

FRENCH KIDNEY EARWIRES

By Dianne Karg Baron - www.wrapturewirejewellery.on.ca

Level of difficulty: ●○○○○



These are great for people who hate Shepherd's Hook earwires – they are very secure to wear. Quick and easy – you'll never buy these retail again!

Tools & materials you'll need:

Tools:

Round Nose Pliers
Flat Nose Pliers
Flush Cutting Wire Nippers
Permanent Marker
Measuring Tape/Ruler
Jeweler's File
Rouge Cloth

Materials:

4 inches (10 cm) 24 gauge (.50 mm) Hard Round Wire

LEVELS OF DIFFICULTY:

- Very Easy – Good for a Beginner. Uses basic tools.
- Easy – Some Basic Skills Needed. Uses basic tools.
- Intermediate – Good for someone who has mastered the basics and is looking to practise more advanced skills. May use specialized tools.
- Advanced – Good control of wire and dexterity with tools required. May incorporate other metalsmithing techniques. May require specialized tools.
- Challenging – Advanced wireworking skills required. Incorporates other metalsmithing techniques. May require specialized tools.

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Dianne Karg Baron is an award-winning Canadian-based metalsmith and wire art jewellery instructor. She has been creating jewellery using precious metal wire and gemstones for more than ten years. Her work has been featured in magazines, fine craft publications and books, including "Contemporary Bead & Wire Jewelry" by Suzanne J.E. Tourillott & Nathalie Mornu, "Wire in Design" by Barbara McGuire, and "All Wired Up!" by Mark Lareau.

Dianne teaches courses in Wire Art Jewellery Foundations and Applied Foundations at George Brown College in Toronto, Ontario, and has been a Guest Instructor at workshops held in Canada and the United States. She is a member of the Metal Arts Guild of Canada (Past President), the Ontario Crafts Council, and The International Guild of Wire Jewelry Artists (Past President, Juried Member).

Dianne completed the Jewellery Techniques Certificate at George Brown College. She graduated from Ryerson University with a Bachelor of Applied Arts (Interior Design) in 1988. Her jewellery is available through Art Galleries, Gallery Shops and Arts & Crafts Shows in Canada as well as on the Internet through her website www.wrapturewirejewellery.on.ca. She lives in Oshawa, just east of Toronto, with her husband and children.

Before picking up your tools or cutting any wire, please carefully read through all of the instructions, making sure you understand them!

MAKING THE HOOK



Step 1

Step 1: Clean and straighten the wire with your fingers or with the rouge cloth. Trim one end flush with the flush cutting wire nippers.

Step 2: Using the tips of the Round Nose Pliers, turn a small hook in the end of the wire.



Step 2

Step 3: Measure 1/8" (3 mm) from the end of the hook and mark with the pen.

Step 4: Make a 90° bend at the mark using the Flat Nose Pliers.



Step 4

Step 5: Grip on either side of the wire at the bend, using the Round Nose Pliers.

Dianne's Design Notes:

"Kidney earwires can be made in 22 or 24 gauge wire – depending on your own preference. Making them in larger gauge wire is not recommended, because they get very bulky and awkward to wear."

"One 4-inch (10 cm) piece of wire makes 2 kidney wires."

MAKING THE LOOP



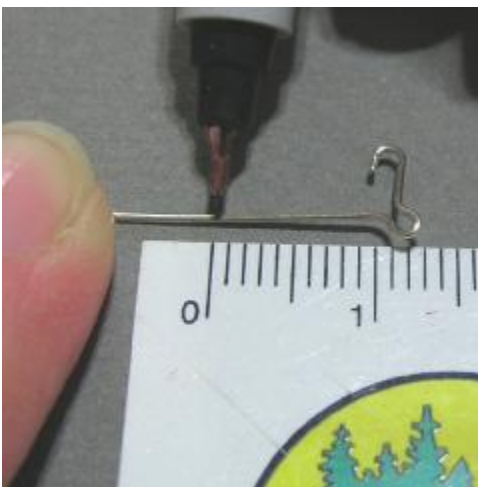
Step 6

Step 6: Bend the wire around the pliers to create a loop. The earwire should look like a backwards checkmark.



Step 7

Step 7: Reposition the pliers on the opposite side of the loop, then bend the tail wire back slightly to create a 90° bend with a loop in the corner.



Step 8

Step 8: From the last bend, measure 3/8" (1 cm) and mark.

Dianne's Design Notes:

A large, empty rectangular box with a light purple background and a black border, intended for design notes.

MAKING THE EAR THREAD



Step 9a

Step 9a: Set the mark in the bottom of the Round Nose Pliers.



Step 9b

Step 9b: Bend the wire around the pliers.

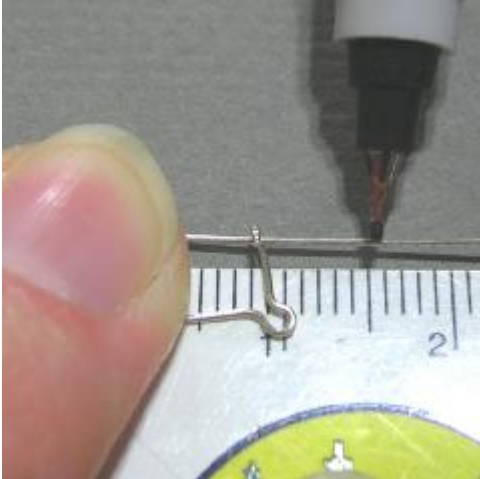


Step 10

Step 10: Using the Flat Nose Pliers, grip the hook you made in Step 3 and turn it 90°. Remember to turn the hook in the opposite direction for the second earwire, to make mirror images!

Dianne's Design Notes:

FINISHING



Step 11

Step 11: Slip the tail end of the wire into the hook. Measure $\frac{1}{4}$ " (5 mm) from the cross point and trim off the wire.



Step 11

Step 12: Grip the end of the tail with the Flat Nose Pliers and bend a small kink in the end. File the end with the jewelers file. Repeat all the steps with the remaining wire to make the second kidney earwire.

Dianne's Design Notes:

Thank you for downloading this tutorial! More tutorials are available at www.wrapturewirejewellery.on.ca .
Your feedback is welcome! Please email me at dianne@wrapturewirejewellery.on.ca