these three base wires.
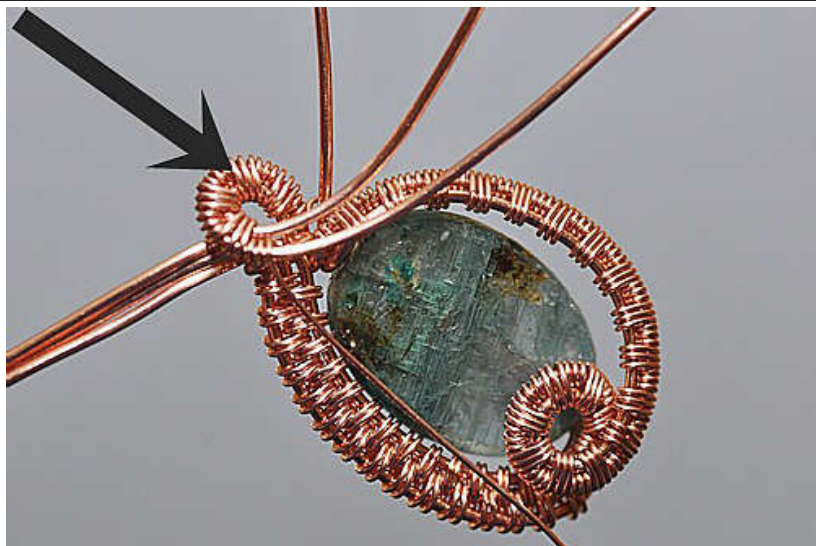
Step 20

Curl this 3/3 weave into a tight counter-clockwise loop.

This loop should be positioned directly to the left of the bead and cross slightly over the previous 3/3 weave.

Note how the one-wire coils are on the outside of this loop. This allows the two-wire coils to compress in on themselves while shaping, resulting in a smoother line.

Step 21

Curve the top bare base wire into a small counter-clockwise loop *inside* the loop of the 3/3 weave.

Step 22

Utilizing all three of these top base wires, complete 35 rotations of a 2/2 weave.

Trim the weaving wire and set aside for use in a later step.

Step 23

Curve the 2/2 weave over the top of the bead and 3/3 weave.

Continue to shape this weave around the loop of the 3/3 weave, resting on top of the bead, as indicated by the arrow.

Note... the 3/3 weave should always remain clearly visible. Do not overlap the two weaves (except at the beginning of the 2/2 weave). By showing all weaves, a sense of depth and texture are created.

Step 24

Curve the 2/2 weave wire ends around the 3/3 weave loop, at the right of the bead.

Run these 2/2 weave base wire ends between the bead and 3/3 weave, around the back of the bead base wire, to secure.

Step 25

Flip the piece to the back.

Leave enough base wire to grip the bead base wire, trim excess wire and discard.

Using needle nose pliers, grip the trimmed base wire ends and curl them completely around the bead base wire. Run a finger along the area to assure no wire ends can be felt. Adjust as necessary.
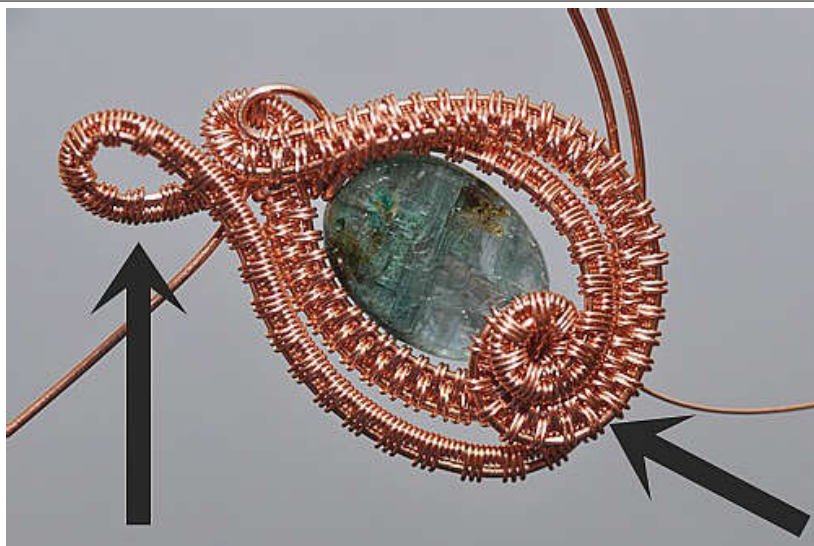

Step 26

Flip the piece back to the front.

Using the weaving wire, set aside in Step 22, complete 20 rotations of a 3/3 weave, utilizing the two top (of the remaining three) base wires.

Note that the one-wire coils are on the middle of these three remaining base wires.

Trim the weaving wire and set aside for use in a later step.

Step 27

With the 3/3 weave, create a large, tall clockwise loop (about 7mm in size), next to the loop created in Steps 20-21.

Continue to curve this weave around the bottom of the bead and 2/2 weave (established in Steps 2-6). Remember not to layer the weaves. Both weaves should be visible.

The 3/3 weave should end (as indicated by the arrow) behind the 2/2 and 3/3 weave loops, to the right of the bead.

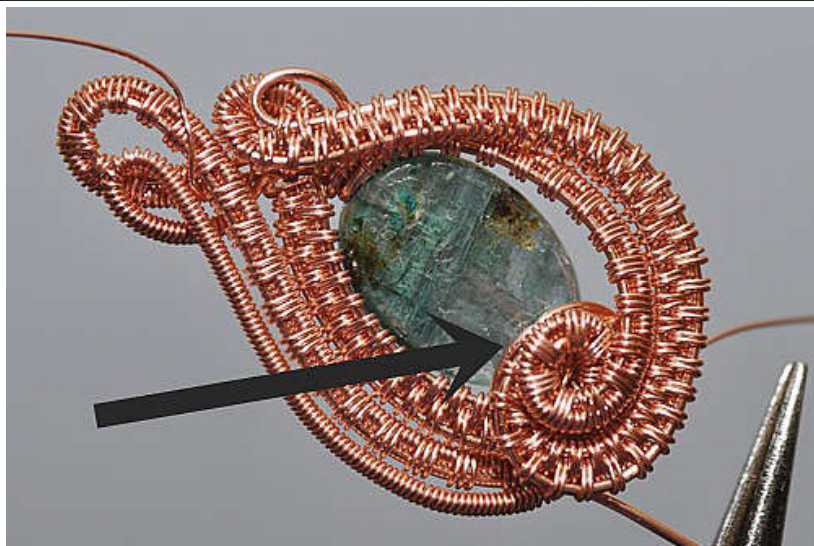|	
	Step 28 From back to front, wrap the 3/3 weave wire ends around the 2/2 and 3/3 weave loops, at the right of the bead. Note how these wire ends are tucked behind the two weaves. They should not be visible (or hardly visible). Push the wire ends, from front to back, between the bead and 2/2 weave (created in Steps 2-6). This will secure the ends around the bead base wire.
	Step 29 Flip the piece to the back. Leaving a tail long enough to completely grip the bead base wire, trim excess wire from the 3/3 weave wire ends and discard. Using needle nose pliers, pinch the trimmed 3/3 weave wire ends and curl them around the bead base wire to secure.
	Step 30 Flip the piece back to the front. Using the weaving wire set aside in Step 26, leave a 10cm tail and coil about 2 cm (to start), on the remaining left base wire.

|	
	Step 31 Create a clockwise loop inside the previous 3/3 weave loop (Step 27). Following the lines of the 3/3 weave, curve the coiled wire along the bottom of the bead, from left to right. Add or subtract coils as necessary until they end at the bead base wire, to the right of the bead.
	Step 32 Secure the coiled base wire end around the bead base wire, as previously described in Steps 27-29. Discard excess base wire.
	Step 33 Run both tails of the weaving wire from back to front. The left tail should be between the 3/3 and 2/2 weave loops, and the right tail is best positioned on top of the 2/2 and 3/3 weave loops. However, the exact position is per personal preference and aesthetics and is entirely malleable.

Step 34

Add a 4mm round bead to the right weaving wire tail. Settle this bead wherever it naturally rests best. In this case, it seemed to rest best between the two right loops and the weaves traveling along the top of the bead.
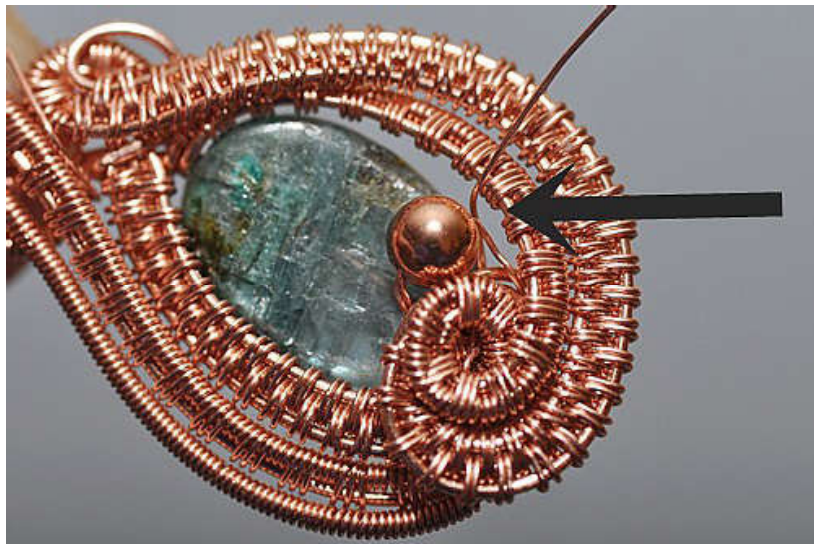
Step 35

Secure the bead to the bead base wire, or to any nearby, convenient weave. Run the weaving wire through the bead a second time, to secure.
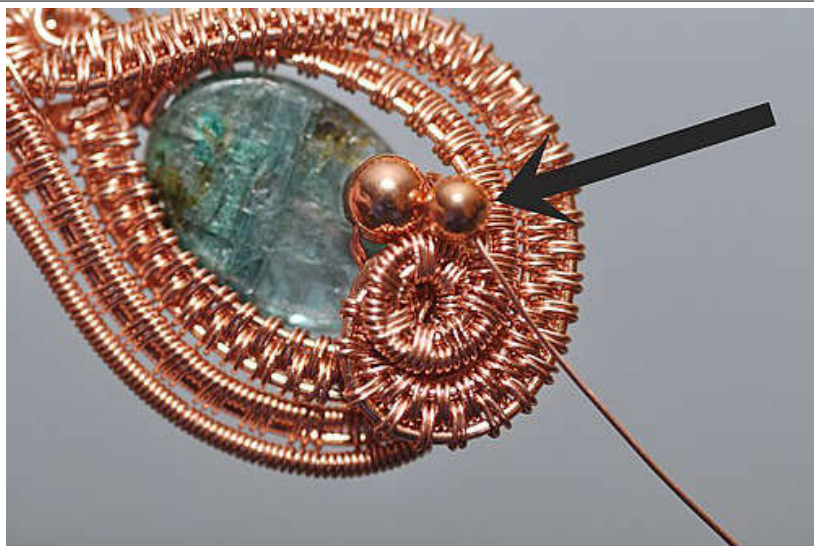
Step 36

Add a 3mm round bead to the weaving wire and settle this bead wherever it naturally rests best. Secure as previously explained with the 4mm bead. The weaving wire can be carried around the bead base wire, or around a nearby weave.

Step 37

Add another 3mm round bead to the right weaving wire tail. Settle this bead wherever it bests rests naturally. Secure as explained with the previous two beads.

To finish, coil the weaving wire three times around either the bead base wire or around the weaving wires as they exit one of the beads.

Step 38

Repeat steps 34-37 with the left weaving wire tail, using one more 4mm round bead and two more 3mm round beads.

TIP: To prevent the coiled wire from moving, anchor it at this point, by running the weaving wire through one of the beads, under the 3/3 weave, around the coiled wire, back under the 3/3 weave and through the bead a second time.

Step 39

Add a 10mm 16 gauge jump ring to the left 3/3 weave loop.

FINISHED!

Oxidize the piece with a Liver of Sulfur solution to bring out the detail, showcase the textures and add depth to the finished look.

Skip the beads for a classic, simplified look.

Instead of a jump ring for a pendant bail, add a french ear wire to the tall 3/3 weave loop. HINT: When creating earrings, it is best to complete both earrings, step by step, at the same time. This will allow you to measure and gauge wire placements, in order to best mirror the design.

Most importantly, have fun and happy weaving!

Nicole