

DESIGN WORKSHOP

LOVE KNOT RING

By: Dale 'Cougar' Armstrong



Materials

Wire:

- 21-Gauge Square, Silver-Plated German Wire = 16-1/2 inches, 20-Gauge Half-Round NT Brass = 13-1/2 inches.
- Beads: 6-5mm Flat Heart Shaped Beads (Example uses Brown Goldstone)

Tools:

- Flat, Chain and Round Nose Pliers, Wire Cutters, Ruler, Marking Pen, Graduated Metal Ring Mandrel, Mallet (rawhide or nylon), Tape.

In just a few minutes you can create a ring that will fit perfectly every time! If you use your favorite beads, you will create a totally different "look" by using this versatile pattern.



1. Using the 21g square wire, straighten, measure and then cut 3 pieces, each 5-1/2 inches long. Place these 3 wires side-by-side and tape the bundle near each end. Measure to find and mark the center at 2-3/4 inches. According to the size chart that follows, measure and mark the required distance on each side of the center mark.

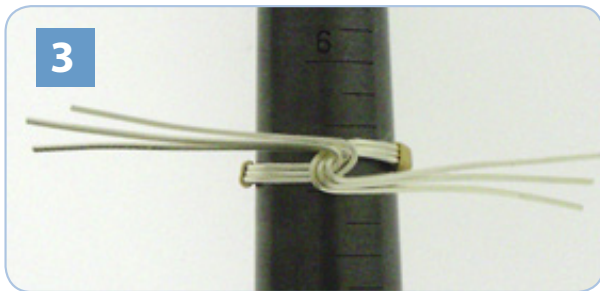
For ring sizes 5 through 8 = 5/8 inch

For ring sizes 8 1/2 through 10 = 11/16 inch

Straighten, measure and then cut one piece of 20g half-round wire 6 inches long. Use this wire to wrap from each 'side-of-center' mark toward its respective end, 4 times to show.



2. Place the back of the ring bundle (the side where the marks are and where the wrap wires begin and end) against the ring mandrel, 1-1/2 sizes smaller than the desired finished size. Pressing on both wraps equally, bend the bundle around the ring mandrel so the wraps end up directly across from one another. If the wraps are not directly across from one another, return to the mandrel and make them right.



3. Remove the tape and return the ring to the mandrel. Firmly grasp the wires on each side and tightly wrap the wires flatly completely around each other, forming a knot.



4. Now, force the ring down on the mandrel until it is 1/2 size larger than the desired finished size. Carefully remove the ring from the mandrel and gently fan out each of the 3 wires on one side. One at a time, slide a chosen bead onto a fanned wire. Measuring from the end of the bead, trim the wire so it is 3/8 inch long. Use needle chain nose pliers to begin and flat nose pliers to form a rosette, rolling it tightly down so it sits at the top of the bead. Repeat on all remaining 5 wires.



5. Return the ring to the mandrel and press all of the beaded wires into place.



6. Remove the ring once again and use the remaining (8 inches) of 20g half-round wire to wrap 2/3 of the ring shank. Return the ring one last time to the ring mandrel and use a mallet to flatten the shank wrap. Your ring should end up the desired finished size.