

DOUBLE STONE WOVEN RING TUTORIAL



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Tutorial: Double Stone Woven Ring

Created by Abby Hook
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This ring makes a bold statement. Smooth swirls of wire frame the stones, holding them firmly in place. These swirls are echoed in the center of the ring and accented with two spirals either side. The geometric woven shank adds textural contrast, whilst making it very strong.

This lesson covers many techniques, including:

- Forming a robust ring shank, that is easy to size accurately.
- Forming a Geometric Weave
- Securely setting briolettes



The detail measures 1" tall (from the top of each stone) and 3/4" wide. The ring in the tutorial is UK size M and US size 6. The wire measurements given are suitable for a ring up to UK size O US size 7.

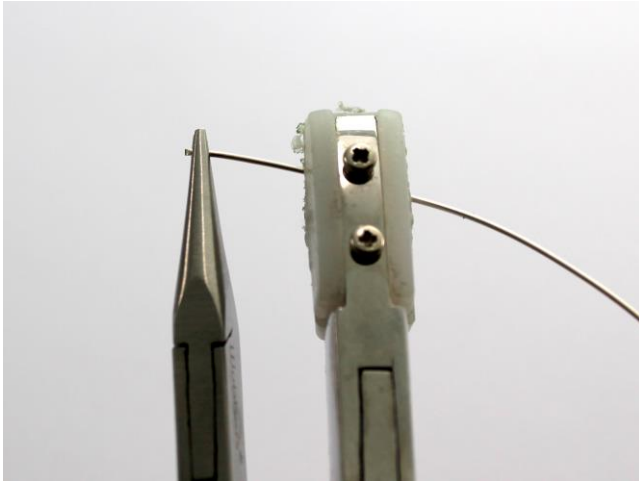
Materials:

- 20" 18 gauge soft round wire
- 9" 20 gauge soft round wire
- 50" 28 gauge soft round wire
- 2 x flat pear or heart briolette's 8 – 9mm



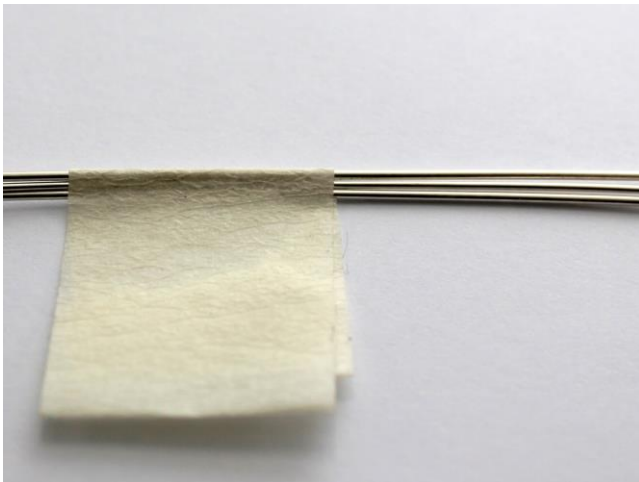
Tools:

- Round nose pliers
- Chain nose pliers
- Flat nose pliers
- Flush cutters
- Nylon Jaw pliers
- Sized ring mandrel
- Masking/decorators tape
- Tape measure
- Sanding pads – 3 grits (180, 220, 280)

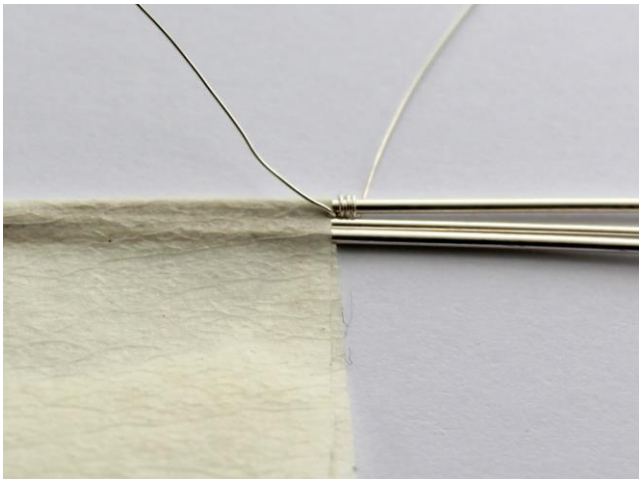
**Step 1: Prepare the structure wires**

Cut 2 x 10" lengths of 18 gauge wire and 1 x 9" length of 20 gauge wire.

Straighten each piece by holding one end in the chain nose pliers and pulling the length through the jaws of the nylon jaw pliers a couple of times.

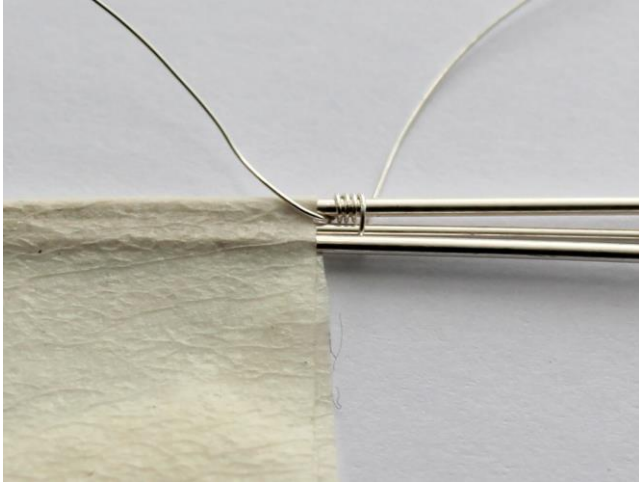


Tape the 3 wires together, 4" along the 18 gauge and 3 1/2" along the 20 gauge, with the 20 gauge in the centre, so that the wires sit parallel to each other.

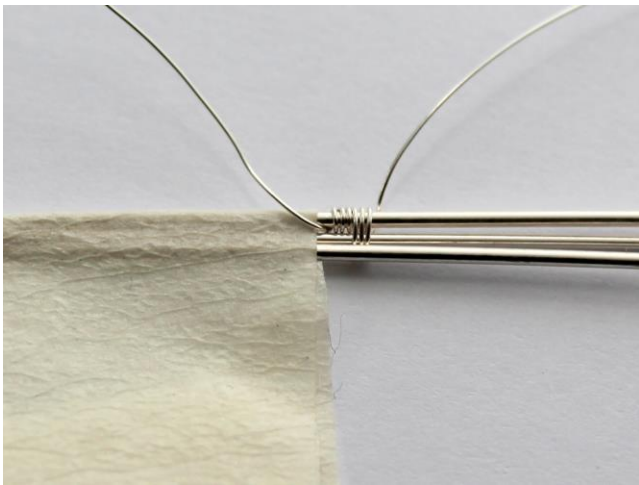
**Step 2: Prepare to weave**

The shank of the ring is bound together using a geometric weave, making it very strong and also comfortable to wear. As this weave is against the skin, it is important that it is well formed, so that there are no 'pokey bits' to make it uncomfortable.

Cut a 50" length of 28 gauge wire. Attach it to the top 18 gauge wire, immediately after the masking tape (on the long length of wire), by coiling 3 times, leaving a 4" tail (which will be used to attach one of the briolettes later).

**Step 3: Start to weave**

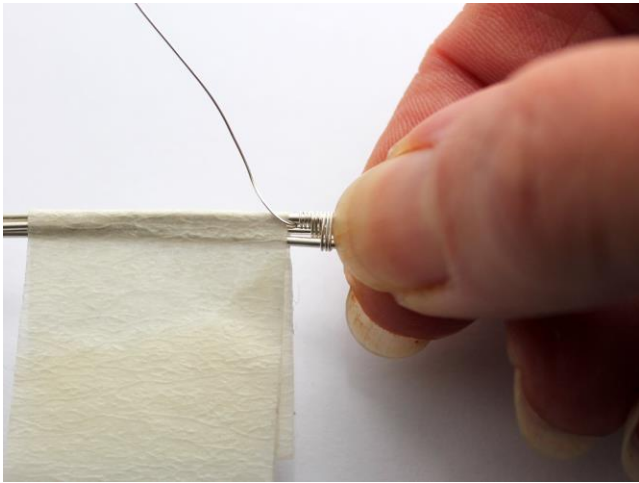
Bring the weaving wire over the top of the wires, and pass it between the 20 gauge (in the centre) and the bottom 18 gauge wires. Bring it back to the top, binding the top 2 wires together.



Repeat twice more, so that you have 3 binds in total.

**Step 4: Secure the three wires together**

Bring the weaving wire over all 3 wires, securing them together. Repeat twice more, so that there are 3 binds in total.



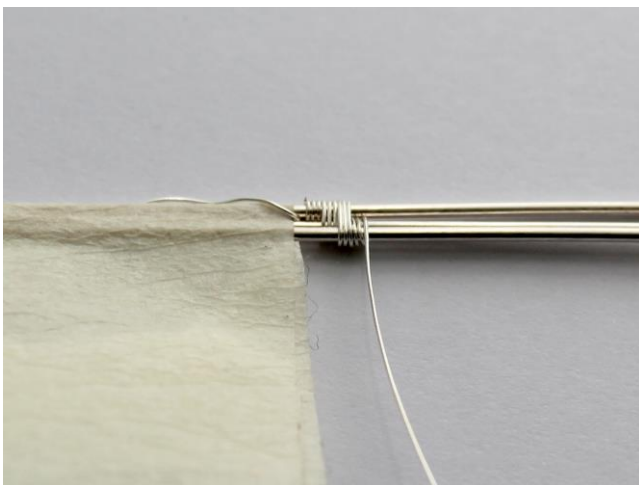
Tip: - To ensure a neat, tight weave, keep the weaving wire at a 90° angle to the structure wires at all times, this will keep the binds straight.

Slide the bindings along the structure wires with your thumb nail, to keep them tightly together.



Step 5: Bind the bottom two wires together

Pass the weaving wire between the central 20 gauge wire and top 18 gauge wire, bringing it down over the face of the 20 gauge wire and bottom 18 gauge wire.



Bind twice more, so that there are 3 passes of wire on the front.



Step 6: Coil

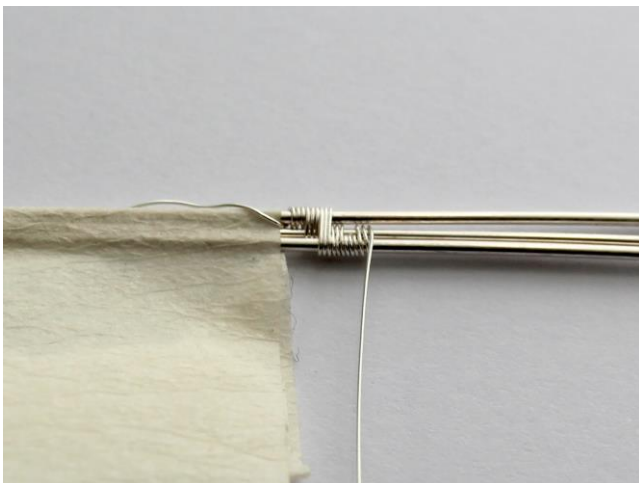
Pass the weaving wire between the 20 gauge and bottom 18 gauge wires, coiling the bottom 18 gauge wire 3 times.

Slide the coils along the structure wire, pushing the binds closer together and securing them in place.



Step 7: Complete the geometric pattern

Pass the weaving wire between the 20 gauge wire and top 18 gauge wire, bringing it down over the front of the 20 gauge and bottom 18 gauge wires.



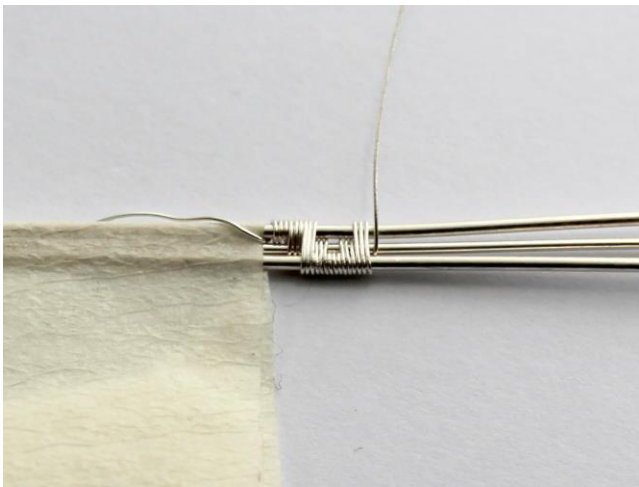
Repeat twice more, so that you have 3 binds in total over the front of the structure wires.

Notice the pattern beginning to form.

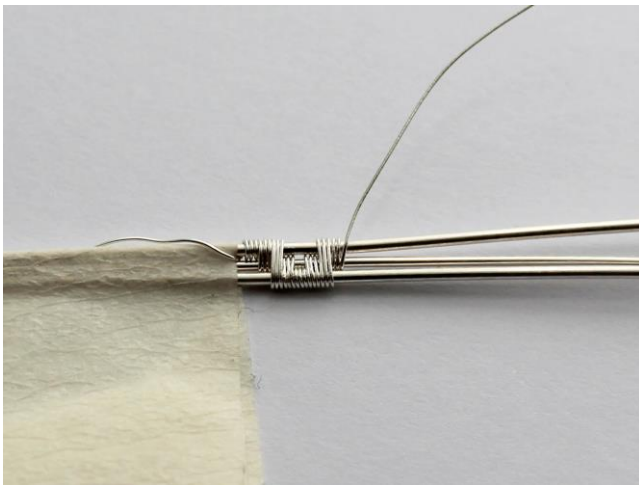
**Step 8: Bind the 3 structure wires**

Secure the 3 structure wires together again, by binding them together 3 times.

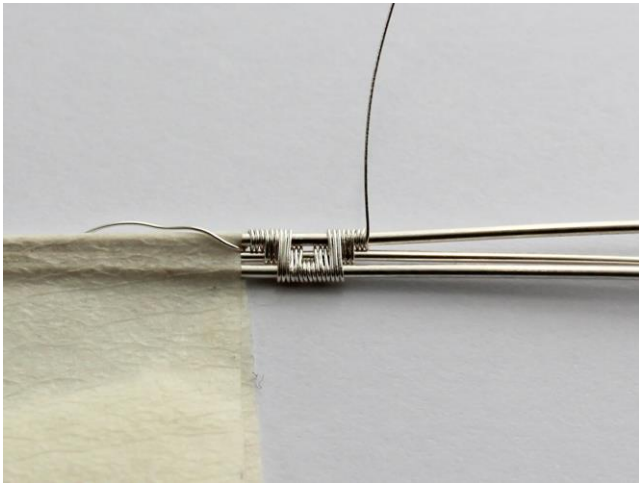
Tip: - Take care not to pull the weaving wires too tight, as this will cause the structure wires to bunch up. Be mindful of the placement of the wire, positioning each pass carefully, rather than pulling, so that they sit neatly next to each other and are flat.

**Step 9: Take the weaving wire back to the top**

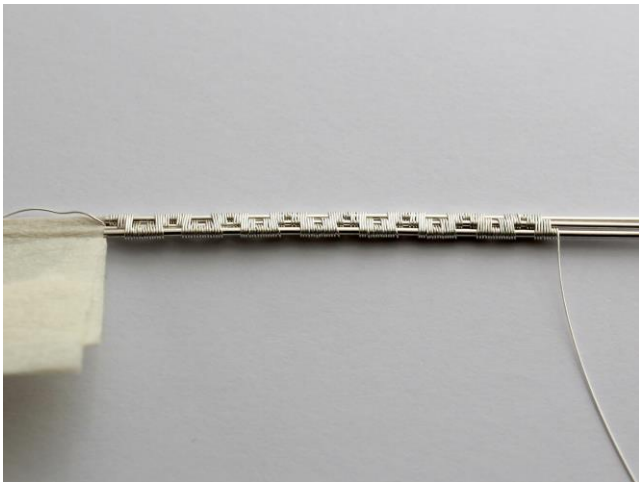
Pass the weaving wire between the bottom 18 gauge wire and the 20 gauge wire, taking it up and over the front of the 20 gauge and top 18 gauge wires.



Repeat, so that you have 3 passes over the front of the top 2 wires in total.



Coil the top 18 gauge wire 3 times, securing the weave in place.

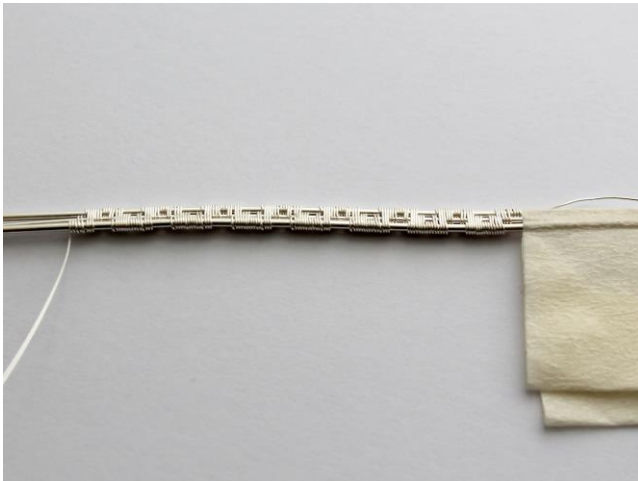


Step 10: Repeat

Follow steps 3 – 9 until you have woven 2 1/8" in total. Finishing on the bottom 18 gauge wire, you should have at least 5" 28 gauge wire left.



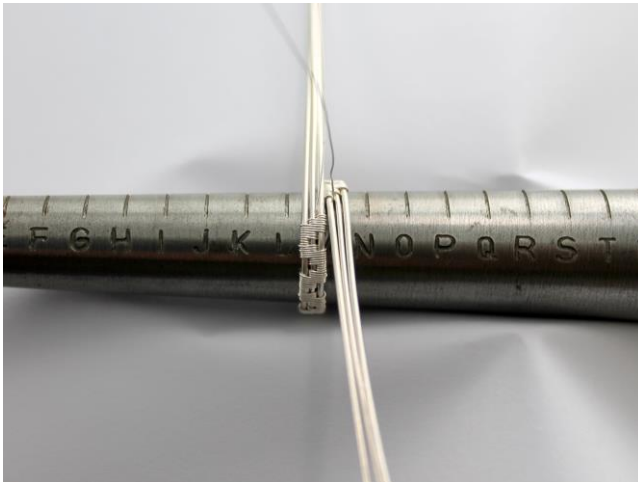
Carefully flatten the weave with the nylon jaw pliers, securing it in place.



Back view

Notice how the pattern on the back of the wires is different from the front.

Remove the tape.

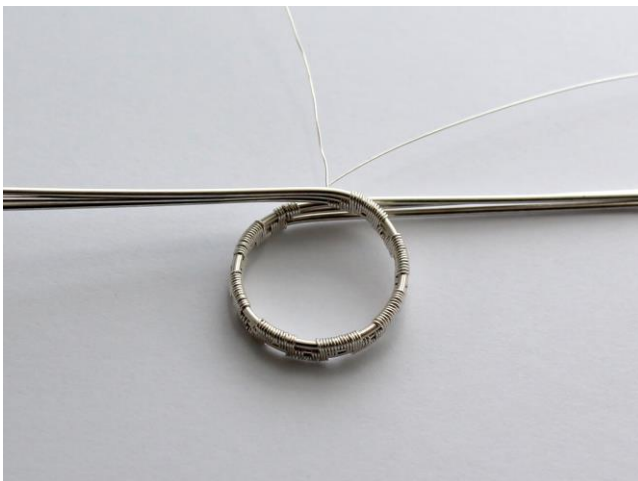


Step 11: Shape the ring shank

Taking care to ensure the correct side of the weaving is facing outwards. Shape the woven section of the structure wires around the ring mandrel on UK size M US size 6. The right hand wires should sit below the left and all 6 wires should sit neatly next to each other.

To do this, place the centre of the weave against the bottom of the mandrel, at the desired size. Grasp the unwoven wires either side and pull around the mandrel.

Tip: - If you struggle to achieve a snug fit, slide the shank down the mandrel a couple of sizes and tighten the ring, then slide it back to your desired ring size.



Note:- The measurements given in this tutorial are suitable for ring sizes up to UK size O US size 7, For sizes larger than this, add an extra 1/8" to each structure wire and 2 1/2" to the weaving wire for every full UK size increase or half US size increase.

Tip: - If you are using a tapered ring mandrel, make sure that you remove the shank from the mandrel and re-insert it the other way round, so that both sides of the shank are shaped to the same size, ensuring the shank is not tapered.

**Step 12: Begin to secure the shank together**

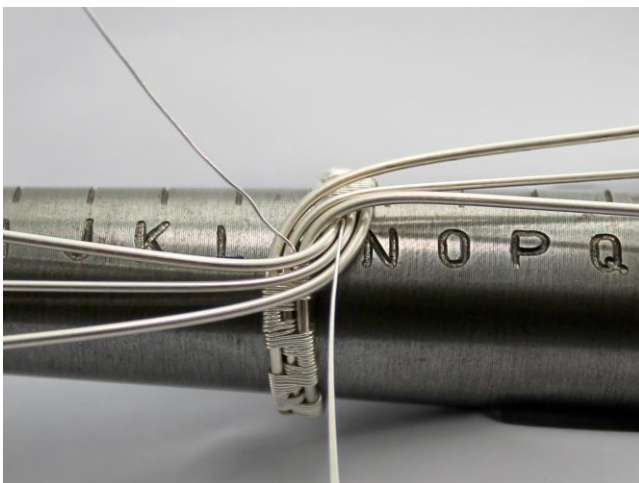
Now that the shape of the shank is formed, it needs to be secured together. This is done with a simple twist of the wires, which also forms part of the central detail of the ring.

With the shank on the ring mandrel at the desired size. Hold either side of the ring in position with your less dominant hand, carefully bend the 18 gauge wire closest to the shank on the left 90° to the right, so that it sits over the top of the shank, by pulling the end of the wire round with your dominant hand, giving you a smooth curve.



Repeat on the 18 gauge wire on the opposite side, creating a crossover of the wires in the centre of the ring.

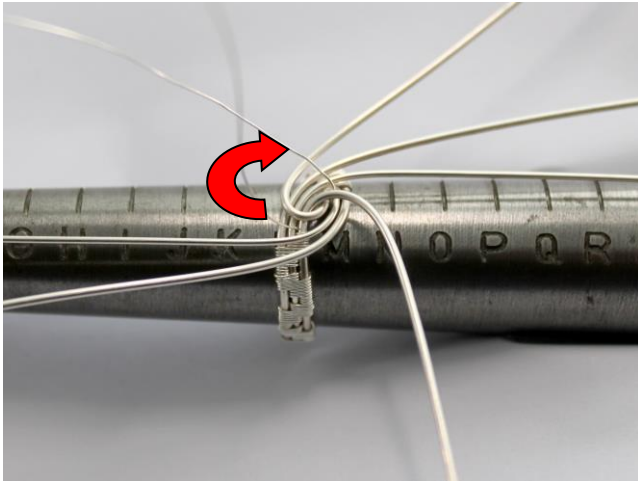
Ensure the wires sit flat against the shank.

**Step 13: Shape all the structure wires**

Repeat on the other 4 structure wires, taking care that they all sit neatly next to each other and flat against the shank.

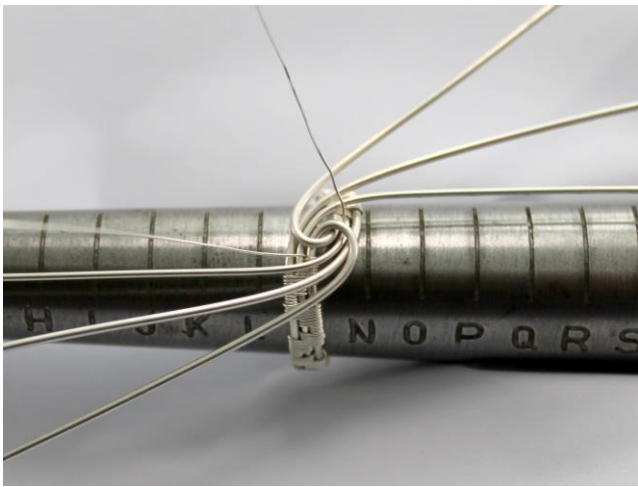
Notice the neat twist you have now formed in the centre.

Tip: - If using a tapered mandrel, be sure to re-position the shank, so that it is shaped evenly.

**Step 14: Lock the wires in position**

To ensure a solid structure and to add an extra detail, one wire from either side is moved round to the group of wires on the other side.

Move the top 18 gauge wire on the left round to the group of wire on the right, so that it overlaps the existing crossover.



Repeat on the other side.

Push the wires flat against the shank.

**Step 15: Final positioning**

Pull each wire round by 30° each, tightening the twist in the centre, so that the 18 gauge wire with the extra twist is at a 90° angle to the shank. There should be approximately a 20° gap between the wires.

Notice how strong and rigid the shank is now.

In order to attach the briolettes, the 28 gauge wires need to be in the correct position. Remove the ring from the mandrel, bring one of the 28 gauge wires to the inside of the corresponding 20 gauge wires and coil 3 times. Repeat on the other side.

**Step 16: Attach the briolettes**

Thread a briolette onto one of the 28 gauge wires. Position it so that it sits on top of the unwoven wires, with the point of the stone towards the central twist. Coil the outer 18 gauge wire 3 times to secure.



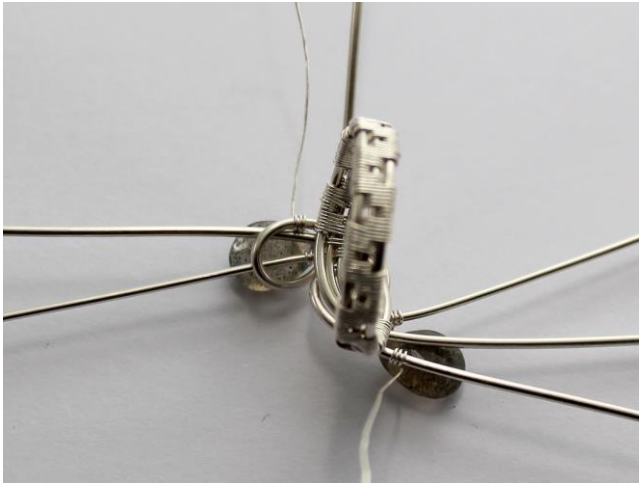
Repeat on the other side.

Notice how the stones are still able to move.

**Step 17: Begin to secure the stone in position**

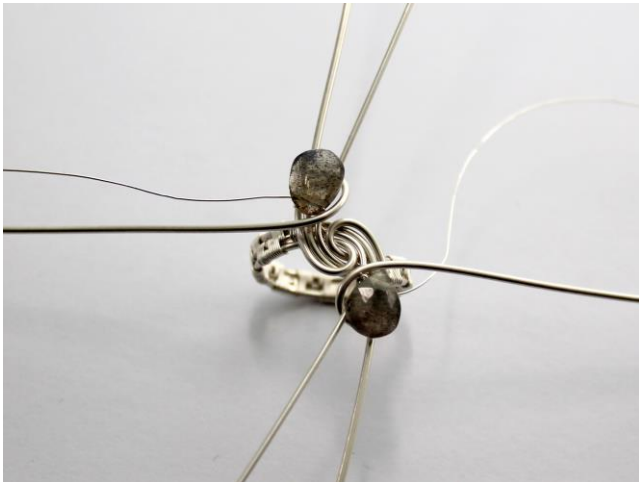
Now that the stones are attached, they need to be held firmly in place. The first wire to be shaped supports the back of the stone and other wires.

Hold the shank in your less dominant hand and grasp the top 18 gauge wire on the left with thumb and forefinger of your dominant hand.

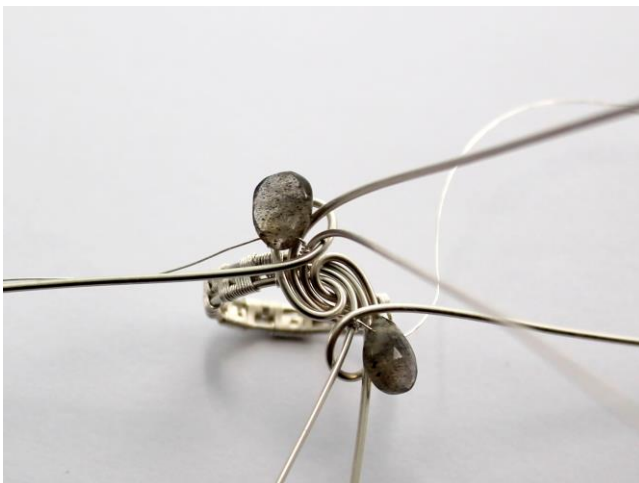


Back View

Gently pull the wire round to the right, underneath the other 2 wires, bringing it round to the front, so that it crosses underneath the point of the stone and sits just above the central twist, at 180° to the shank.



Turn the ring round and repeat on the other stone, ensuring both sides are even.



Step 18: Secure the front of the stone

Now that the back is supported, the front face of the stone needs to be held in place.

Carefully pull the 2 structure wires on the right (that have not yet been shaped) upwards by 90°.

Notice how this pulls the stone out of position slightly.

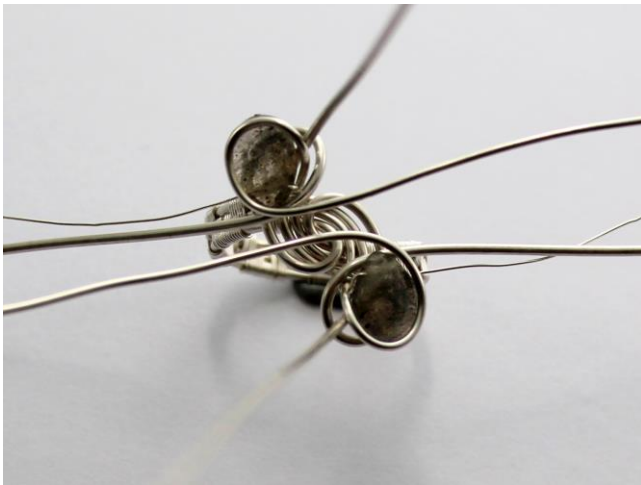
Repeat on the other stone, so that both sides are the same.



Grasp one of the stones between thumb and forefinger of your less dominant hand.



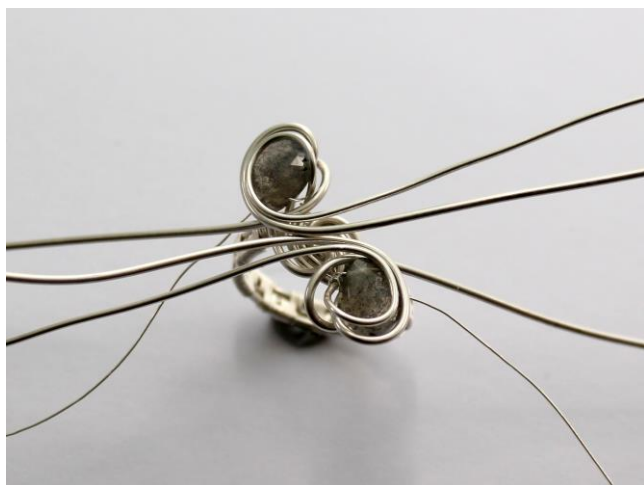
Pull the 20 gauge wire against the straight edge of the stone and shape it around its front face, so that the wire sits on top of the stone and the straight wire is parallel to the shank.



Push the wire against the stone.

Notice how the stone is now held in position.

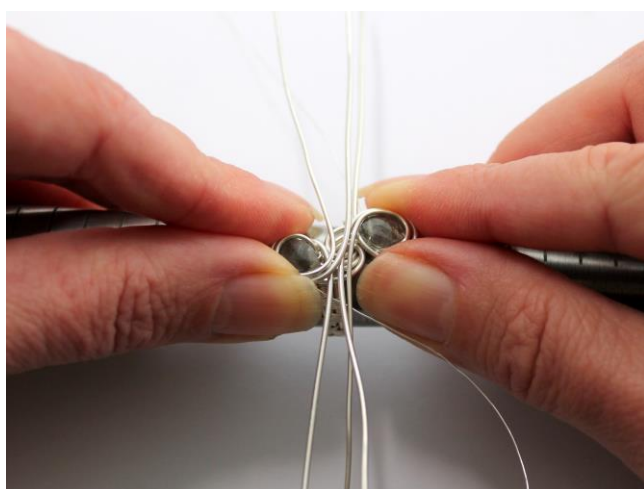
Repeat on the other side.

**Step 19: Shape the final wire**

The third wire is used to frame the stone, to protect its outer edge.

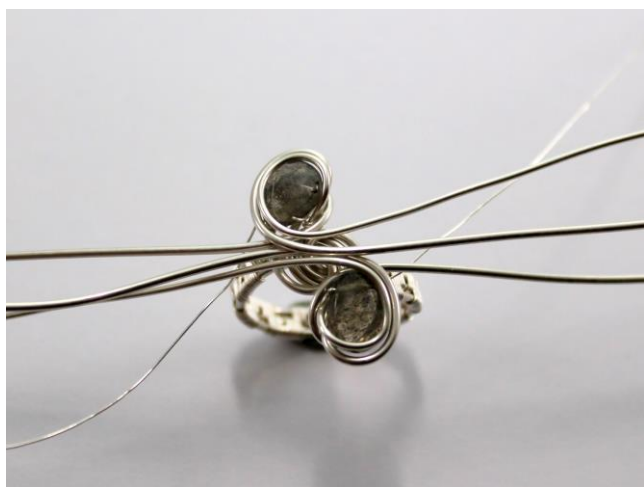
In the same way as before, shape the 18 gauge wire around the outside edge of the stone, so that it sits neatly next to the 20 gauge wire.

Repeat on the other side.

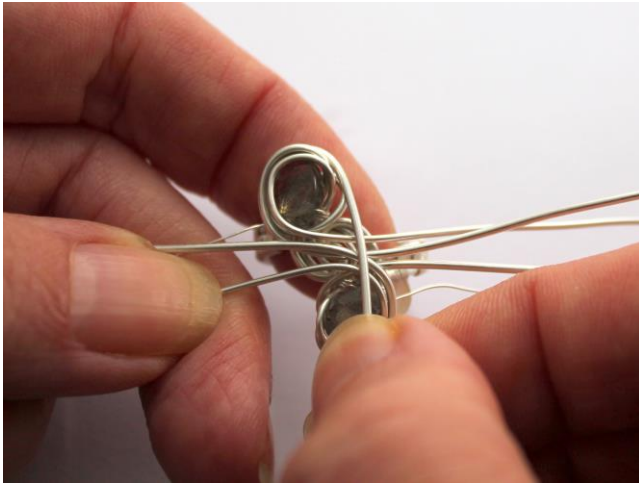
**Step 20: Adjust the positioning**

Return the ring to the mandrel. Check that you have not distorted the shape of the shank while positioning the wires.

Straighten up the position of the stones, by carefully pushing them into a more central position with your thumb and forefingers. Once you are happy with them, push the wires against the mandrel, flattening them into position.



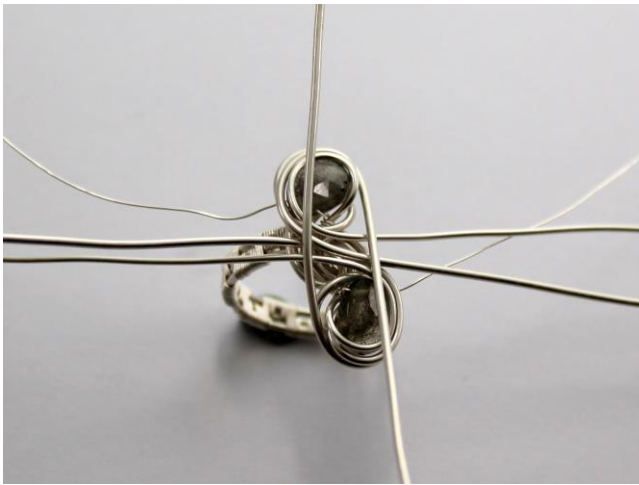
Notice how firmly held the stones are now.

**Step 21: Prepare to secure the wires**

Now that the stones are held in place, the wires need to be secured in position.

Firstly the 18 gauge wire that is pointing to the left, needs to be brought round to the same side of the stone as the other wires.

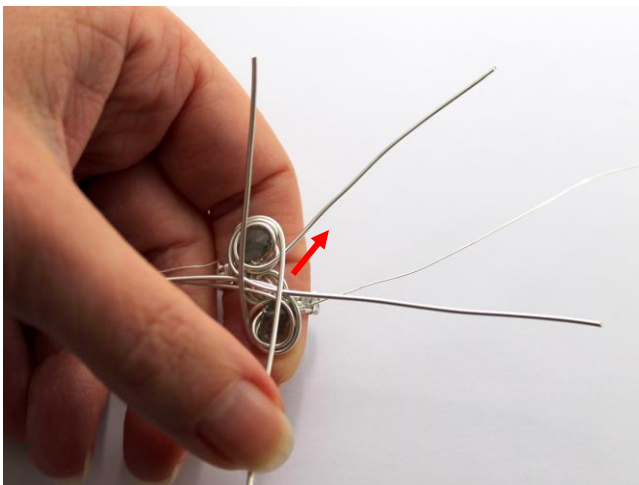
In the same way as before, shape it around the edge of the stone, so that it sits below the 20 and 18 gauge wires already shaped around the front of the stone.



Bring it all the way round the stone, so that it sits at a 90° angle to the shank, pointing straight downwards from the stone, sitting on top of the other wires.

Repeat on the other side.

Notice the smooth sweeps of the 3 wires, kissing the edge of the stone.

**Step 22: Secure the 20 gauge wire**

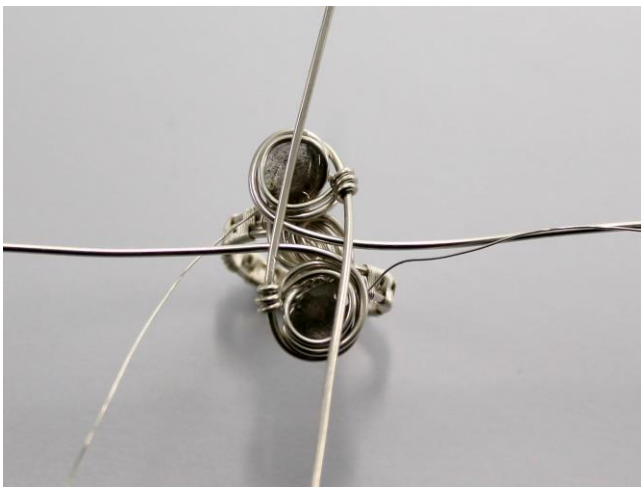
Bring the 20 gauge wire around the bottom edge of the stone, so that it sits underneath the 18 gauge wire that you just shaped.



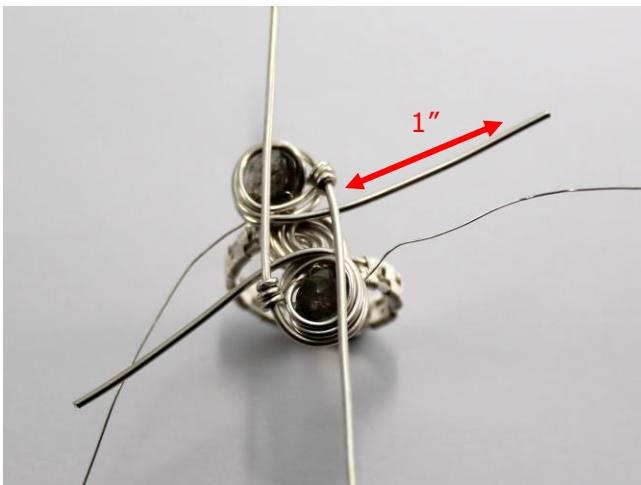
Coil this wire 3 times.

Tip: - You may need to use the chain nose pliers to help you tighten the coils around the 18 gauge wire, so that you do not pull the other wires out of line. To do this, position the jaws of the pliers over the coil, grasping gently and slide the jaws around the wire, in the direction of the coil, pushing the wire into place.

Trim and tuck the end in, so that it is on the inside of the 18 gauge wire.

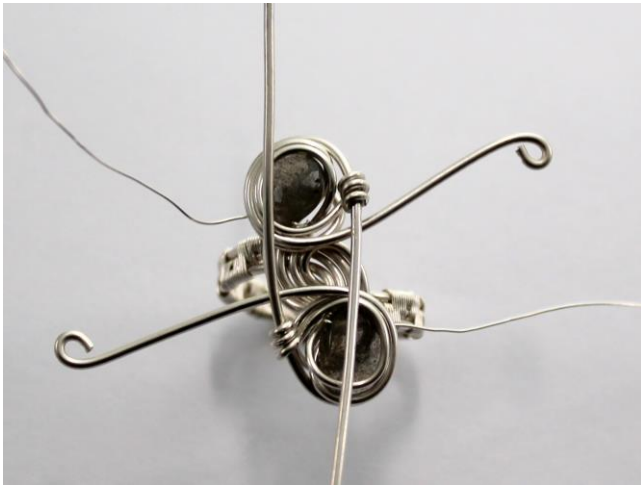


Repeat on the other side.

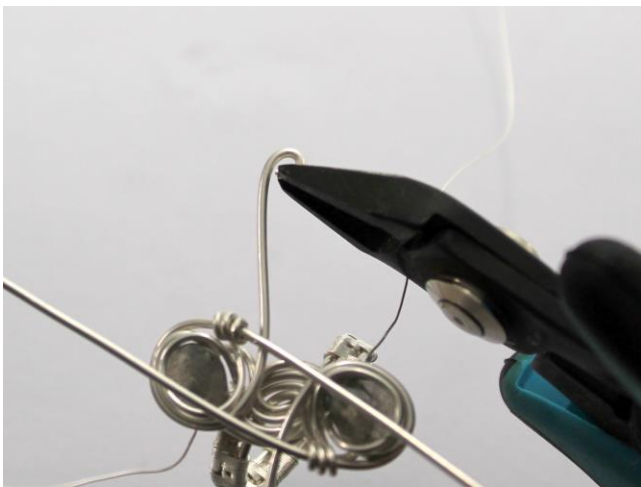


Step 23: Form the first 2 spirals

Working the 2 x 18 gauge wires that sit parallel to the shank first. Trim them so that they measure 1" from the edge of the central swirl detail.



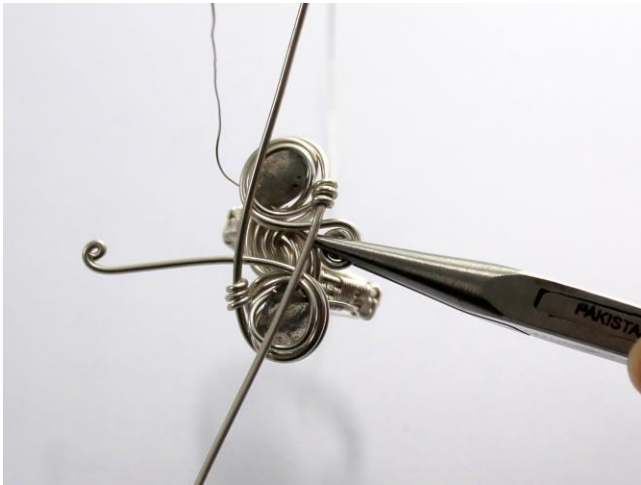
Form a loop, towards the shank, in each end.



Make the loop round, by holding the flush cutters, so that the jaw is at a 90° angle to the straight wire, snip the end off.



Close the loop again with the round nose pliers. Notice how it is now round. Make the loop as small as possible, by squeezing it closed with the chain nose pliers.



Form a spiral, by grasping the loop flat in the chain nose pliers and turning gradually, using your finger to guide the wire into place and repositioning the pliers often.



Repeat on the other side.



Step 24: Spiral the final 2 wires

Take the straight 18 gauge wire over and around the spiralled wire so that it points straight up. Take care not to pull the spiralled wire out of line. Trim to 1" from the edge of the spiral.

Repeat on the other side.



Form loops towards the stone.



Complete the spiral as before.



Step 25: Position the spirals

To lock everything into place securely, the spirals need a final positioning.

Carefully push the first 2 spirals that were formed under the central swirly detail, so that their inner edge is under the outer wire of the swirl.



Grasp one of the remaining spirals with the chain nose pliers and position it so that it sits on top of the coils, taking care not to pull the wires out of line.



Repeat on the other side, making sure that both sides are the same.



Step 26: Secure the 28 gauge wires

Pass one of the 28 gauge wires back through the stone and coil the nearest thick wire 3 times to secure.

Trim the wire so that the end of the 28 gauge wire is hidden on the inside of the thick wire. Tuck the end in with the chain nose pliers.



Note: - If the drill holes in your stone do not allow for a second pass of the wire, coil the wire that the 28 gauge wire is already attached to a couple of times, tri and tuck in.

Ensure the wire ends are hidden, so that they don't get caught.



Step 27: Final step

Carefully flatten the wirework with the nylon jaw pliers. Take great care, so that you do not crack the stones.



Return the ring to the mandrel and check everything is straight, adjust if necessary.

I hope you enjoyed this tutorial.
For comments or questions, please go to
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This design benefits greatly from being oxidized, as it helps to highlight the layering and woven detail.

VARIATIONS:

The finished appearance of this ring is greatly affected by your stone choice. Flat pear shaped briolettes (Labradorite) create a narrower central detail, giving a sleek look. Flat heart shaped stones (Amethyst) are wider, so have more stone exposed, giving you more color in your ring. Rough cut drops (Turquoise) have a more rustic look.

