

## Every Day Earrings



This month I got my Summer haircut- super short. Great for swimming and lots of ears showing. So now I could use some "every day" earrings. For me I think "shortish" dangles, not too frilly, some silver-tone, and some gold-tone. I have some non-tarnish silver plated wire, and some bronze wire, both in 18 gauge, which is a nice

weight for a simple wire shape that can be hammered, which is a look I like.

Tools:

Jewelry Pliers (smooth jaws)  
round nose  
chain nose  
flat nose (optional)

Flush cutters

Bench Block

Rawhide or Plastic Mallet

Chasing Hammer

Sharpie Marker

Small Ruler

1/2" or larger dowel, or ring mandrel

Ear Wires

### Skills

An important skill for these earrings is a basic loop that will be the same size every time and will close securely. You can find some really good video instruction for basic loops on YouTube by Lisa Niven Kelly for Beaducation: <http://youtu.be/NhlOU00nuOk> I especially like how she shows how to tighten up the loops.

You should also watch the video about making spirals: <http://youtu.be/a-WThdklkic>

When you have formed your earrings you need to hammer them at least with a rawhide or plastic hammer to flatten and "work harden" the wire. If you like the textured look you can use the ball end of the chasing hammer, and then finish with a few taps with the flat hammer. When you hammer loops, they will open up a little, so you need to tighten them back up the way Lisa shows in the Basic Loop video.

### Silver Spirals

Start by working off the roll of wire. What I did differently was to leave a little space between the rows for a more open spiral. When you have completed the number of rows you want for the diameter of your spiral, use your chain nose pliers to bend the wire away from the spiral. Measure the length of the earring, allowing for a loop and

cut the wire. Hammer the wire with the flat part of the hammer first to flatten the piece, then with the ball end to texture if desired. Don't hammer the stem if you want to add a bead. Add a bead if you like, and finish with a basic loop, and hammer the loop a little to harden.

### Silver Greek Key

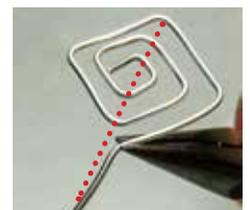


Start by working off the roll of wire. Make a square center by using the chain nose or flat nose pliers at the same width for each side of the square. Then use the chain nose pliers to hold

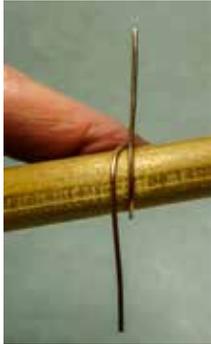
the wire at the place it needs to bend, sighting along the previous wire, and using the same width on the pliers



each time. Spiral around until you like the size and number of "rounds". Place the pliers on the wire sighting from a corner, and bend the wire away from the spiral. Measure the length of the earring, allowing for a loop and cut the wire. Hammer like the Silver Spiral. Add a bead if you like, and finish with a basic loop.



## Bronze Hoop



Working from the roll of wire, wrap the wire around your dowel or ring mandrel. Wrap until the wire crosses itself and leave about a 1" tail to either side of the loop. Cut the wire and slide the loop off the mandrel. Hold the

wires with your chain nose pliers on the smallest part of the tip and

bend both wires up. Spread the hoop slightly so the two wires no longer cross. Hammer the hoop, but not the upright wires. Slide

a large hole bead on both wires and use your cutters to "mark" the top of the bead on one wire. Then remove the bead and cut that wire a little shorter so it will not stick out of the top of the bead.



To make the hanging loop it works best to use a little different technique as shown in a video by Jewelry Supply:

[http://youtu.be/fvR4jdvz\\_7g](http://youtu.be/fvR4jdvz_7g)

Here I have made a right angle bend above the bead. Then I cut the wire to 1/2" and roll the loop with round nose pliers.



Here you can see how the loop opens up a little after hammering, and needs to be tightened up before putting it on an earwire.

## Bronze Celtic Knot

Cut 6" piece of wire and hold the center with round nose pliers at the largest point. Wrap a loop with the left wire over the right. Move the pliers to the right wire and make another loop with the tail passing under. Move pliers to the left wire and make a loop with the tail passing over. Wrap both tails around a sharpie marker. Place pliers on one wire centered above the knot and wrap a loop. Cut the loop and tighten. Make a loose spiral with the other tail. When you hammer this piece be careful where the wires cross each other. If you hammer too much you can break the wire.

