EXAMPLE 1-5

Design a 100 nH (0.1 μ H) air-core inductor on a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch (0.635 cm) coil form.

Solution

For optimum Q, the length of the coil should be equal to its diameter. Thus, l=0.635 cm, r=0.317 cm, and $L=0.1~\mu\text{H}$.

Using Equation 1-8 and solving for N gives:

$$N = \sqrt{\frac{29L}{0.394r}}$$

where we have taken l = 2r, for optimum Q. Substituting and solving:

$$N = \sqrt{\frac{29(0.1)}{(0.394)(0.317)}}$$
$$= 4.8 \text{ turns}$$

Thus, we need 4.8 turns of wire within a length of 0.635 cm. A look at Table 1-1 reveals that the largest diameter enamel-coated wire that will allow 4.8 turns in a length of 0.635 cm is No. 18 AWG wire which has a diameter of 42.4 mils (0.107 cm).