

Welcome to the world of jewelry making! With your Gem Craft Studio Kit, you'll have everything you need to start making. That includes everything you need to make bracelets, earrings, and necklaces - beads, tools, findings, and inspiration. We know you might need help getting started, so keep this card handy to learn all of the techniques you'll need. We've also included other cards featuring jewelry projects to help you get started and inspired.



How to Open Earwires - Earwires are what you need to make earrings! Simply use your chain nose pliers to open the loop of an earwire with a gentle wiggle and attach charms or dangles.

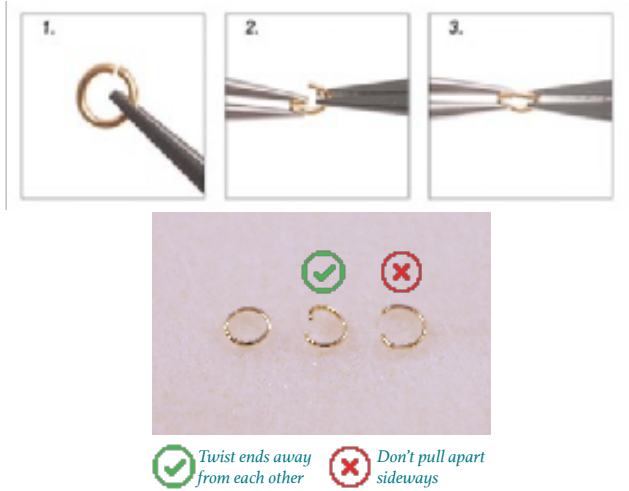
Scan the QR code to see a video of this technique in action.



Basic Jewelry Making Techniques

How to Open a Jump Ring - Jump rings are used to connect components in bracelets, necklaces, and earrings. Use them to dangle charms, or extend the length of a bracelet/necklace.

When you open and close jump rings, twist sideways instead of “ovalling” them. This keeps their shape better, which makes them easier to close all the way. Use the chain nose pliers and round nose pliers included in your kit to open the jump rings (if you already have an extra set of chain nose pliers, you can use two sets of chain nose pliers, too).



Bead Stoppers - With Bead Stoppers, you don't have to worry about losing your beads while you work on your designs. Simply squeeze the ends together to grasp the ends of the wire or cord you are working on and when you are ready to finish your design simply release the wire and crimp. We believe the Bead Stopper is a miracle tool no beader should be without.

Scan the QR code for a video to see just how these little tools work.



Wrapped Loop

The wrapped loop is a staple of wire working. It is useful to finish earrings, make links for a chain, or dangle a pendant from a necklace. To make a wrapped loop you will need wire cutters, round nose pliers and chain nose pliers.

STEP 1: String your bead onto a headpin.

STEP 2: Make a 90-degree bend about an eighth of an inch above your bead.

STEP 3: Grip your head pin at the 90-degree bend with your round nose pliers. You will want the pliers facing vertically so that one barrel of the pliers is above the wire and the other barrel is below the wire.



STEP 4: With your finger, push the wire up and over the top barrel of your pliers so that the end of the wire is now pointing down.

STEP 5: Reposition your round nose pliers so that they are horizontal with one barrel in the loop and one barrel out of the loop.

STEP 6: With your free hand, continue to push the wire around your pliers until it sits horizontally.



STEP 7: Without moving your pliers, wrap the wire around the straight length of wire just below your loop approximately three times. This can be done with your finger or with a pair of chain nose pliers.

STEP 8: Trim any excess wire with a pair of side cutters. Be sure to wear protective eye wear and to point the wire away from you. With a pair of chain nose pliers, tuck in the tail end of your wire.

STEP 9: The finished product should look something like this.



Simple Loop - Simple loops are a quick and secure way to finish dangles and beaded links.

Eye Pin Technique

STEP 1: Thread a bead onto your eye pin, and make a 90 degree bend just above your bead using chain nose pliers or your fingers.

STEP 2: Use side cutters to cut the wire, leaving a tail that's about one third of an inch long.



STEP 3: Position your round nose pliers at the end of the tail, making sure the tail faces away from your body. Wrap the wire towards you to create a loop.

STEP 4: When making a link like this you'll want both loops to face the same direction. To do this, grip each loop with a pair of chain nose pliers and just twist until your loops are where you want them.



STEP 5: To open and close the loop, you can use chain nose pliers and gently twist it open from side to side.



Head Pin Technique

STEP 1: Thread a bead onto your head pin, and make a 90 degree bend just above your bead using chain nose pliers or your fingers.

STEP 2: Use side cutters to cut the wire, leaving a tail that's about one third of an inch long.

STEP 3: Face the tail of the wire towards your body, and place the round nose pliers at the end of the wire. Using your thumb nail as a support, wrap the wire away from you to create a loop.

STEP 4: To open and close the loop, you can use chain nose pliers and gently twist it open from side to side.

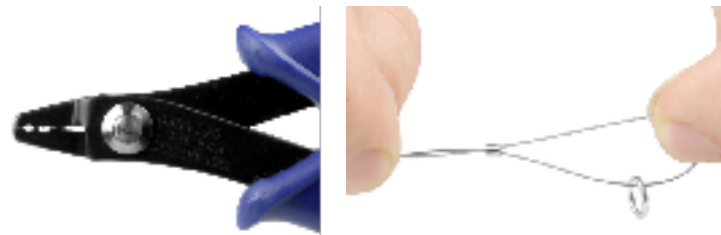


Making Necklaces/Bracelets

Crimping - You'll need crimp tubes and crimping pliers to make professional-quality bracelets and necklaces, which we have included in your kit.

STEP 1: The crimping pliers have two notches or stations. The first station, which is farthest from the tip of the pliers, has a dimple in the middle and is used to squeeze the crimp into a figure 8 shape. The second station, which is closest to the tip of the pliers, is used to fold the crimp and form it into a nice tube shape.

STEP 2: Take the crimp tube and slide it onto one end of the wire and then add a jump ring. Take the end of the wire and go back through the crimp.



STEP 3: Push the crimp up to the jump ring, but don't make it so tight that the jump ring can't move.

STEP 4: While holding the crimp in the first station of the crimping

pliers, use your fingers to separate the wires so that they lie on each side of the tube.



STEP 5: Next, squeeze the crimping pliers, bringing the dimple down in between the two wires so that the strands are trapped on opposite sides of the crimp. It is important that you don't have a death grip when you are crimping, because this will weaken the crimp. However, you do want to give it a good squeeze. You should now have a U-shaped crimp tube.



STEP 6: You will then move the crimp to the second station of the crimping pliers, placing it so that when you squeeze, the two sides of the U will come together. Give it a nice squeeze. With the nipper tool, cut the excess wire.

STEP 7: You may now string your beads onto your jewelry wire. Once you have done this, crimp the other end of your jewelry wire. Do this by repeating steps 1-6. When crimping this time, you will want to get the crimp close to the beads but not so close that the beads don't have any room to move. Again, cut any excess wire with the nipper tool.



Making Stretch Bracelets

We've included stretch cord and twisted needles for making stretch bracelets.

Twisted Beading Needles - These slender and flexible needles are great for beading. The larger eye makes it easy to thread thicker threads, then it collapses down to fit through the beads. We like to use them to make stretch bracelets.

Scan the QR code to see a video on how to use this beading needle with stretch cord.

Tying Stretch Cord - When finishing your stretch bracelets, you want to make sure your knot is secure. We like to make a surgeon's knot for securing stretch bracelets.

Scan the QR code to see a video on how to make knots for your stretch bracelets.

