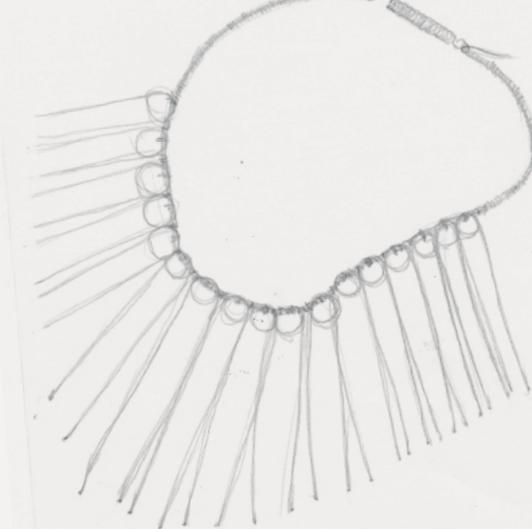


STEEL WIRE JEWELRY

Stylish Designs
Simple Techniques
Artful Inspiration

Brenda Schweder



MATERIALS & TOOLS

- STEEL WIRE, 16 GAUGE
- WAXED COTTON CORD, BLACK, 2 MM, 24 INCHES (60 CM)
- WAXED HEMP TWINE, GREEN, 20 POUND (9 K) TEST, 9 FEET (2.7 M)
- TOOL KIT, PAGE 27
- BEADER'S GLUE

His wife Louisa aside, Calder's greatest muse was, quite simply, the world around him. His jewelry embraces the tribal aesthetic, incorporating the natural marks left by hammer strikes and his intentions. The encouragement of what he called the "primitive and vigorous" over technique and flourish is the reason so many studio jewelers have been drawn to his work, and it is this core connection that unites one soul to another.

ZULU IN TEAL

Creating the Pins

- 1 Cut 25 pieces of 16-gauge steel wire:
 - ten 6-inch (15.2 cm) lengths
 - ten 7-inch (17.8 cm) lengths
 - five 8-inch (20.3 cm) lengths
- 2 Using round-nose pliers, form a U-shaped curve in the center of one of the wires. Continue shaping the wire to form a safety-pin-style loop. Repeat this step with the other wires.
- 3 Hammer the wires and clean them.

Forming the Coil & Peg Clasp

- 1 Cut a piece of 16-gauge steel wire, 1½ inches (3.8 cm) long. Form a plain loop at one wire end. File the other wire end. Hammer and clean the wire. This is the peg part of the clasp.
- 2 Cut a piece of 16-gauge steel wire, 12 inches (30.5 cm) long. Wrap the wire around a hardened piece of 16-gauge wire scrap about 15 times, creating a 1-inch (2.5 cm) coil. Form a plain loop in the remaining wire.
- 3 Slightly bend the coil into a gentle curve. Hammer the loop on the coil. Clean the entire component.





Assembling the Necklace

- 1 Group the wire pins by size: long, medium, and short.
- 2 Thread one of the long pins onto the center of the waxed cotton cord and tie an overhand knot around the wire loop. Tie two more long pins on one side of the first pin, leaving 4- to 5-mm spaces between them (see drawing). Using the same spacing, tie the remaining long pins on the other side of the center pin.



- 3 Tie the medium pins onto the waxed cotton cord, five on each side of the long pins and evenly spaced.
- 4 Tie the short pins onto the waxed cotton cord, five on each side of the medium pins and evenly spaced.
- 5 Use overhand knots to tie one half of the coil-and-peg clasp to each end of the cord, leaving 1¼-inch-long (3.2 cm) tails.
- 6 Slightly loosen the knot on one part of the clasp and insert one end of the waxed hemp. Retighten the knot.
- 7 Using the waxed hemp, closely and evenly hand-tie a series of blanket or half-hitch stitches down the cotton cord until you reach the first short pin.
- 8 Continue to hand-tie the hemp, making two stitches between each pin, until you reach the last short pin. Stitch the remainder of the cord. Loosen the final knot and insert the end of the hemp. Retighten the knot.
- 9 Wax the entire necklace, cord and twine included. Dot the clasp knots with cyanoacrylate glue.

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