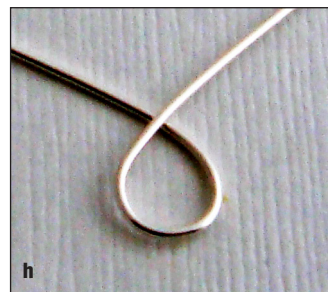
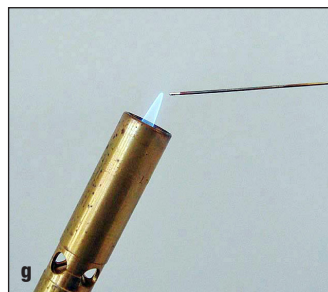
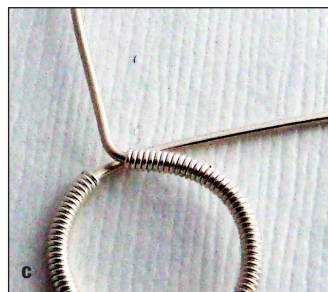
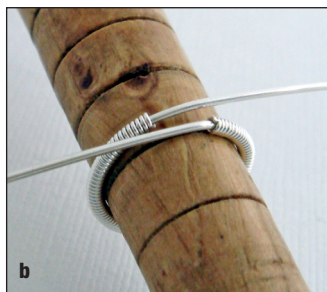
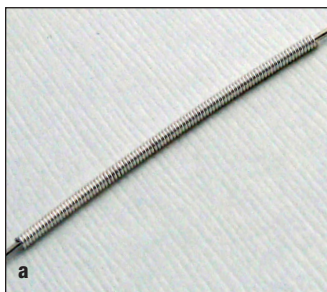


Scrollwork earrings

Use simple wirework to make delicate Victorian-style earrings with a lot of charm.

by Colette Kimon





stepbystep

Coiled frame

1 Cut a 4-in. (10.2 cm) piece of 20-gauge sterling silver (core) wire. Using a fine-tip permanent marker, mark 1 in. (25.5 mm) from the end of the wire.

2 Cut a 20-in. (50.8 cm) piece of 26-gauge (wrapping) wire. Starting at the 1-in. (25.5 mm) mark, coil the wrapping wire around the core wire (Basics) until you have a 1½-in.

(38 mm) coil. You should have 1 in. (25.5 mm) of bare core wire on one end and 1½ in. (38 mm) on the other. Trim and tuck the ends of the wrapping wire (Basics) (a).

3 Form the coiled section of the core wire around a ½-in. (13 mm) mandrel so that both ends of the coil meet. Cross the shorter end of bare wire behind the longer end (b). Carefully remove the wire from the mandrel.

designer's tip

In step 2, you can use a drill to make the coiled section of the core more quickly. Secure the wrapping wire to one end of the core wire with some painter's tape. Insert the end of the core wire into the chuck of the drill, and slowly spin the drill to coil the wire. When you are finished, remove the tape, and arrange the coil as directed.

4 With the tip of your chain-nose pliers, grasp the longer end of the bare wire next to the coil, and bend it up at a 90° angle (c).

5 With the shorter end of the bare wire, make a full wrap around the longer end, close to the 90° bend. Trim and tuck the shorter end of the bare wire (d). If necessary, place the wire back on the mandrel to adjust the shape.

6 Make a wrapped loop (Basics) above the wrap from step 5, and trim the wire to ½ in. (13 mm) (e). Form an open spiral (Basics) with the wire, and center the spiral under the wrapped loop (f).

7 Repeat steps 1–6 to make a second coiled frame, and set the frames aside.

Scrollwork

8 Cut a 6½-in. (16.5 cm) piece of 20-gauge fine-silver wire. Grasp the wire with tweezers, and use a butane torch to ball up each end of the wire (g). After balling, the wire should measure approximately 6 in. (15.2 cm).

tip If you'd prefer not to ball the ends, cut your wire to just 6 in. (15.2 cm) in length.

9 With the largest part of your roundnose pliers, grasp the midpoint of the wire, and cross the ends to form a loop (h). This will be the center loop of the scrollwork.

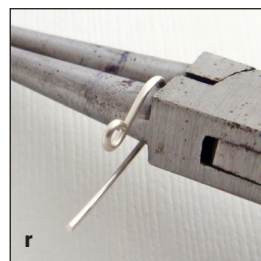
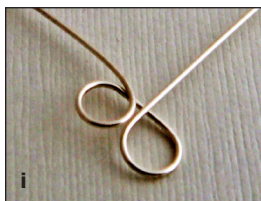
materials

Earrings 1½ in. (38 mm)

- Fine-silver wire, round, dead soft
13 in. (33 cm) 20-gauge (0.8 mm)
6 ft. (1.8 m) 26-gauge (0.4 mm)
- 11 in. (27.9 cm) 20-gauge (0.8 mm) sterling silver wire, round, dead soft
- 6 2.5 mm sterling silver seamless round beads

tools & supplies

- Fine-tip permanent marker
- ½-in. (13 mm) mandrel
- Tweezers
- Butane torch
- Liver of sulfur (optional)
- Tumbler with steel shot and burnishing compound (optional)



10 About 1 mm from the largest part of your round-nose pliers, lightly grasp the wire to the left of the center loop. Form the wire around the pliers counterclockwise, creating a slightly smaller second loop **(i)**.

11 With your roundnose pliers, grasp the end of the wire, and curve it loosely in the same direction as the previous loop. Work slowly to form a large third loop, curving small sections at a time and threading the end of the wire through the second loop. Reposition your pliers inside the third loop, and keep curving and pushing the wire through the second loop until the third loop is about the same size as the second loop. The wire end should be approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ in. (19 mm) long **(j)**.

12 Repeat steps 10 and 11 on the right side of the center loop **(k)**.

13 On each end of the wire below the balled up tip, use roundnose pliers to make a loop toward the center of the scrollwork. Adjust any of the loops as necessary to compress the scrollwork and make it symmetrical **(l)**.

14 Repeat steps 8–13 to make a second scrollwork piece.

Assembly

15 Using a fine-tip permanent marker, mark the bottom center of one of the coiled frames. Cut a 6-in. (15.2 cm) piece of 26-gauge (wrapping) wire. Leaving a $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. (13 mm) tail, make three wraps around the frame at the mark **(m)**.

16 Position one of the scrollwork pieces above the coiled frame, with the top of the center loop directly above the wrapped mark on the frame. Make three wraps around the frame and through the center loop to connect the two pieces **(n)**. Trim and tuck the ends of the wrapping wire at the back of the scrollwork.

17 Cut a 4-in. (10.2 cm) piece of wrapping wire. Locate the point where the wire of the third loop on the left side of the scrollwork crosses itself, and make three wraps around both wires **(o)**. Wrap from left to right so that the working wire is on top when you are done with your wraps. String a 2.5 mm bead on the wire, and wrap around both wires

where the third loop on the right crosses itself **(p)**. Trim and tuck the ends of the wrapping wire at the back of the scrollwork.

18 Cut a 3-in. (76 mm) piece of wrapping wire. Make three wraps around the last loop on the top left side of the scrollwork and the coiled frame. String a 2.5 mm bead on the wire, and make three wraps around the frame only. The bead should be positioned on the coiled frame directly above the last loop **(q)**. Repeat this step on the other side of the scrollwork. Trim and tuck the ends of the wrapping wire.

19 Repeat steps 15–18 to assemble the other coiled frame and scrollwork.

Ear wires

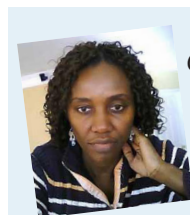
20 Cut a $1\frac{1}{2}$ -in. (38 mm) piece of 20-gauge sterling silver wire. Use a flat needle file to flatten and smooth one end. With the tip of your roundnose pliers, make a loop at this end. Mark the

wire $\frac{1}{2}$ in. (13 mm) from the base of the loop, and grasp the mark with the largest part of your roundnose pliers. Form the wire into a hook around the jaw of the pliers, bending the wire away from the loop **(r)**.

21 Flush-cut the tip of the ear wire at a 45° angle, and then use a needle file or sandpaper to smooth any sharpness or rough edges. With the largest part of your roundnose pliers, grasp the tip of the ear wire, and bend it slightly outward.

22 Repeat steps 20 and 21 to make a second ear wire.

23 Open the loop of each ear wire (Basics). For each earring, attach the wrapped loop at the top of a coiled frame, and close the loop. If desired, use liver of sulfur to patinate (Basics) the earrings, and then tumble-polish them (Basics).



Colette Kimon has been making jewelry for about eight years and always enjoys creating in her spare time — that is, when she's not busy with her children! Contact Colette at www.colettecollection.com.