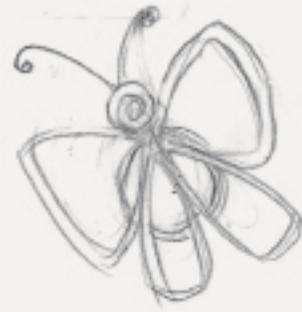


STEEL WIRE JEWELRY

Stylish Designs
Simple Techniques
Artful Inspiration

Brenda Schweder





like to think of a time when official Namers assigned monikers to things they saw or experienced for the first time, and doing so with solemn head-nods and flourishing gestures of their sparkly gold scepters. But they missed with butterflies, because they don't resemble butter at all (they'd never live through the first hot summer day). Those Namers ought to have called me. I hereby pronounce them Japanese-candy-paper-for-wings flies.

BUTTER (REALLY?) FLY

Creating & Decorating the Butterfly Wings

1 Cut a 24-inch (60.9 cm) length of 19-gauge steel wire. Bend a right angle at the 2-inch (5.1 cm) mark and continue to bend the wire, using the drawing as a template. Bind the middle of the wings.

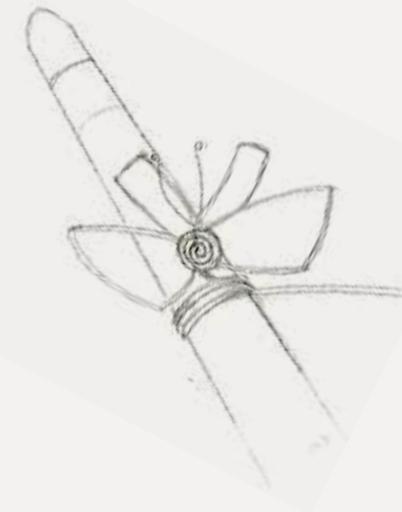


2 Hammer and clean the wing component.
3 Trace the butterfly wings onto Japanese candy paper. Cut the paper slightly larger than each wing.

- 4 Arrange the component so that the wings are elevated, level, and on the same plain, several inches above your wax paper work surface. (Use the wire tail as a prop and stand.)
- 5 Prepare an ounce of two-part epoxy according to the manufacturer's directions. Lightly brush the resin onto the bottom of one paper pattern. Flip and place the paper atop the corresponding wing part, spanning the piece over the wire armature and making contact all around it. Repeat to affix the other three segments. Allow them to dry several hours or overnight (gravity will pull the paper down over the armature and fasten the epoxy to the wire).
- 6 Prepare another ounce of two-part epoxy. Flip the wings over (again keeping the component level) and apply tiny amounts of epoxy with a small brush or toothpick to the back. Allow the epoxy to pool a bit near the edges, reinforcing the juncture between the wire armature and the paper. Allow it to dry overnight.
- 7 Once dry, use a needle file or emery board to file the extra paper from the wings.

Completing the Ring

- 1 Form the 2-inch (5.1 cm) wire tail into a spiral to make the head of the butterfly. Bend the head up slightly.
- 2 Cut a 3-inch (7.6 cm) length of 28-gauge steel wire. Insert it through the center of the butterfly head and twist the two tails several times, into antennae shapes. Trim the ends to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (1.9 cm). Using the tips of round-nose pliers, make tiny loops at the end of each antenna.
- 3 Add a half size to the desired ring size.
- 4 Straighten and wrap the remaining wire around the ring mandrel at the adjusted ring size three times (see drawing). Wrap the wire around the joint between the band and the butterfly several more times. Trim any remaining wire and tuck the end in to hide it.



- 5 Cut a 36-inch (91.4 cm) length of 28-gauge wire. Wrap it around the three coils of the band close together, anchoring it under the butterfly at both ends. Cut the wire and hide the ends.
- 6 Clean the wire portions of the butterfly ring, and seal them with wax.



MATERIALS & TOOLS

- STEEL WIRE, 19 AND 28 GAUGE
- JAPANESE CANDY PAPERS
- TWO-PART EPOXY RESIN
- TOOL KIT, PAGE 27
- WAXED PAPER OR PLASTIC SHEET WORK SURFACE
- SPONGE BRUSH, 1 INCH (2.5 CM) WIDE
- SMALL BRUSH OR TOOTHPICK
- RING MANDREL



TOOL KIT

CUTTING TOOLS

Heavy-duty flush cutter

Memory wire cutter

Standard cutter

Jeweler's saw & saw blades, size 3/0 or 2/0

FORMING TOOLS

Mallet, rawhide or plastic

Round-nose pliers

Forming pliers

Assorted mandrels or tubular objects

Flat-nose pliers

Vise

Bent-nose pliers

Standard hammer

Ball-peen hammer

Bench block

Power drill, power screwdriver,
or flexible shaft machine

FINISHING TOOLS

Medium hand file

Small needle files

Fine steel wool

Wire brushes

Microcrystalline wax

Rag

Hand cleaner

SAFETY TOOLS

Safety glasses

Safety gloves

Hearing protection

Dust mask



Jim Cotter

Ring with Steel & Amethyst, 2008

3.5 x 3 x 4 cm

Sterling silver, steel wire, cement,
amethyst; cast

Photo by artist



Ronna Sarvas Weltman

All the Rage, 2007

5.1 x 2.5 x 50.8 cm

Steel wire, polymer clay, shoe polish;
formed, textured, cured, stained

Photo by Doug Yaple



Lori Hawke-Ramin

The Color Lesson, 2007

Orange ring: 1.5 x 1 x 0.3 cm

Steel wire, cubic zirconia,
enamel; formed

Photo by artist