



Get Ready

WIREWORK • FILING • HAMMERING

Get Set

Iron wire, 20 gauge,
85½ inches (2.2 m)

Heavy-duty flush cutters

Metal file

Round-nose pliers

Chain-nose or flat-nose
pliers

Utility hammer

Brass or steel wire brush

Wax sealant

FINISHED SIZE

Each hoop,
5.7 x 5.7 x 0.5 cm

Go

1. Cut two 2¾-inch (7 cm) lengths of iron wire and set them aside. (You'll shape them into ear wires later.)

2. Cut the remaining iron wire in half. Each piece should be about 40 inches (101.6 cm) long. Set one piece aside.

3. File one end of the 40-inch (101.6 cm) wire smooth. Using round-nose pliers, bend 1 cm of the wire into a small loop.

4. Using your fingers, form the wire into a loose coil that measures approximately 2¼ inches (5.7 cm) in diameter. Include subtle corners and errant loops to achieve a look of controlled chaos. Continue until a total of six rounds have been formed, reserving about 1 to 1¼ inches (2.5 to 3.2 cm) of straight wire at the end.



5. Using chain-nose or flat-nose pliers, bend a right angle in the reserved wire, at the end of the last circle, then wrap the end of the wire two to three times around the circles to bind them together. Trim the end if necessary, then file it and tuck it into the wrapped circles.

6. Open the small wire loop made in step 3, and close it around an adjacent wire in the coil. (Note: Because the coil should be fairly flat, this is a good place to arrange and tuck in splaying wires.) Hammer the coil, being careful with areas where the wire overlaps.

7. To make the ear wires, file one end flat and form a small loop at the other end. Then bend the wire into a U shape at its center. Using chain-nose or flat-nose pliers, bend the filed end of the ear wire at an angle. Forge the angled end of the ear wire, file away any burrs, and hammer the central part of the wire.

8. Select a point on the coil to be the top of the hoop. Choose a wire from the six rounds at this point, and attach the ear-wire loop to it.

9. Repeat steps 3 through 8 to make the second earring. Clean the earrings with the wire brush and seal them with wax.

