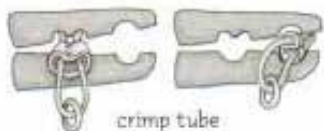


Basic Beading Techniques

Crimping

CRIMP TUBES are seamless metal tubes used to secure the end of a beading wire. To use, string a crimp tube and the connection finding (i.e., the loop of the clasp). Pass back through the tube, leaving a short tail. Use the back notch of the crimping pliers to press the length of the tube down between the wires, enclosing them in separate chambers of the crescent shape. Rotate the tube 90° and use the front notch of the pliers to fold the two chambers onto themselves, forming a clean cylinder. Trim the excess wire.



CRIMP COVERS hide crimp tubes and give a professional finish. To attach, gently hold a crimp cover in the front notch of the crimping pliers. Insert the crimped tube and gently squeeze the pliers, encasing the tube inside the cover.



CRIMP ENDS/ RIBBON ENDS have a loop attached to a large crimp tube. Place one on the end of beading wire, ribbon, or leather cord, then use pliers to flatten the tube. For added security, dab leather, wire, or ribbon with glue before placing it in the crimp or ribbon end.



WIREGUARDS provide a smooth metal channel to protect the stringing material from chaffing against a connector. String a crimp tube, then pass up through one half of the guard and down the other half. Pass the guard and wire through the loop of the connector, pass the wire back through the crimp tube, snug the tube up to the guard, then crimp.

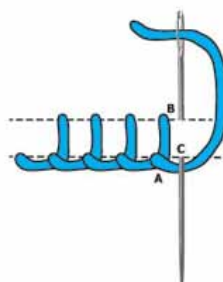


Pass Through vs Pass Back Through

Pass through means to move your needle (or beading wire) in the same direction that the beads have been strung. Pass back through means to move your needle (or beading wire) in the opposite direction.

Stitching

Work **BLANKET STITCH** from left to right, bringing the needle up at A and inserting at B. Bring the needle back up at C and over the working thread. Repeat by making the next stitch in the same manner, keeping the spacing even.



Knotting

The **OVERHAND KNOT** is the basic knot for tying off thread: Make a loop with the stringing material. Pass the cord that lies behind the loop over the front cord then through the loop and pull snug.



A **SQUARE KNOT** is the basic knot for tying off thread: Make a loop with the stringing material. Pass the cord that lies behind the loop over the front cord then through the loop and pull snug.



LARK'S HEAD KNOTS

are great for securing stringing material to another piece, such as a ring or a donut: Fold the stringing material on half. Pass the fold through a ring or donut, then pull the ends through the loop created and pull snug.



Wireworking

METAL WIRE comes in many finishes and gauges. The lower the gauge number, the thicker the wire. The hardness or softness of wire is called "temper." Most wire comes in dead-soft, half-hard and hard tempers. Unless otherwise noted, wire used in this issue is half-hard--the best temper for making strong loops and other shapes.

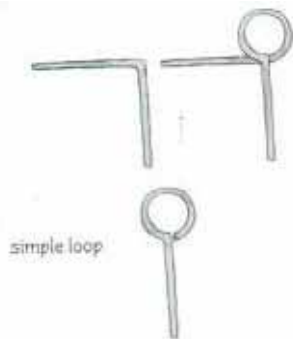
JUMP RINGS connect holes and loops. Open a jump ring by grasping each side of its opening with a pair of pliers; don't pull apart. Instead, twist in opposite direction so that you can open close without distorting the shape.



HEAD PINS are straight wires with a flat disc, ball or other shape at one end. **EYE PINS** are straight wire that end in a loop.



To form a **SIMPLE LOOP**, use flat-nose pliers to make a 90° bend at least 1/2" from the end of the wire. Use round nose pliers to grasp the wire after the bend; roll the pliers towards the bend, but not past it, to preserve the 90° bend. Use your thumb to continue the wrap around the nose of the pliers. Trim the wire next to the bend. Open a simple loop just as you would a jump ring.



To form a **DOUBLE SIMPLE LOOP**, make the 90° bend at least 1" from the end of the wire. Make a simple loop and continue wrapping the wire around the round-nose pliers to form two complete loops before trimming.



To form a **WRAPPED LOOP**, begin with a 90° bend at least 2" from the end of the wire. Use round-nose pliers to form a simple loop with a tail overlapping the bend. Wrap the tail tightly down the neck of the wire to create a couple of coils. Trim the excess wire to finish. Make a double-wrapped loop by wrapping the wire back up over the coils, toward the loop and trimming the wire tail at the loop.

DANGLES can be strung as they are, attached using jump rings, or linked to other loops. Use a head pin or eye pin to string the bead(s), then form a simple or wrapped loop.



LINK a wrapped loop to another loop by passing the wire through the previous loop before wrapping the tail down the neck of the wire.



Use **CONES** to finish a multi-strand piece. Attach each strand of beads to a wrapped loop or an eye pin. Use the wrapped-loop wire or eye pin to string the wide end of a cone, covering the ends of the strands; form a wrapped loop at the tip of the cone that attaches to a clasp.



WRAPPED-LOOP BAILS turn side-drilled beads, usually teardrops, into pendants. Center the bead on a 3" or longer piece of wire. Bend both ends of the wire up the side and across the top of the bead. Bend one end straight up at the center of the bead, then wrap the other wire around it to form a couple of coils. Form a wrapped loop with the straight-up wire, wrapping it back down over the already-formed coils. Trim the excess wire.

