



PHOTO TUTORIAL

PRINT VERSION

# *Zodiac signs*

## LEO





## introduction

Leo

The Leo zodiac sign is associated with the period from July 23 to August 22. It is said that people born under this sign are often confident, courageous, and charismatic.

Their strong will and natural leadership talent make them excellent leaders and inspirational personalities. People born under the Leo sign are known for their creativity and ability to motivate others, which gives them a unique perspective in many areas of life.

With this photo tutorial, you can create this sign step by step using wire and beads. Your crafting skills will thus connect with the symbolism of the zodiac, resulting in a unique piece of art.

## Part 1: Frame

This frame is same for every of our wire-wrapped Zodiac signs

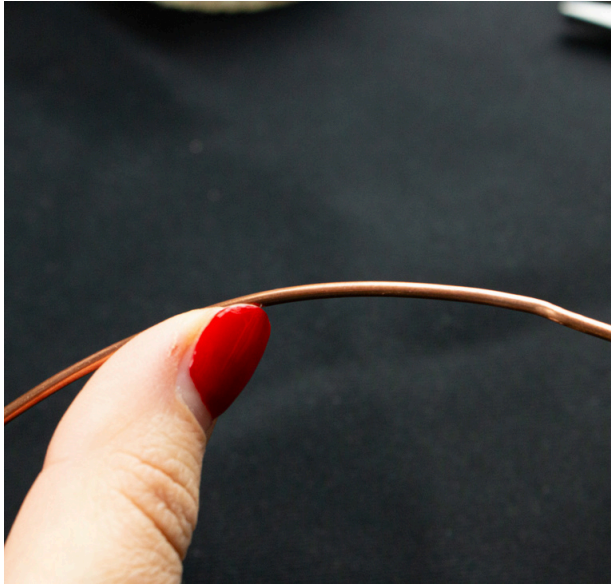
## materials

- Copper wire 2 mm (12 ga), and 0.4 mm (26 ga).
- Pliers: flat-nose, side cutters
- Hammer and anvil

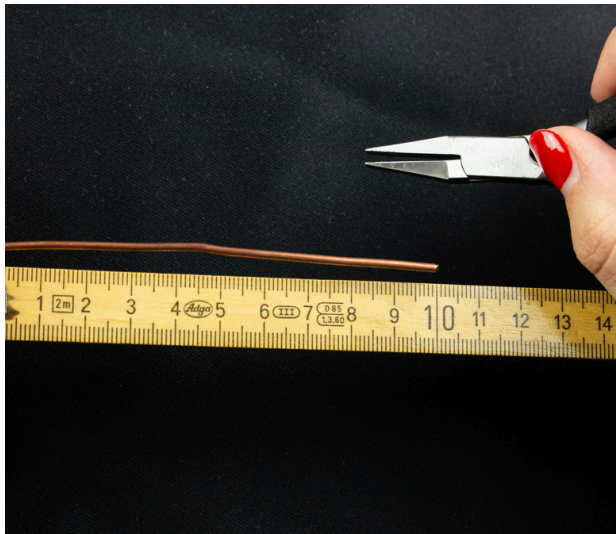
All materials and more available in our online store [www.dratovani.cz/as](http://www.dratovani.cz/as)

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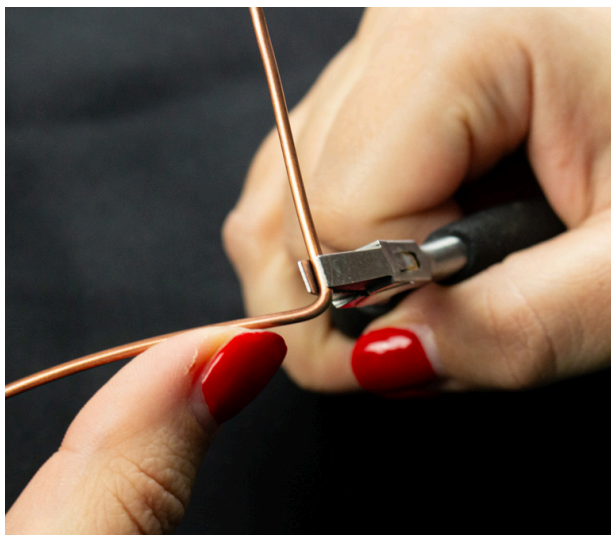
# instructions



1. Prepare all the tools and wire. Start with the thick wire 1.2 mm (16 ga), unwind a piece of it and smooth it between your fingers.



2. Measure 10 cm (4 in) of it.

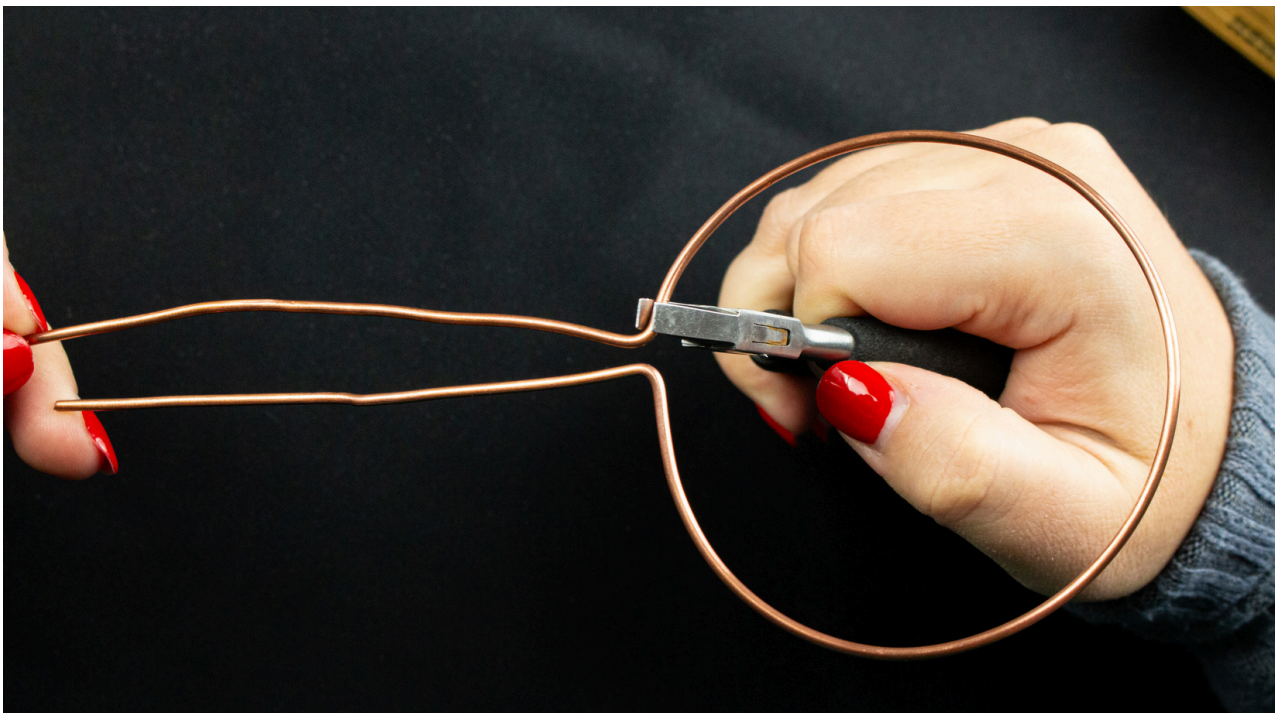


3. There, bend the wire at a right angle.



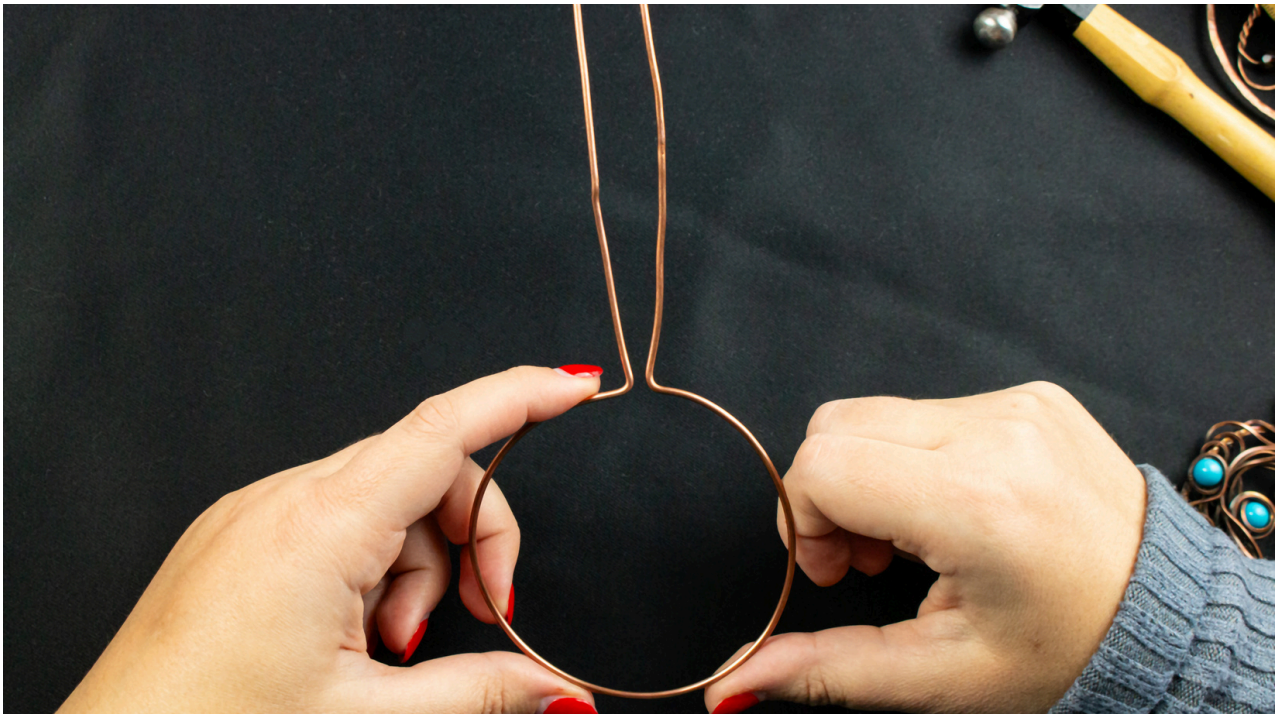


4. Use an object of a suitable diameter, like a mug or a rolling-pin. Bend and shape the wire around it.



5. At the spot where the wire touches the first bend, bend it at a right angle again, measure 10 cm (4 in) and cut it.





6. This is the final shape of the frame.



7. Then hammer the loop on the anvil with the flat end of the hammer. Do not hammer the straight ends of the wire.

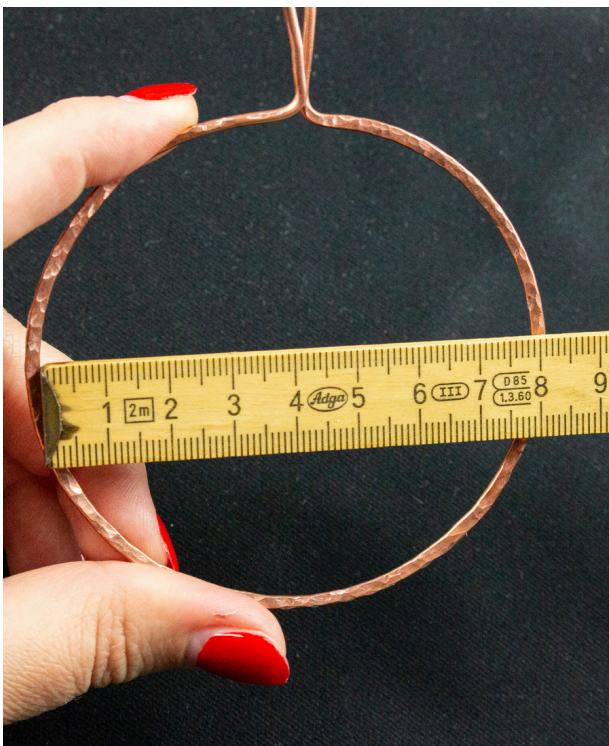


8. When it is done, turn the hammer and use the round end of the hammer to hammer some more to decorate it.

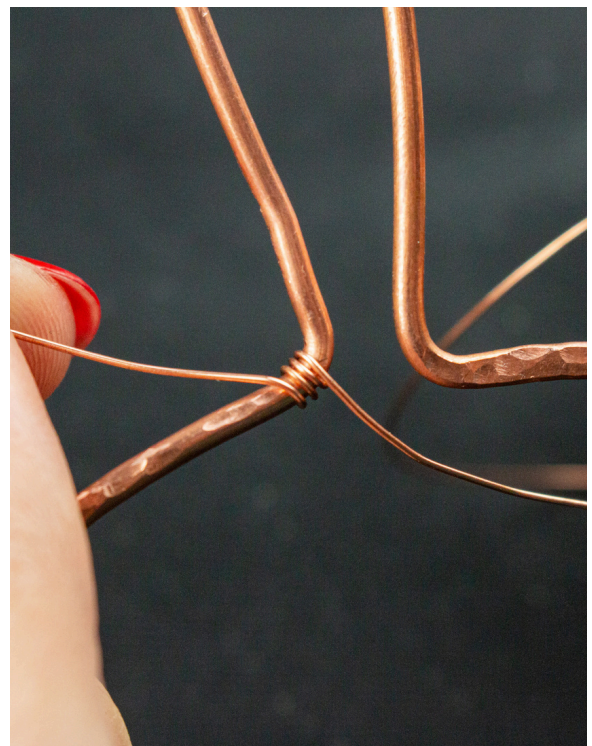




9. This is what the hammered frame looks like.

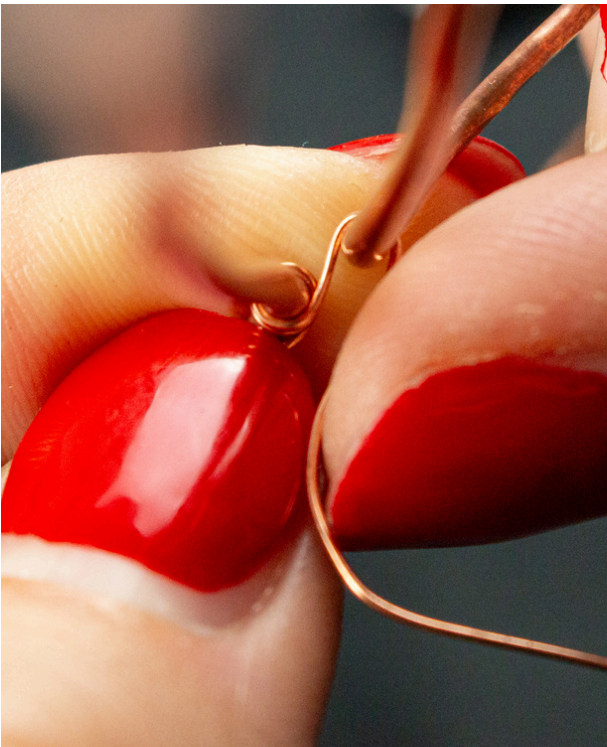


10. The diameter of the frame is approximately 8 cm (3 in).

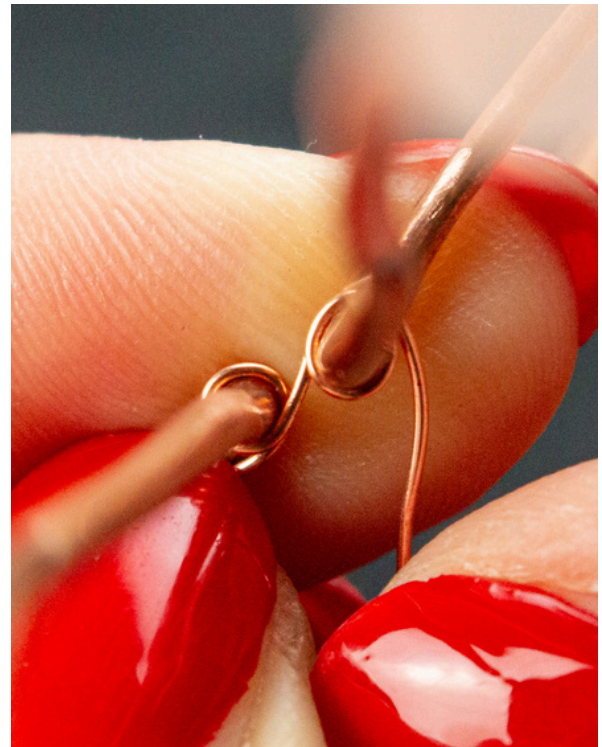


11. Now use the thin wire and wrap one of the bends with it three times.





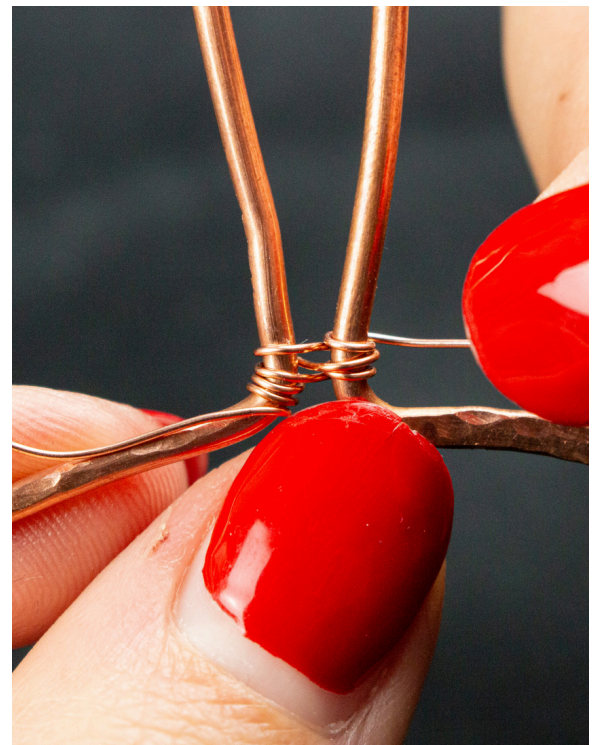
12. Then wrap the opposite bend once and go back again and wrap again.



13. Continue in the same way.



14. And one more loop on each piece of wire.

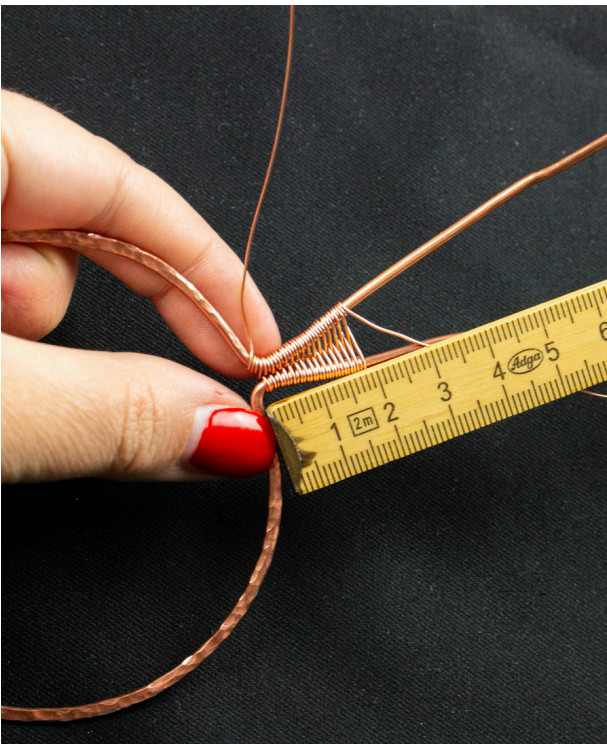


15. This is what your work looks like from the front, the two pieces of wire are spread apart a little bit.

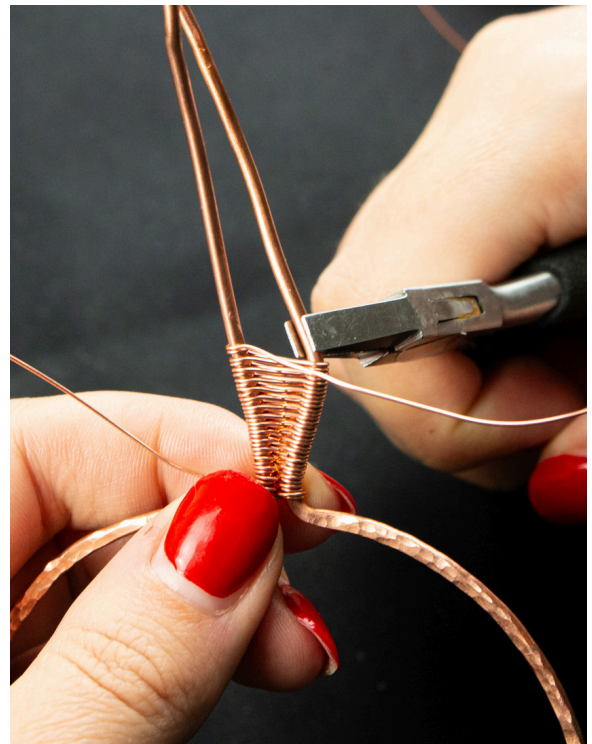




16. Continue wrapping, copy the width of the spread pieces of wire.

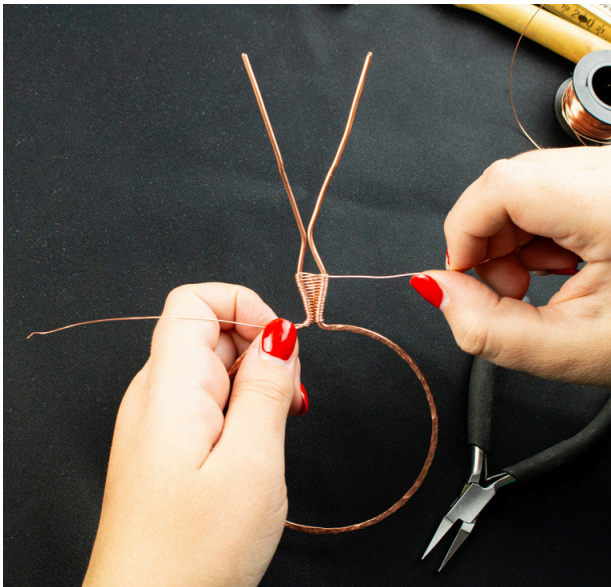


17. When you reach approximately 2 cm (0.8 in), stop.

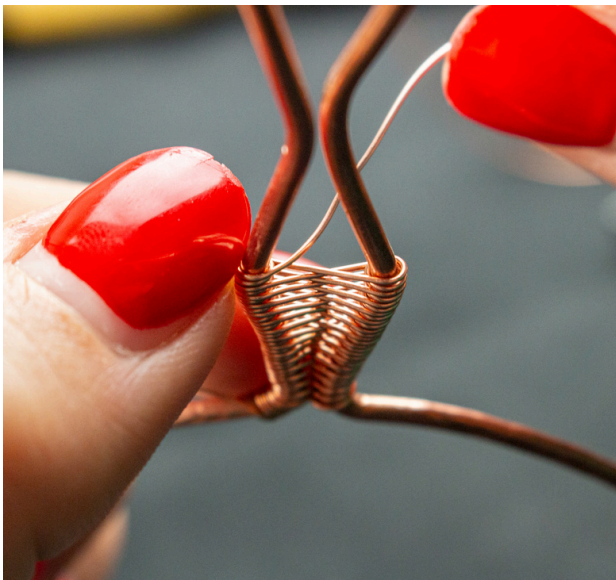


18. Then use the pliers to bend the two pieces of wire a bit closer.

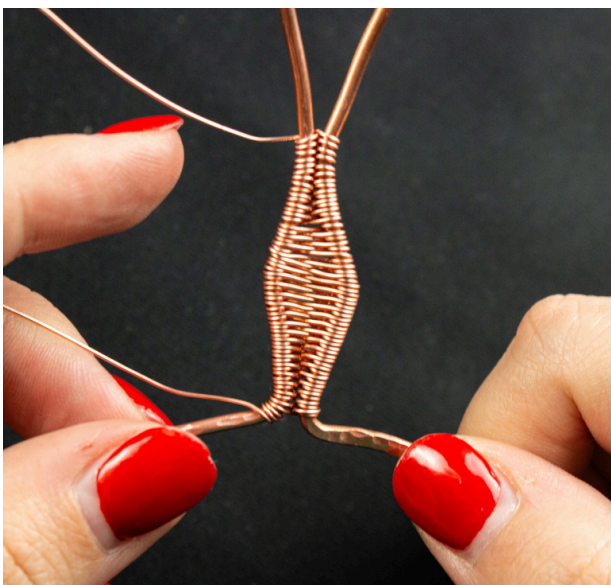




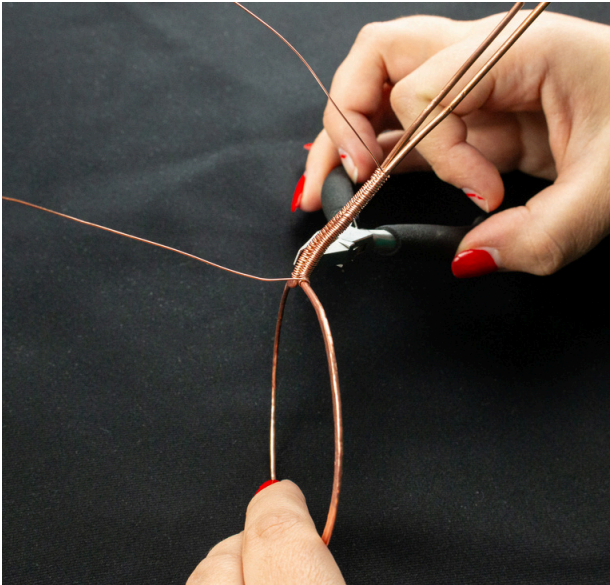
19. Measure 2 cm (0.8 in) and bend them a bit apart again. This is what the final shape of the large loop used to hang the pendant looks like.



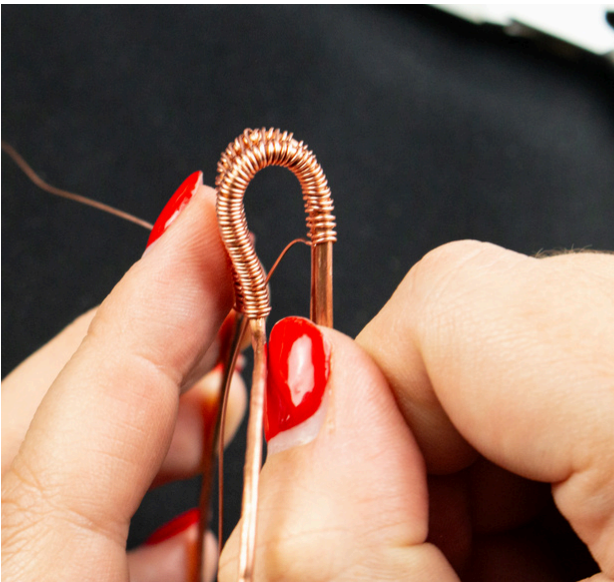
20. Then continue wrapping both parts of the loop in the same way as before.



21. Stop at the point where the two pieces of wire meet. The wrapping is done.



22. Now start bending and forming the loop with the help of the flat-nose pliers. First a little bit forward.



23. Then bend the whole loop backwards and all the way down.

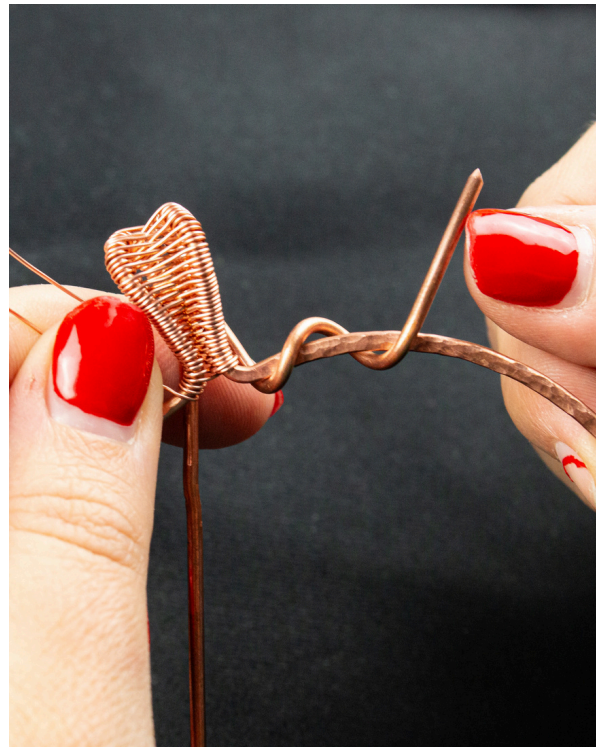


24. This is what the fully formed loop looks like. Both ends of the thick wire are spread apart behind the loop.

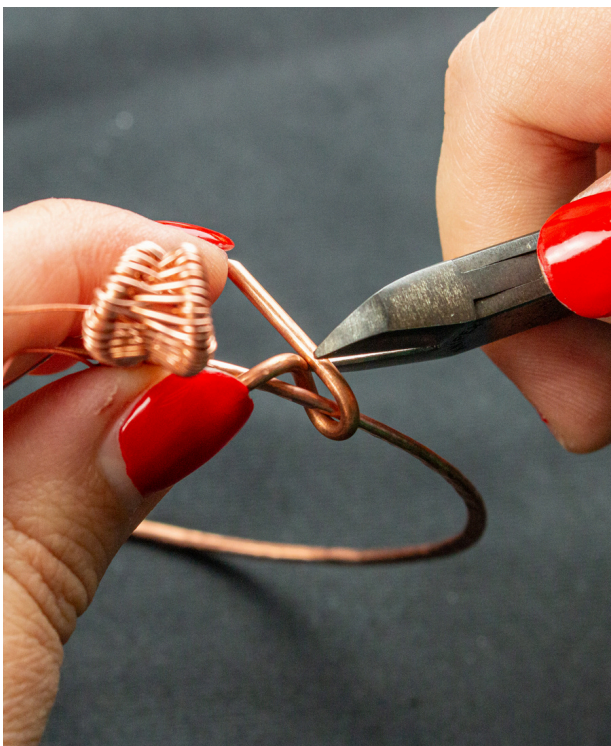




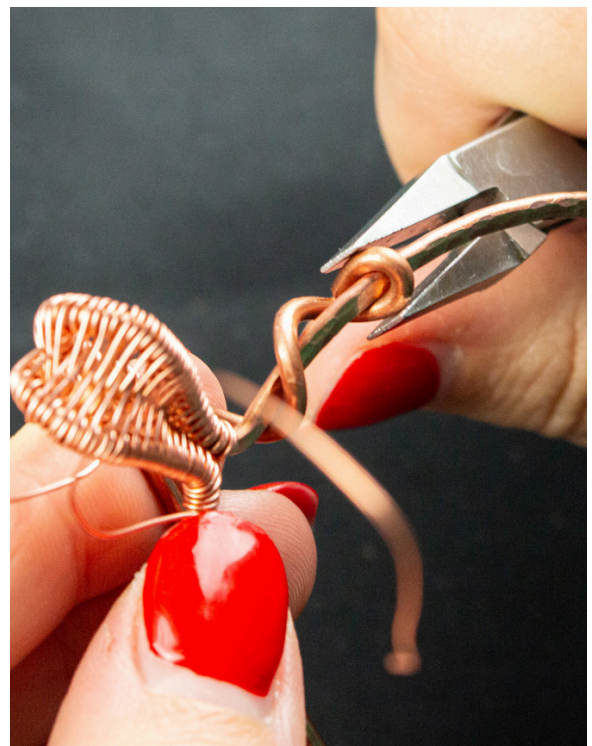
25. Now take the right end of the thick wire and wrap it under the loop forward and up.



26. Then wrap it twice around the frame.



27. Bend it backwards and cut.

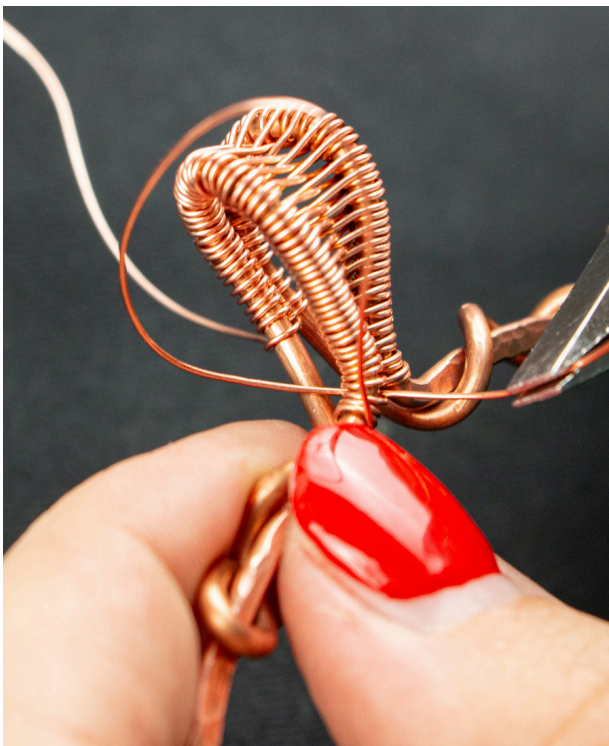


28. Close the loop tightly onto the frame.





29. Do the same thing with the left end of the wire. This is what the result looks like.



30. Next pass the front tail of the thin wire through the wrapping in the front.



31. Sow it onto it with a few stitches and cut. Hide the tail into the wrapping and press with the pliers to finish.





32. This is what the finished frame looks like.



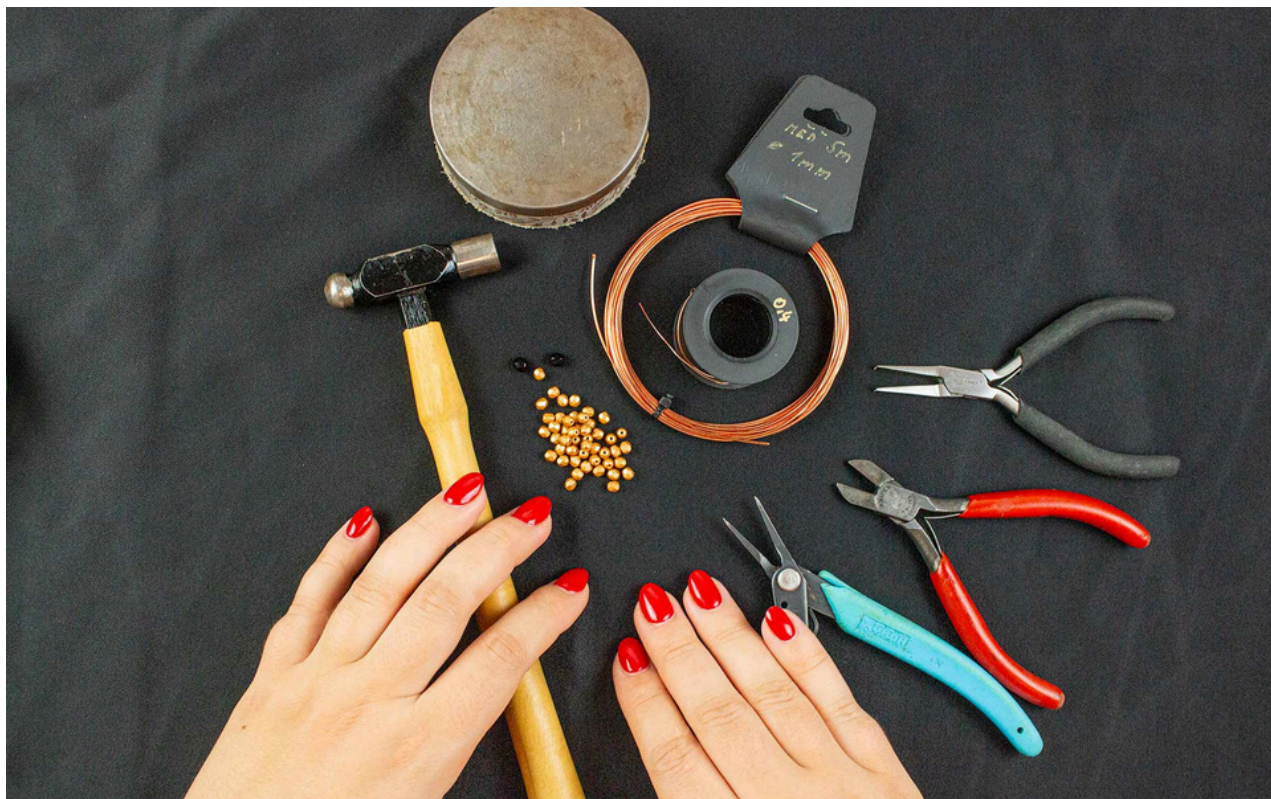
## Part 2: Leo

### materials

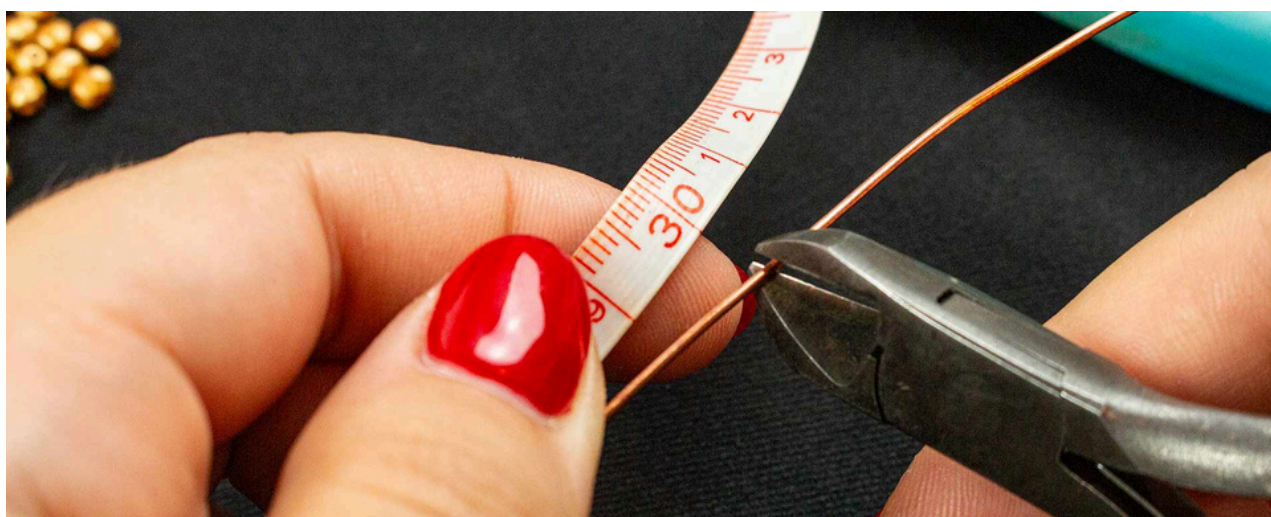
- Finished frame
- Copper wire - 1 mm / 18 GA, 0.4 mm / 26 GA
- 2 black beads for the eyes, beads for decorating the mane
- Template - Leo
- Pliers: flat-nose, side cutters

All materials and more available in our online store [www.dratovani.cz/as](http://www.dratovani.cz/as)

# instructions



1. Prepare all the materials and tools on the table.

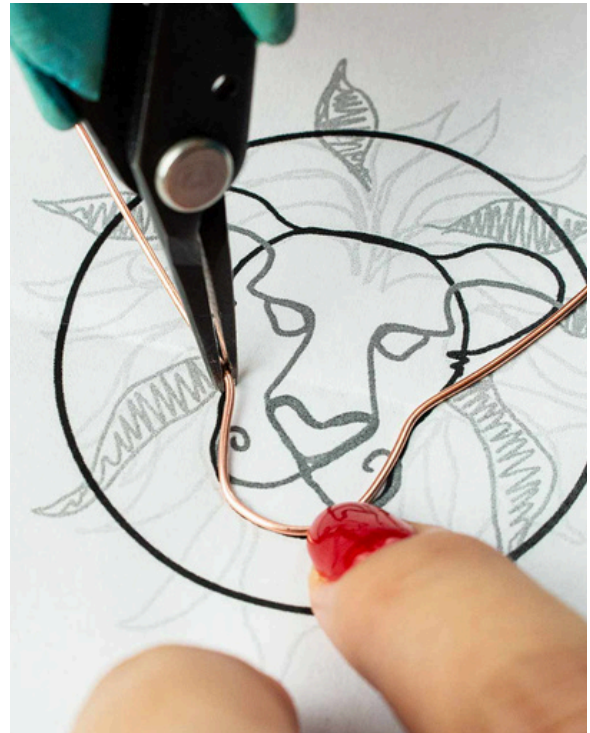


2. First, cut 30 cm of 1 mm thick wire.

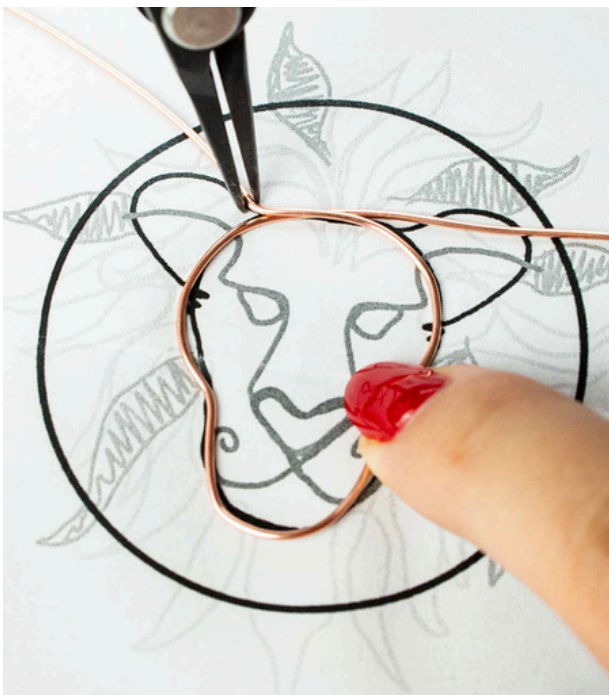




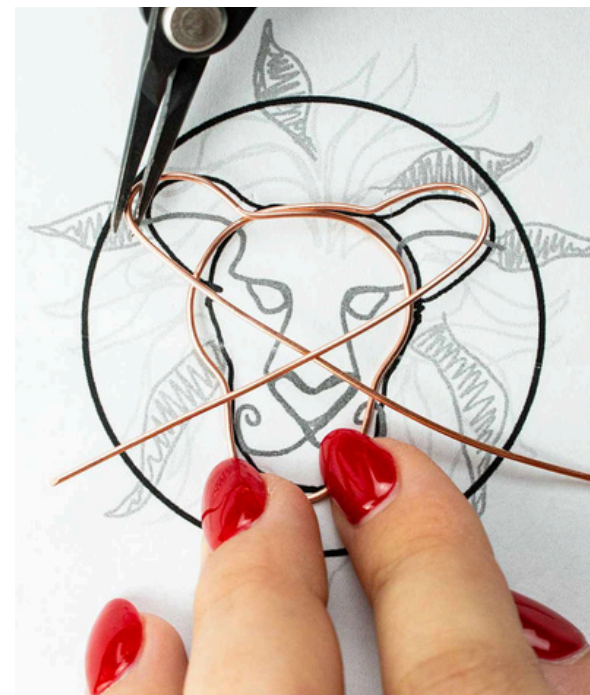
3. Smooth the wire and bend it in half.



4. Start shaping the outline of the lion's head from the bent wire according to the attached template. Begin with the chin.

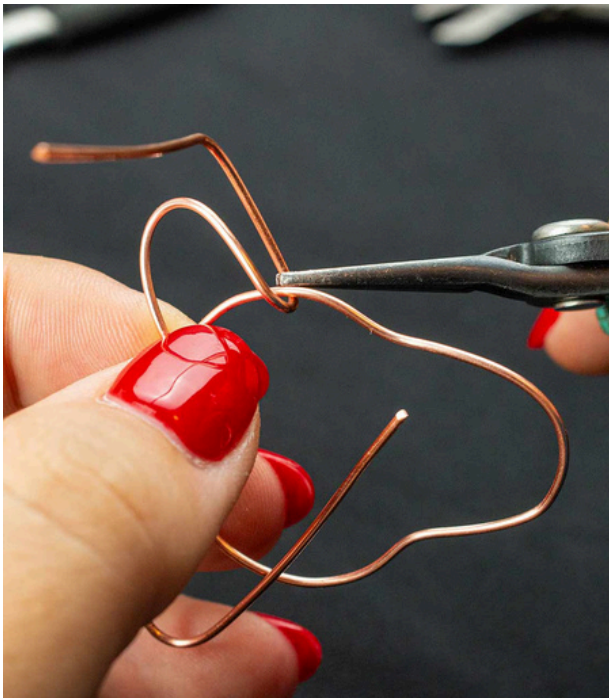


5. Cross the wire at the top and continue with the ears.

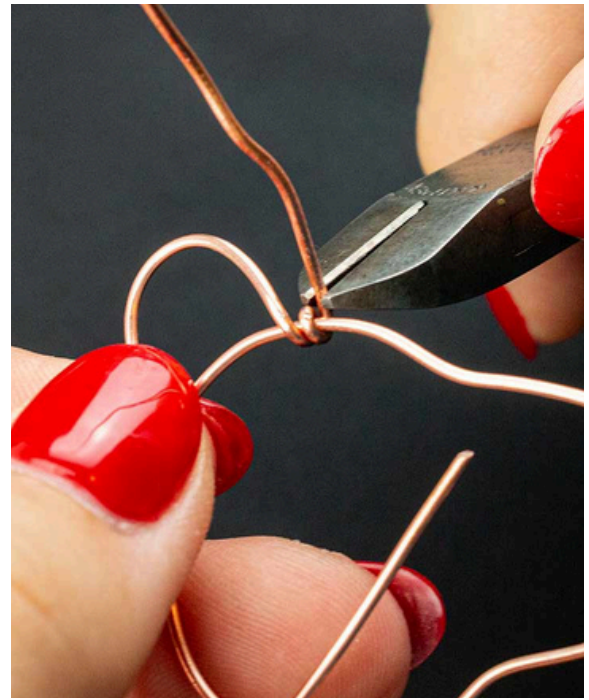


6. Shape the ears; the ends of both wires will cross.





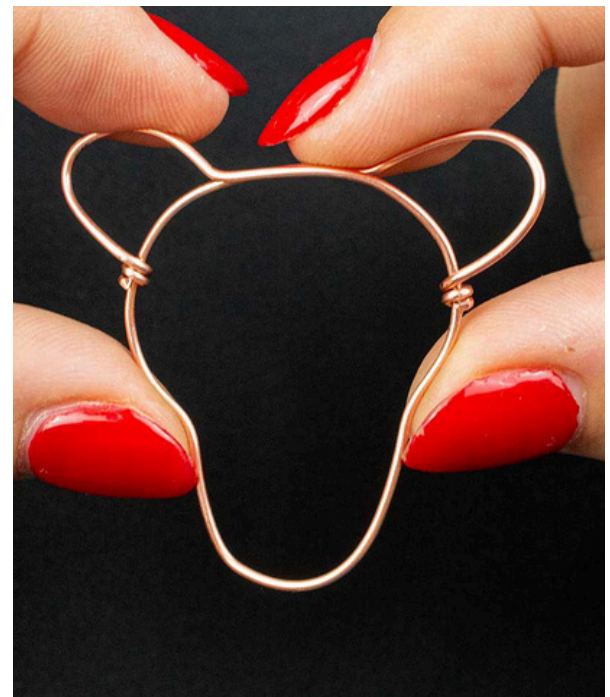
7. Take them in pliers and wrap them tightly around the outline of the head twice.



8. Cut off the excess wire with wire cutters.



9. Finish by pressing the ends with pliers.

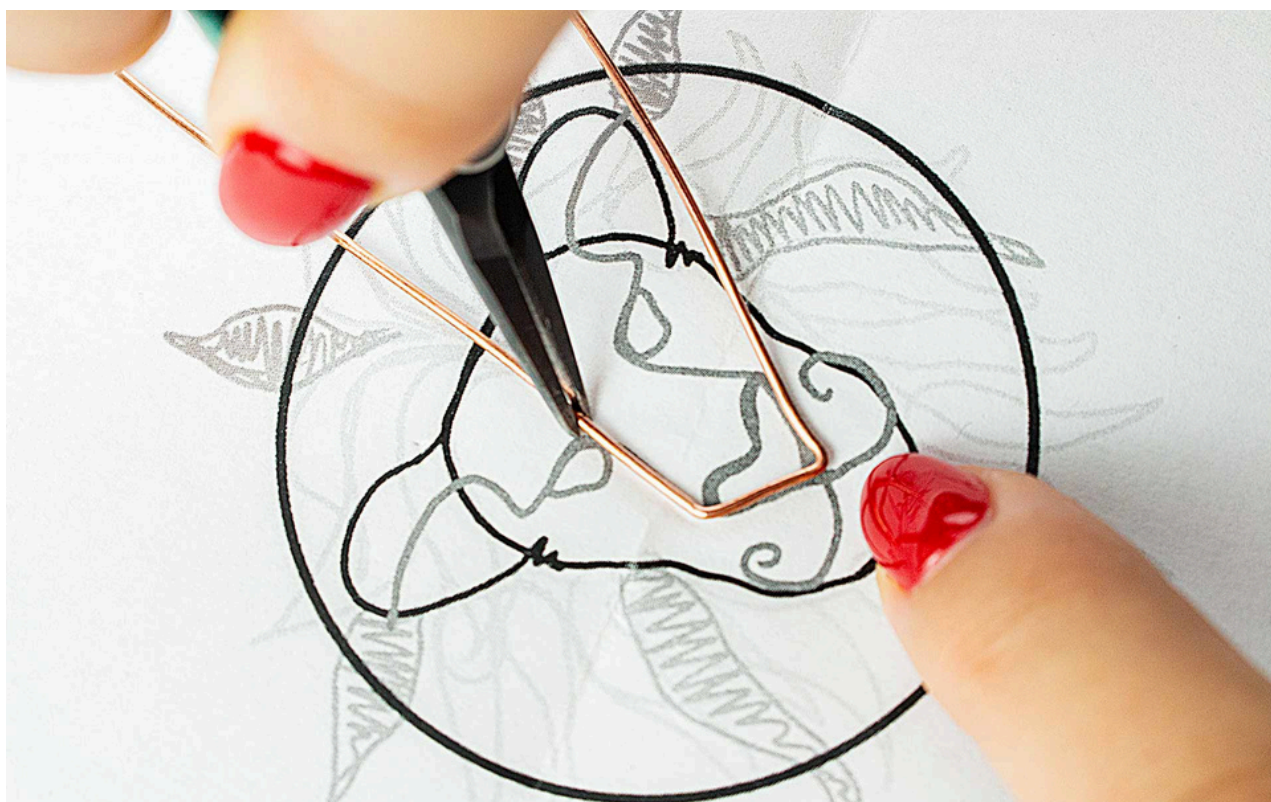


10. This is how the finished outline of the lion's head looks.





11. Next, cut 15 cm of 1 mm thick wire. Sharply bend the wire in half with pliers.

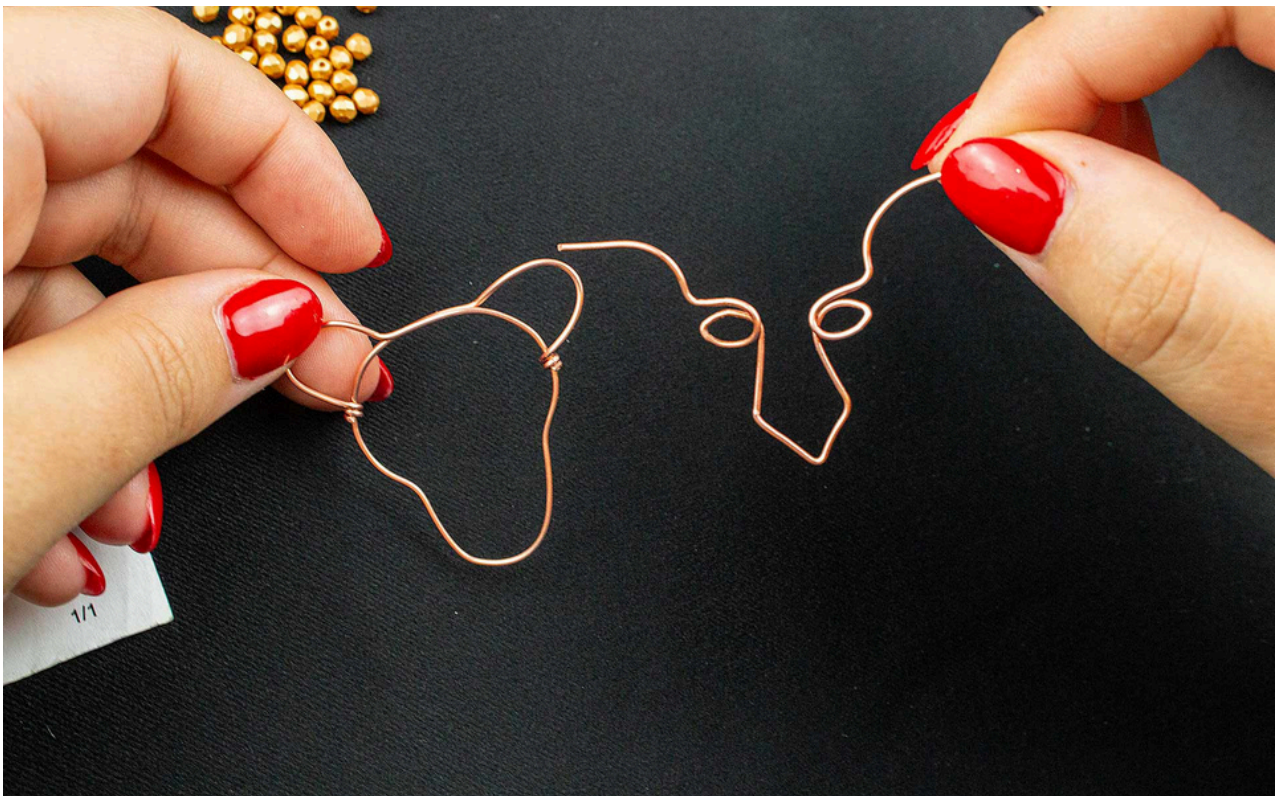


12. Place the tip on the template and start shaping the nose according to it.



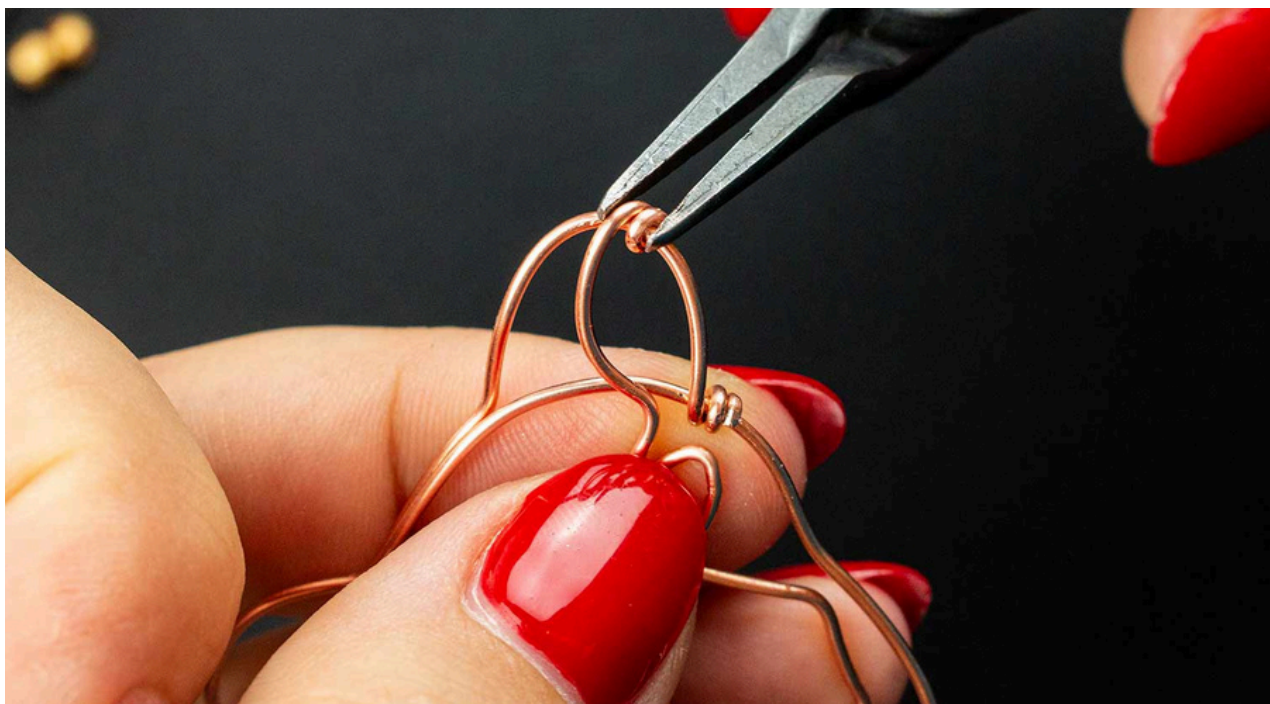


13. 14. Next, shape the eyes.



15. And the inner part of the ears. This is how the two finished parts of the head look, which you will then assemble together.



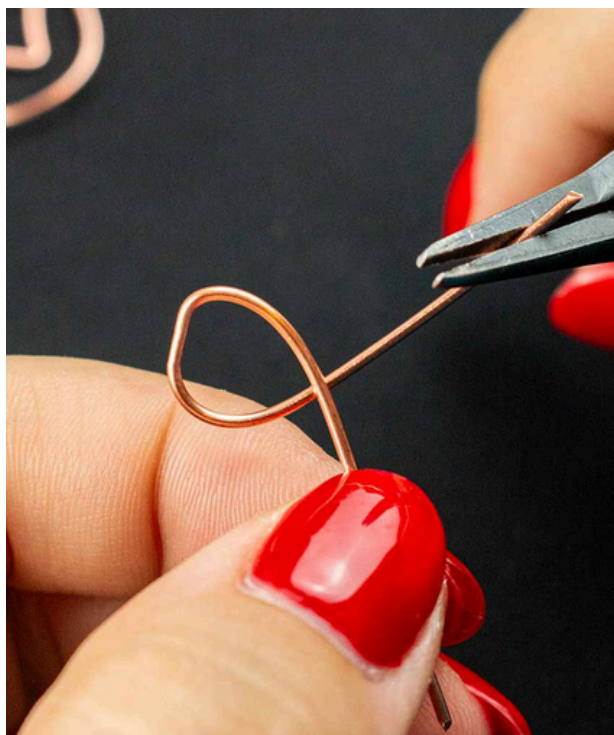


16. Wrap the ends of the inner shape wire around the ear outline twice, cut off the excess, and finish.



17. This is how the finished base of the lion's head looks.

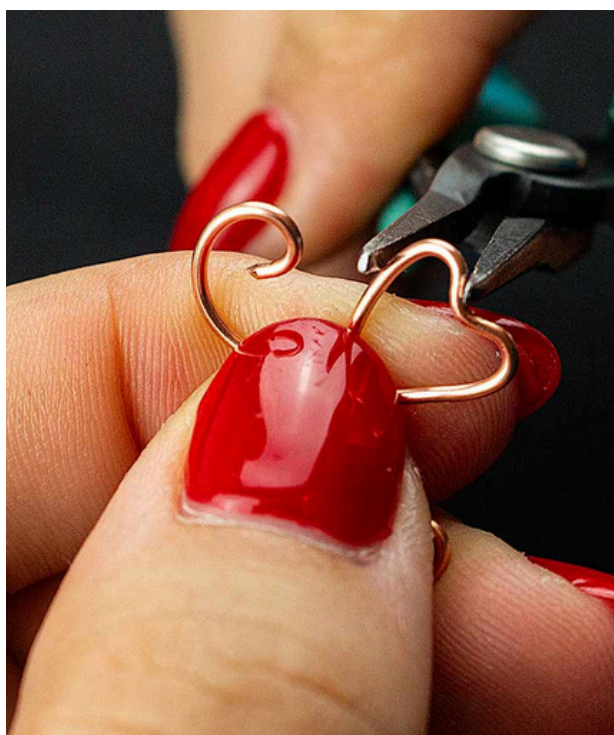




18. Next, cut 8 cm of the same wire (1 mm thick). Shape it into a triangular loop, i.e., the lion's nose.



19. Twist the wire ends into two loose spirals on both sides according to the attached template, forming the lion's mouth.



20. Then bend the upper part of the nose with pliers.

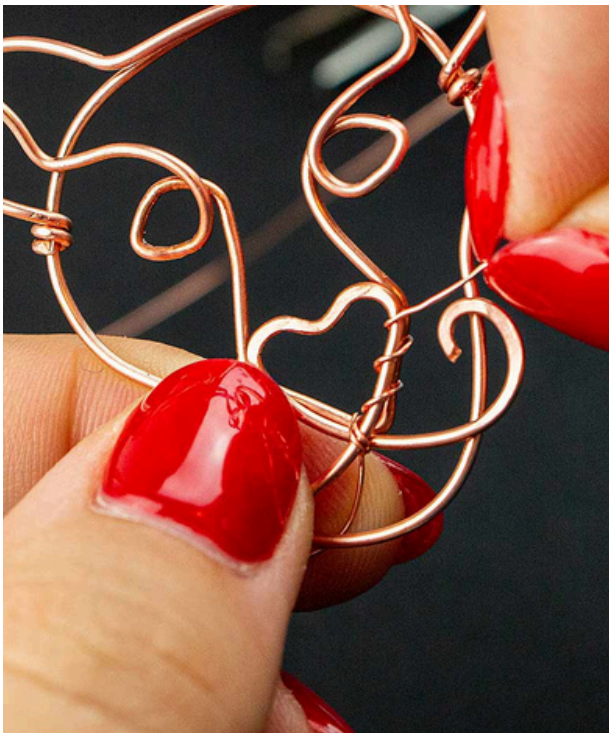


21. And flatten it on an anvil.

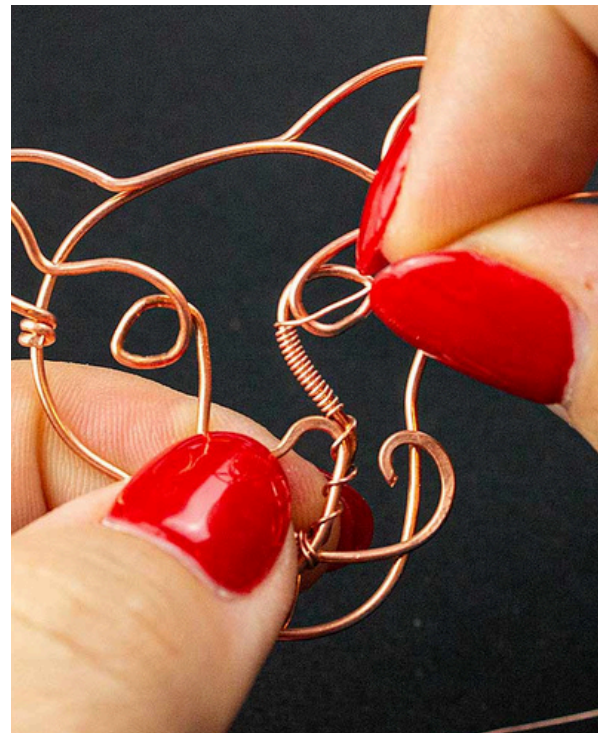




22. Place it on the prepared head and adjust if necessary.

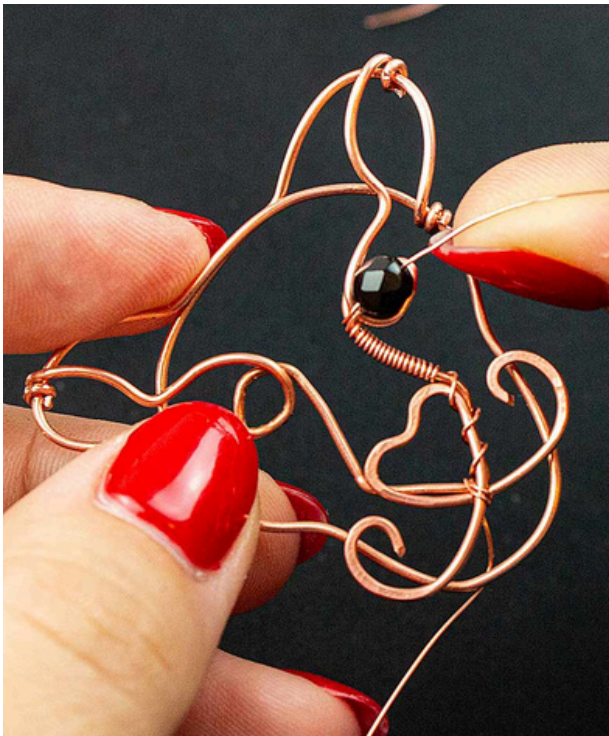


23. Take a thin wire (0.4 mm thick) and measure about 60 cm. Bend the wire in half, wrap it around the tip of the nose several times, and start sewing the two parts together with this thin wire. First, loosely wrap the nose from the side.

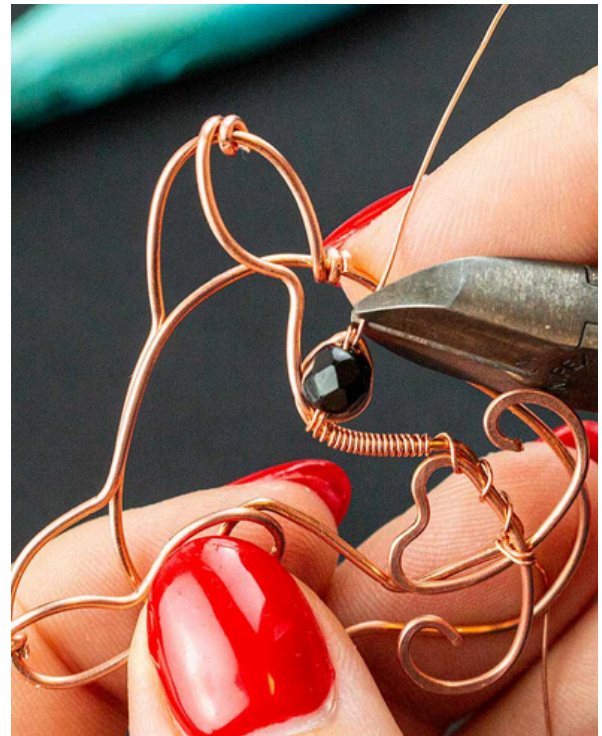


24. Under the eyes, wrap the wire tightly around the nose.

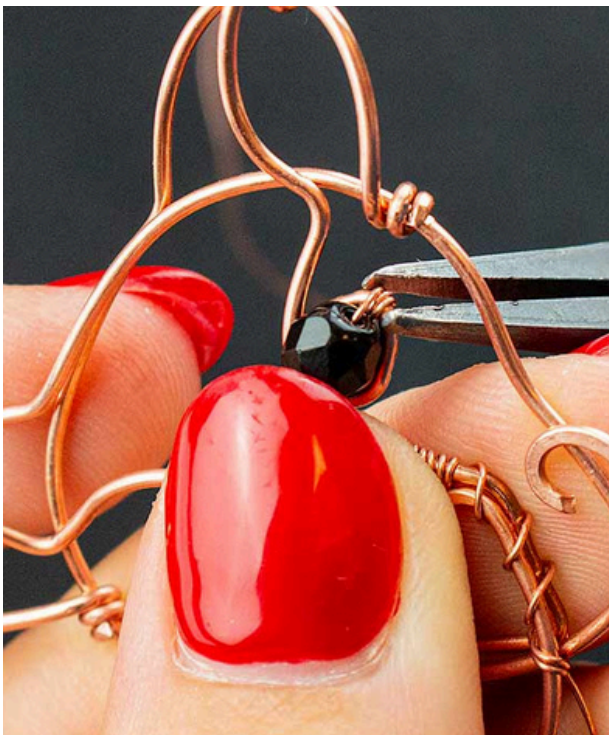




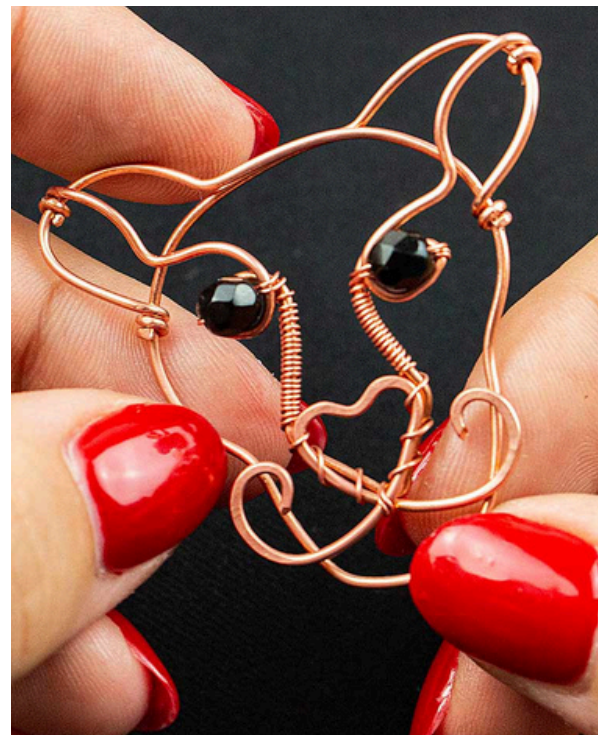
25. When you reach the corner of the eye, thread the first black bead and place it in the loop.



26. Then wrap the wire twice in the outer corner of the eye and cut it off.



27. Finish by pressing with pliers.

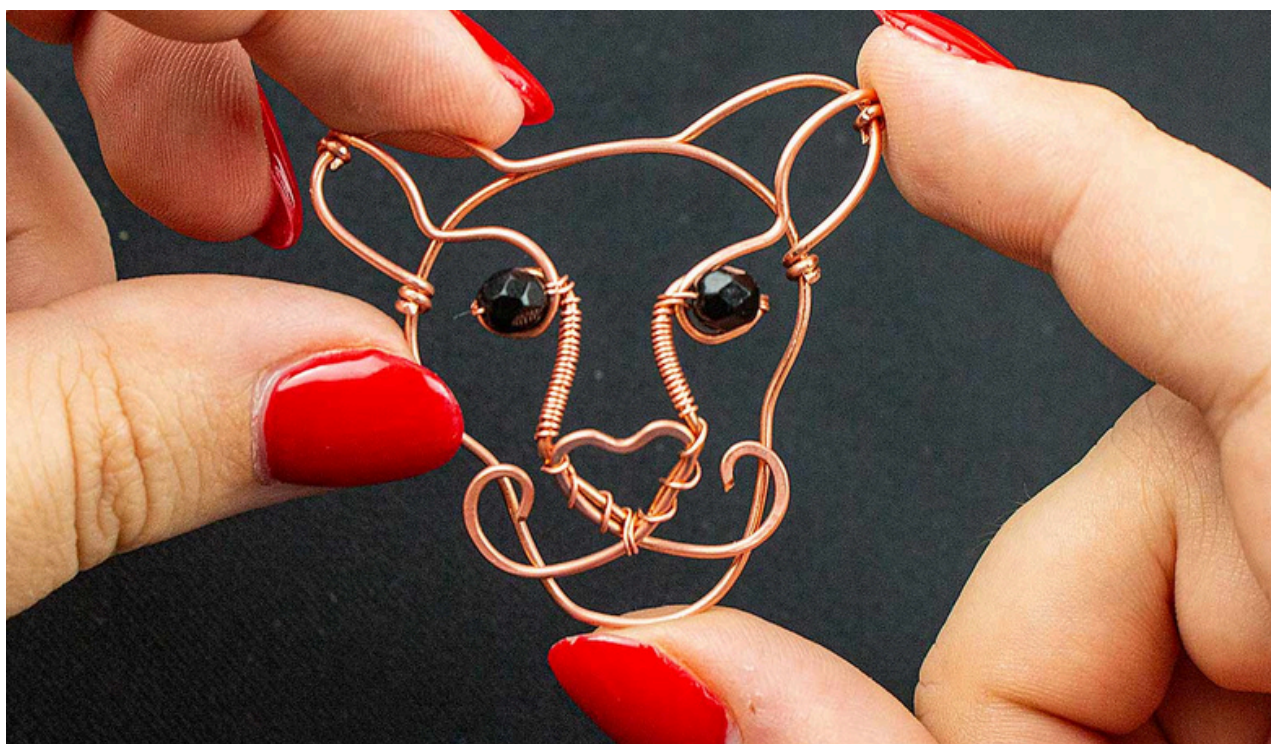


28. Do the same on the other side, and the whole lion's head is finished this way.



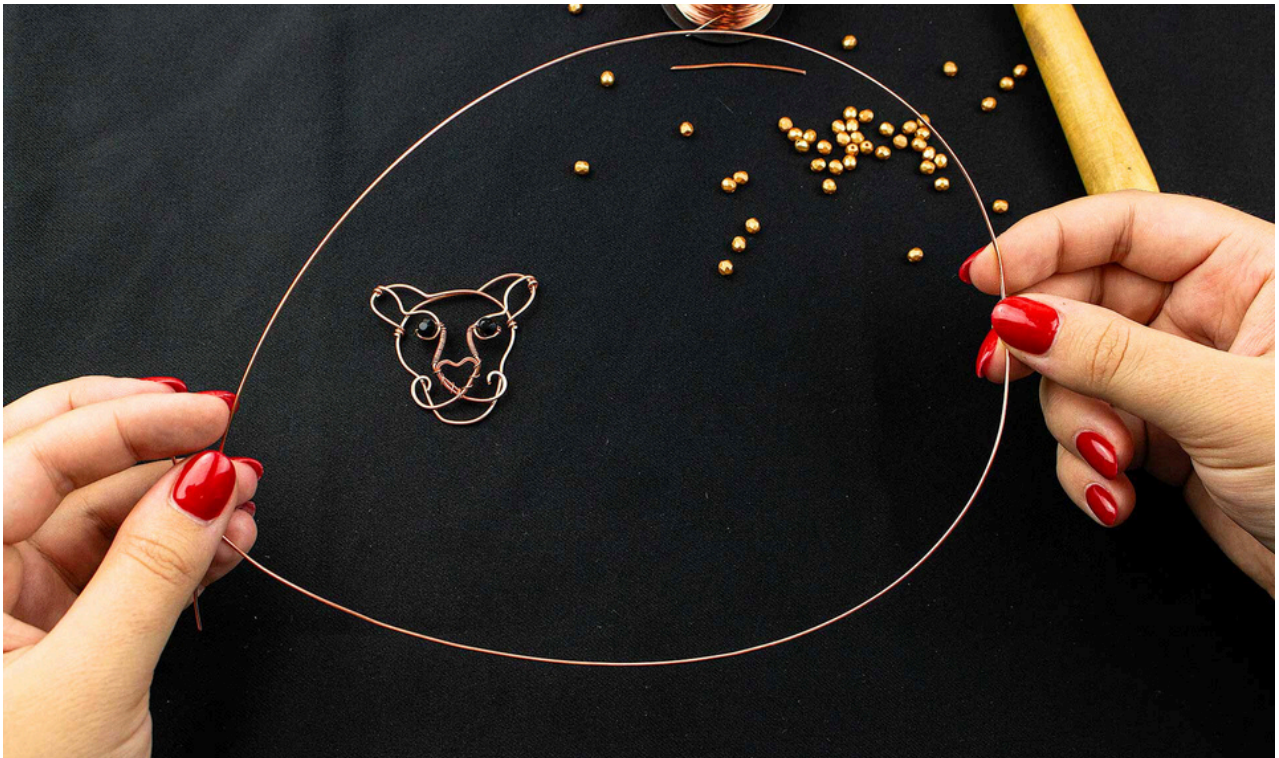


29. Finally, bend the lion's nose and mouth forward with your thumb so they stand out plastically from the head. The lion will look more realistic.



30. This is the finished head with the weaving.

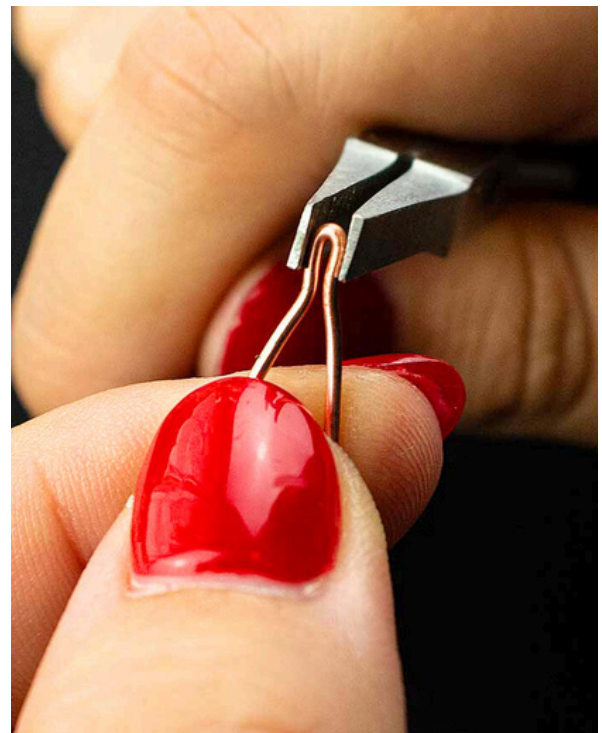




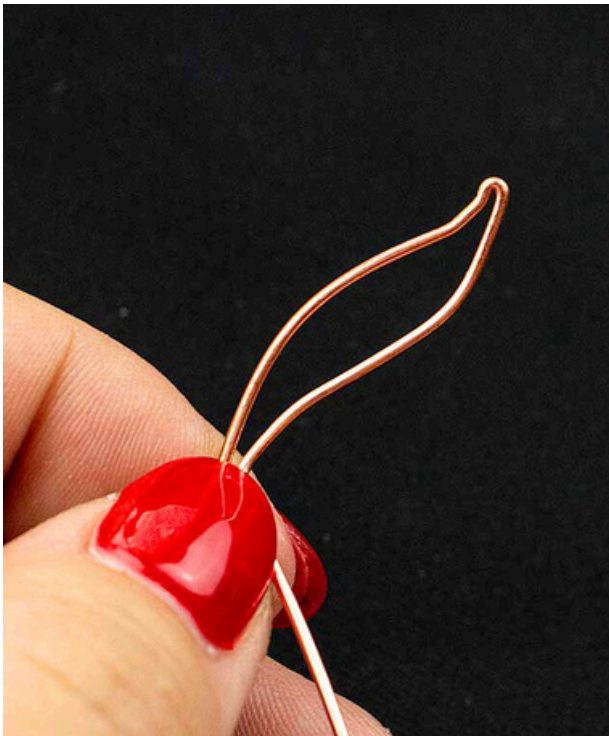
31. Continue with the mane. It has two parts, upper and lower. For the upper part of the mane, cut 60 cm of thick wire (1 mm thick).



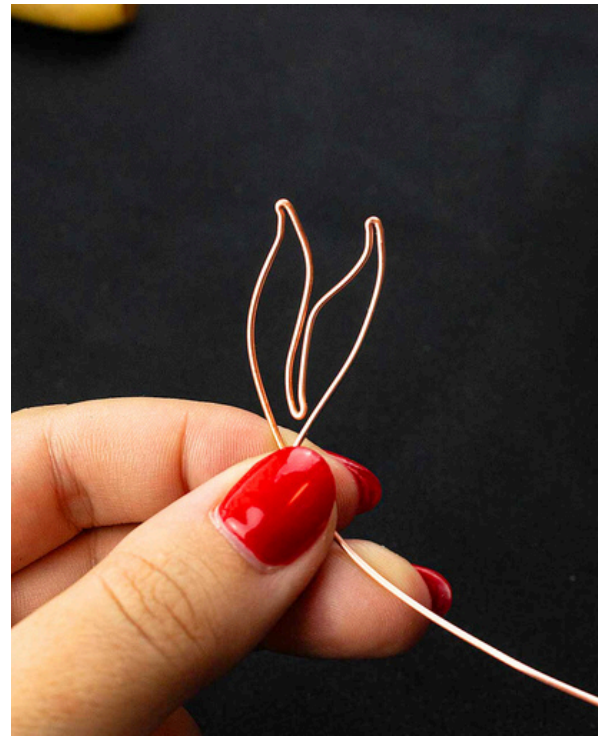
32. Smooth the wire and bend it in half.



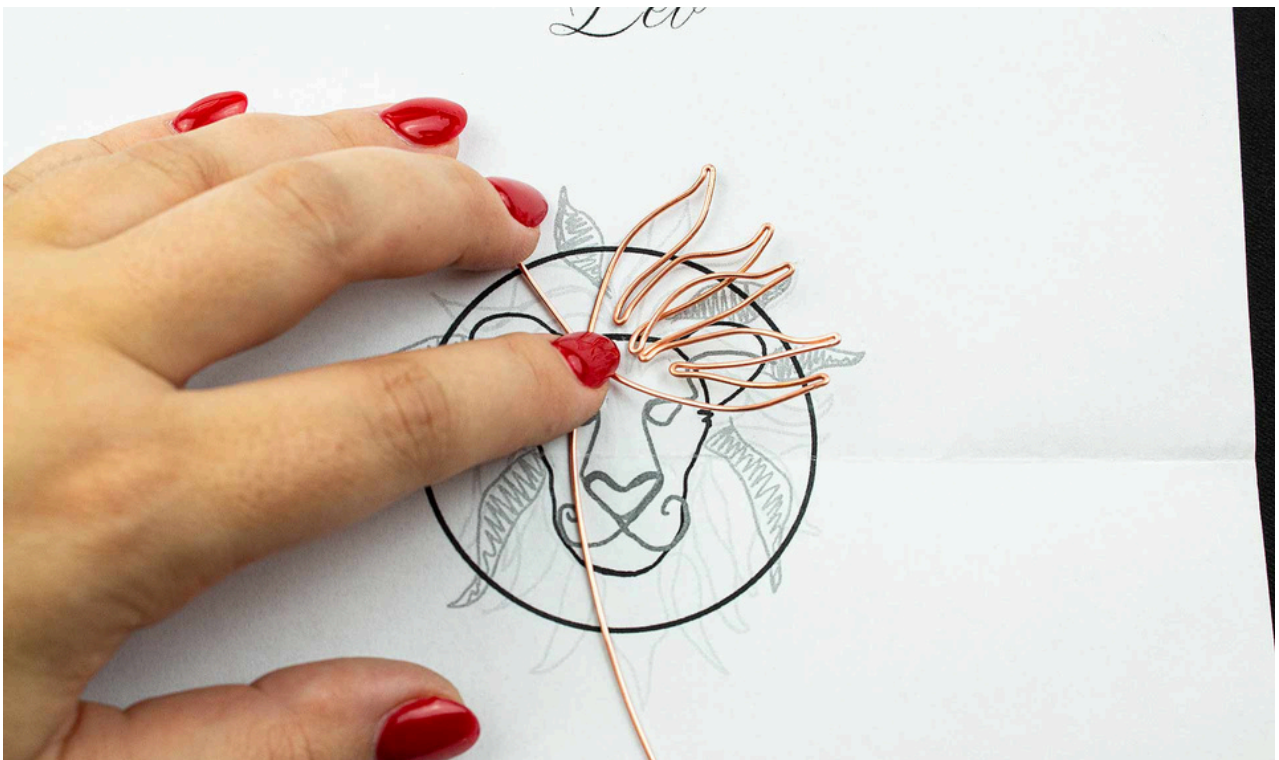
33. Press the bent wire with pliers to create a sharp tip.



34. Then open the tip and shape the first strand of the lion's mane. You can use the template or shape the strands individually. They shouldn't be the same or symmetrical to mimic the flowing lion's mane.



35. Continue similarly with another strand of the mane.



36. Compare the mane with the template as you go along.





37. Now the upper part of the mane is finished.

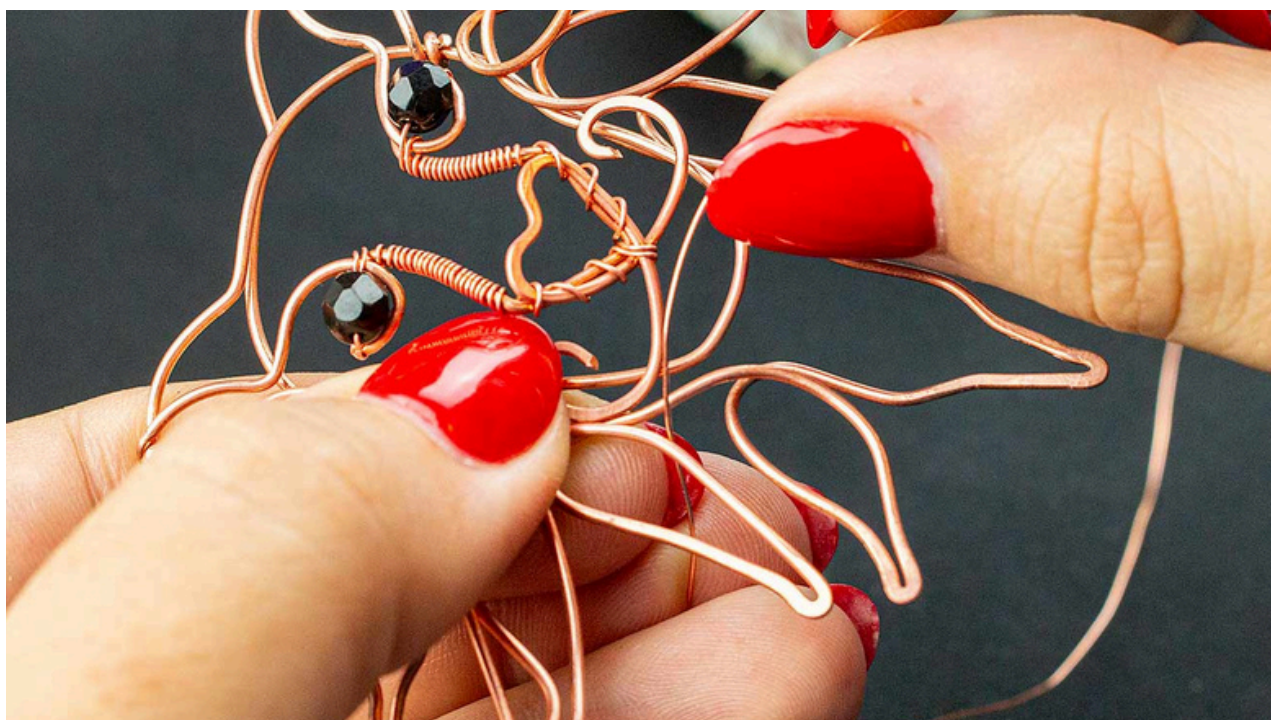


38. Similarly, create the lower part of the mane. Start shaping in the middle, at the chin.



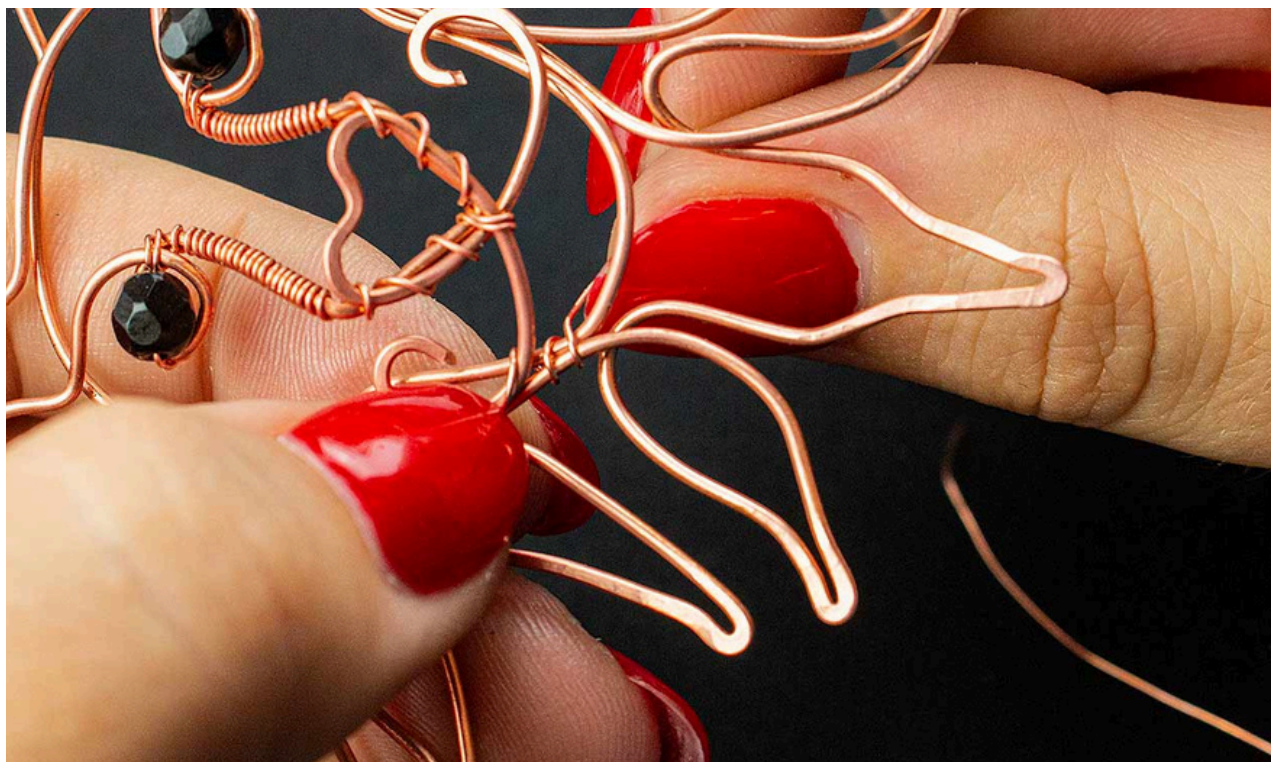


39. You can flatten the ends of both parts of the mane on an anvil.

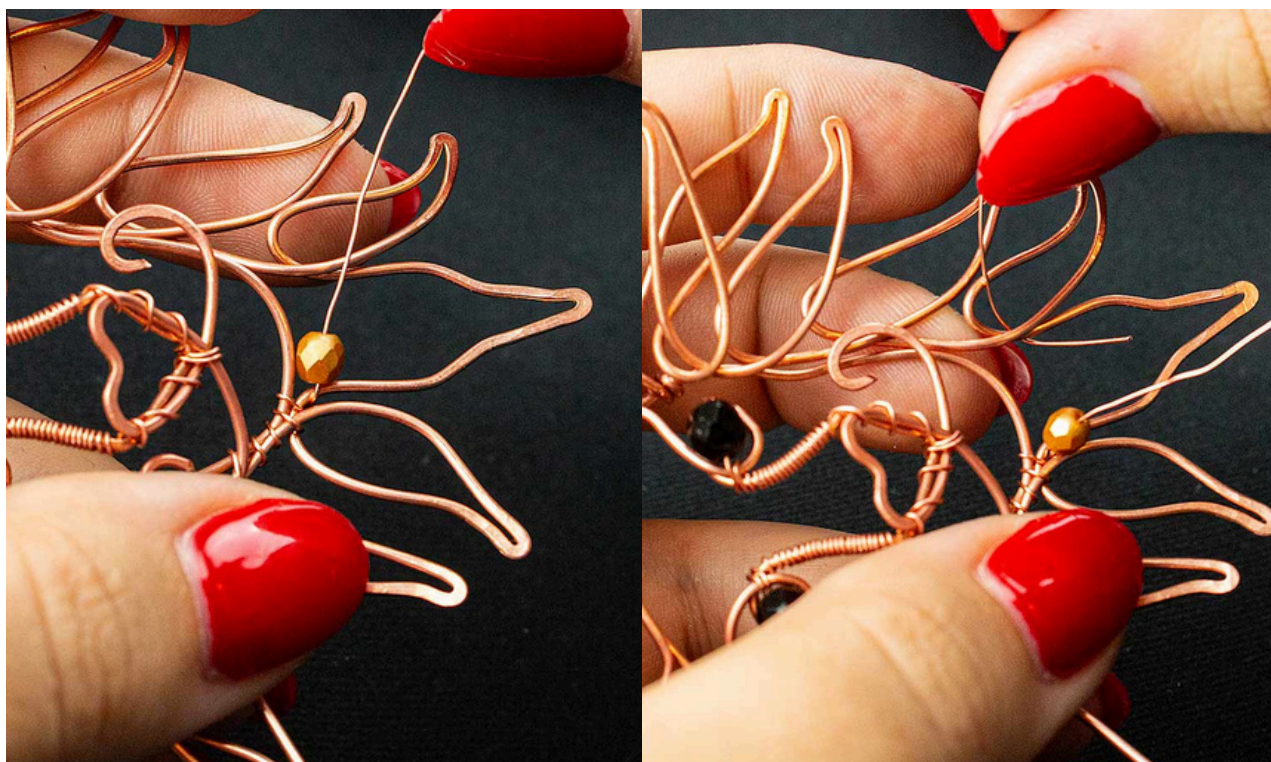


40. Then take a thin wire (0.4 mm thick), measure it roughly the length of an arm, bend it in half, and start sewing the mane to the chin.



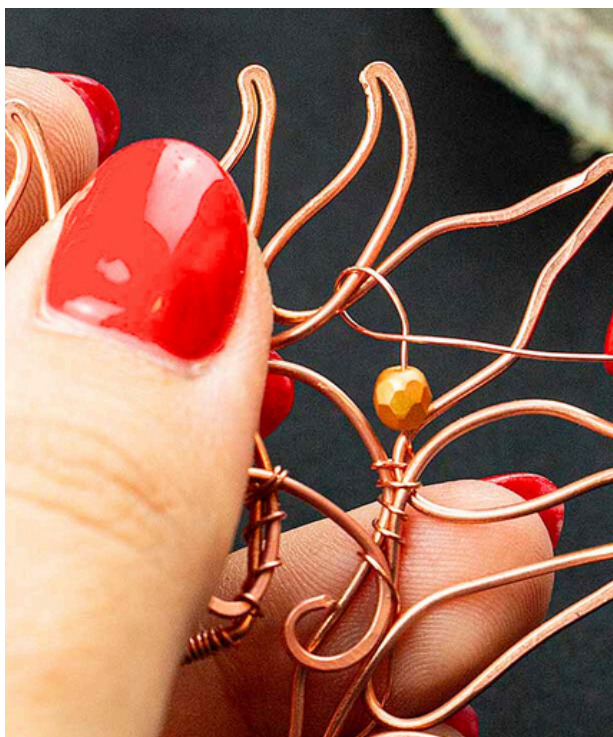


41. Wrap the wire several times and continue.

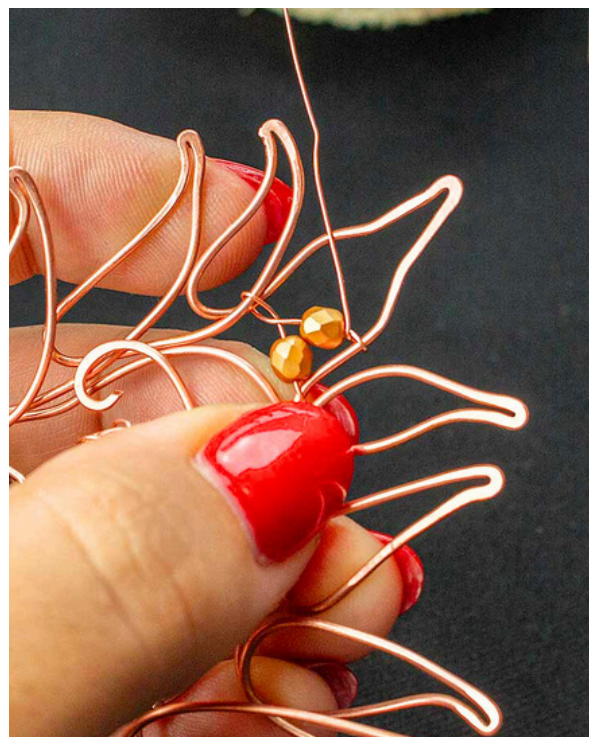


42. 43. You can weave beads into the mane for decoration. I used gold fire-polished beads. Thread the first bead and place it in the middle strand under the chin.





44. Continue with a “zig-zag” weave.

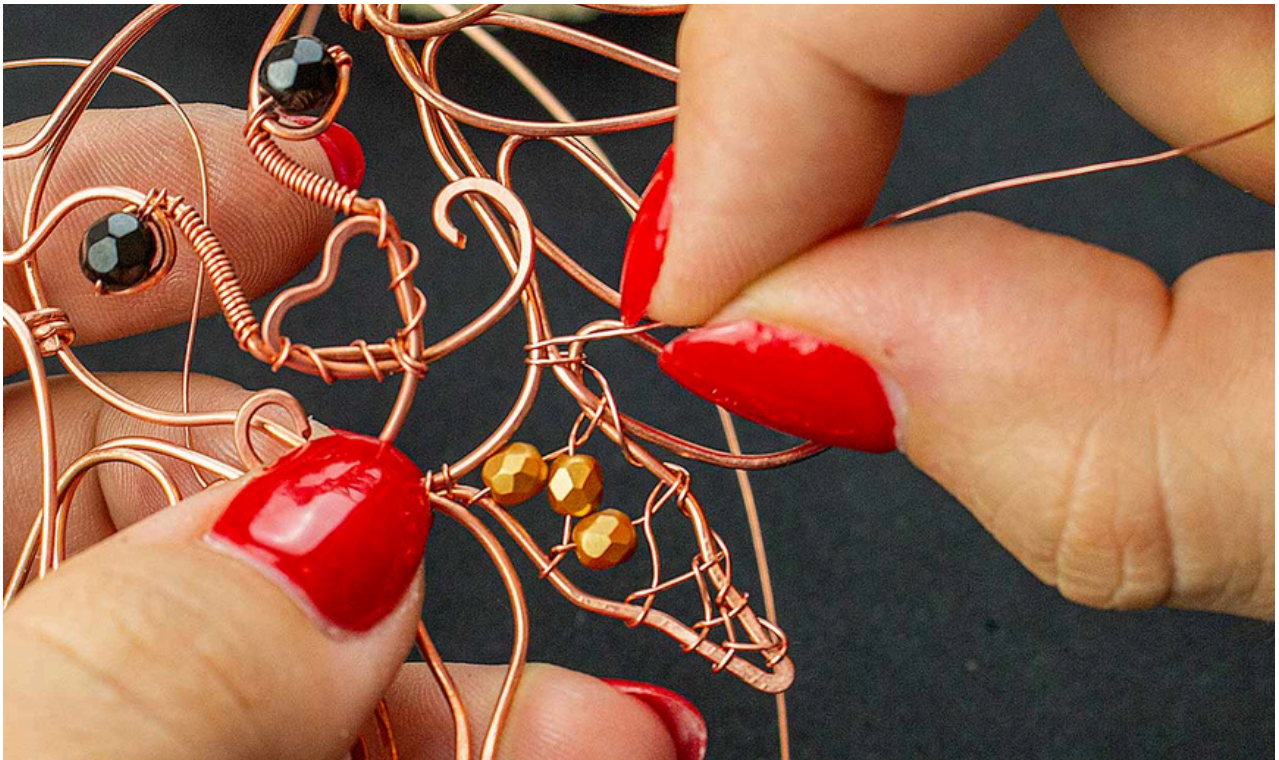


45. Add another bead and continue weaving.



46. Beads won't fit in the narrow part, so finish weaving without them.





47. Lead the wire further, continue sewing the mane to the head. You can weave and decorate some mane strands with beads.



48. You can also decorate and thicken the mane by adding loose, fully woven strands. Prepare these from 8 cm long pieces of 1 mm thick wire.

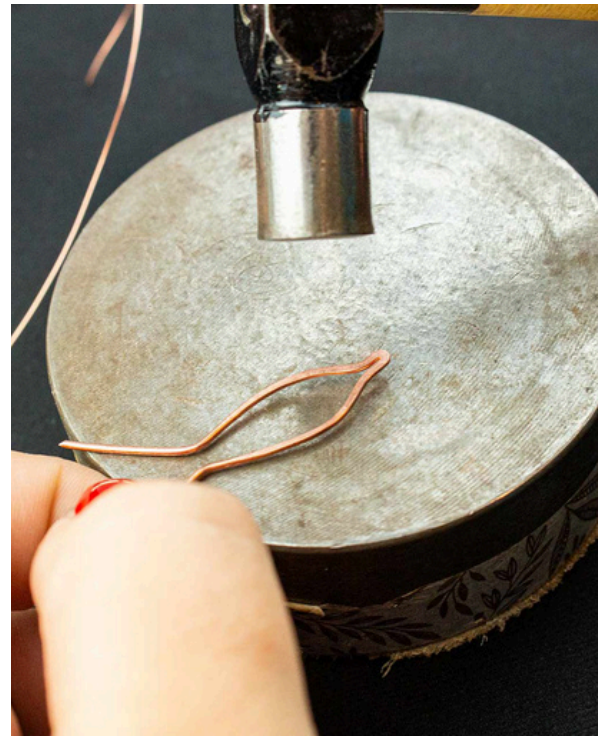


49. Bend the wire in half and create a tip with pliers.

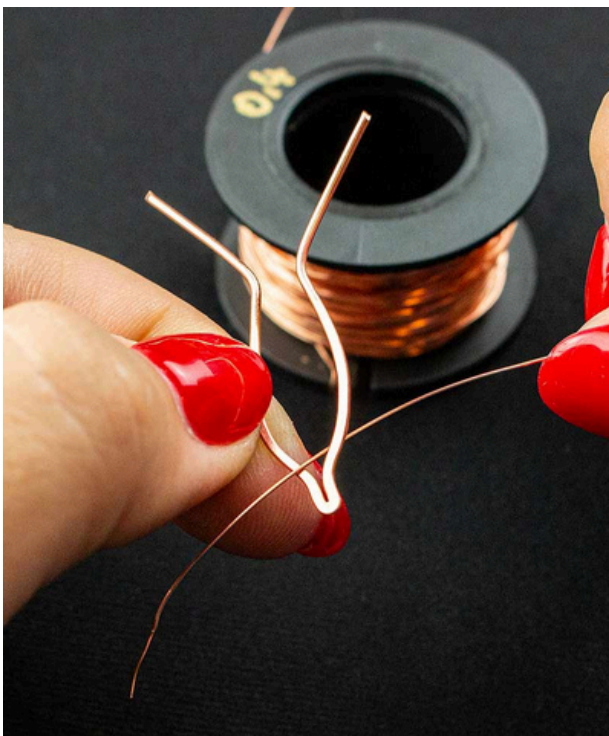




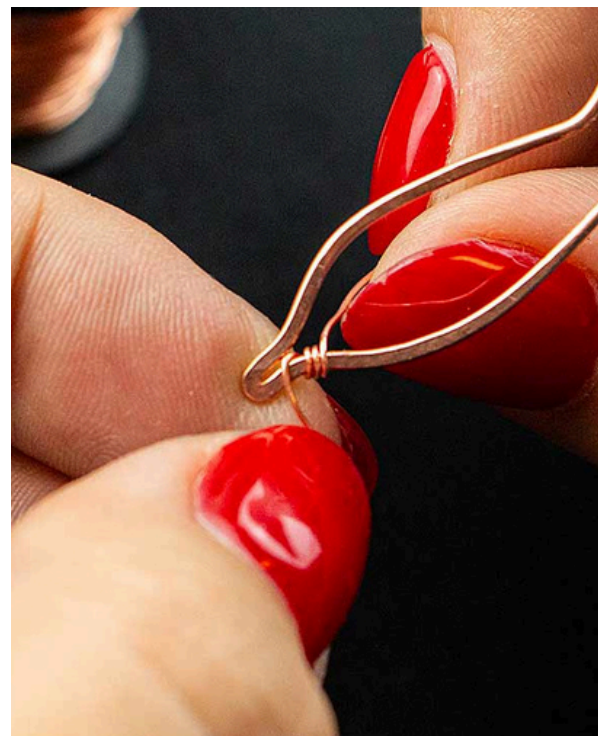
50. Then open the tip and shape it into a leaf or fish shape.



51. Flatten the tip on an anvil.



52. And take a thin wire (0.4 mm) for weaving. Start at the tip.

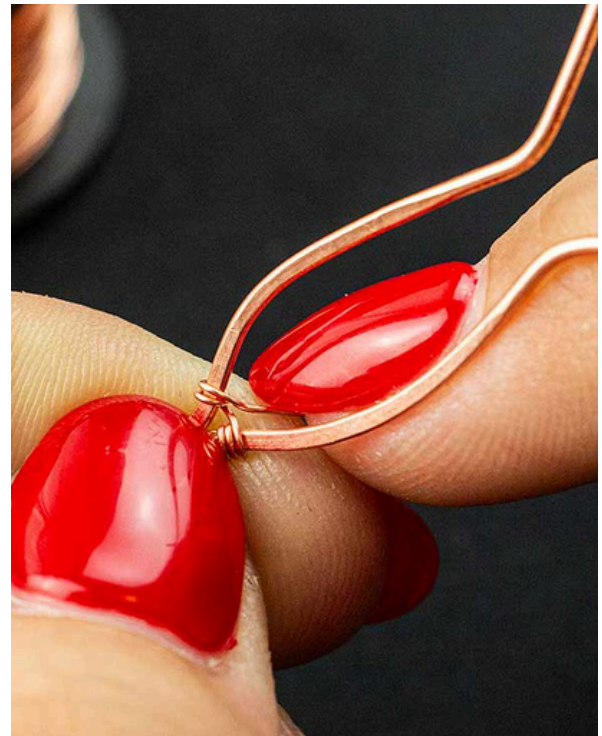


53. Wrap the wire several times.





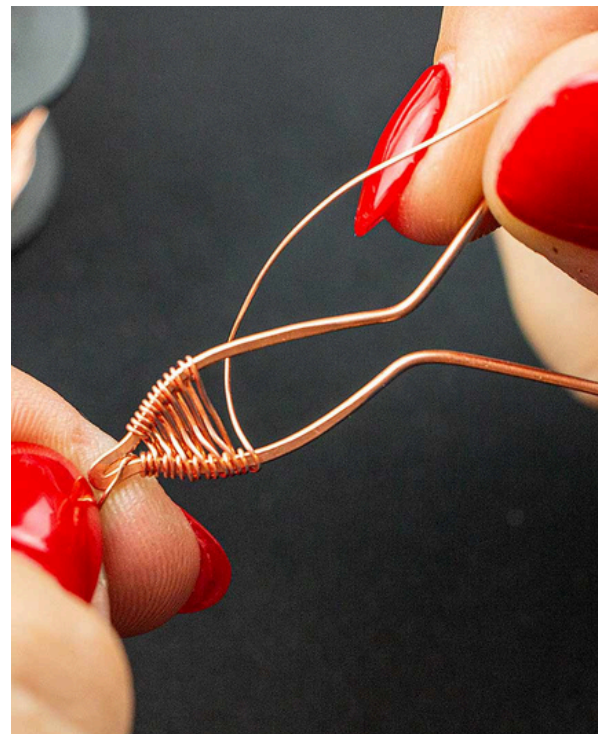
54. And lead it to the opposite side.



55. Wrap twice there and lead back, so that the finished weave resembles figure eights from the side.

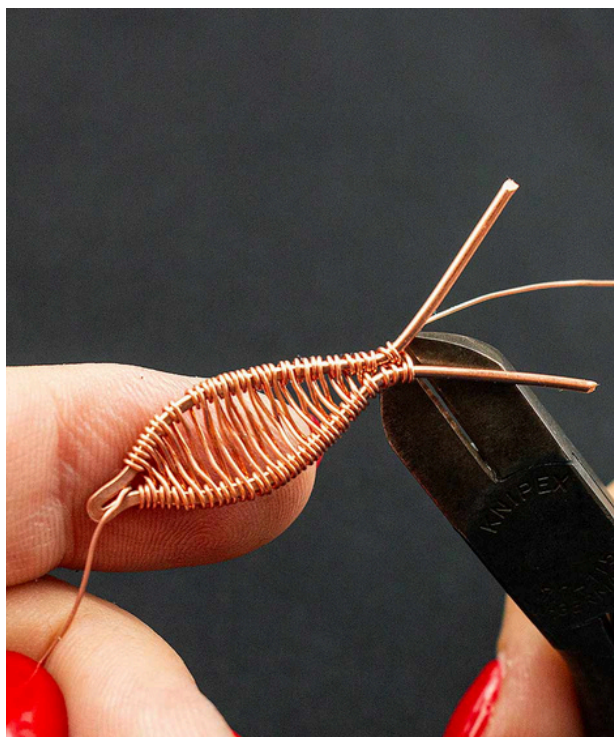


56. Again twice and again to the opposite side.



57. Continue this way around the whole shape.





58. Until the entire shape is woven. Cut off the wire at the end and finish.



59. This is how the finished woven strand of the mane looks.

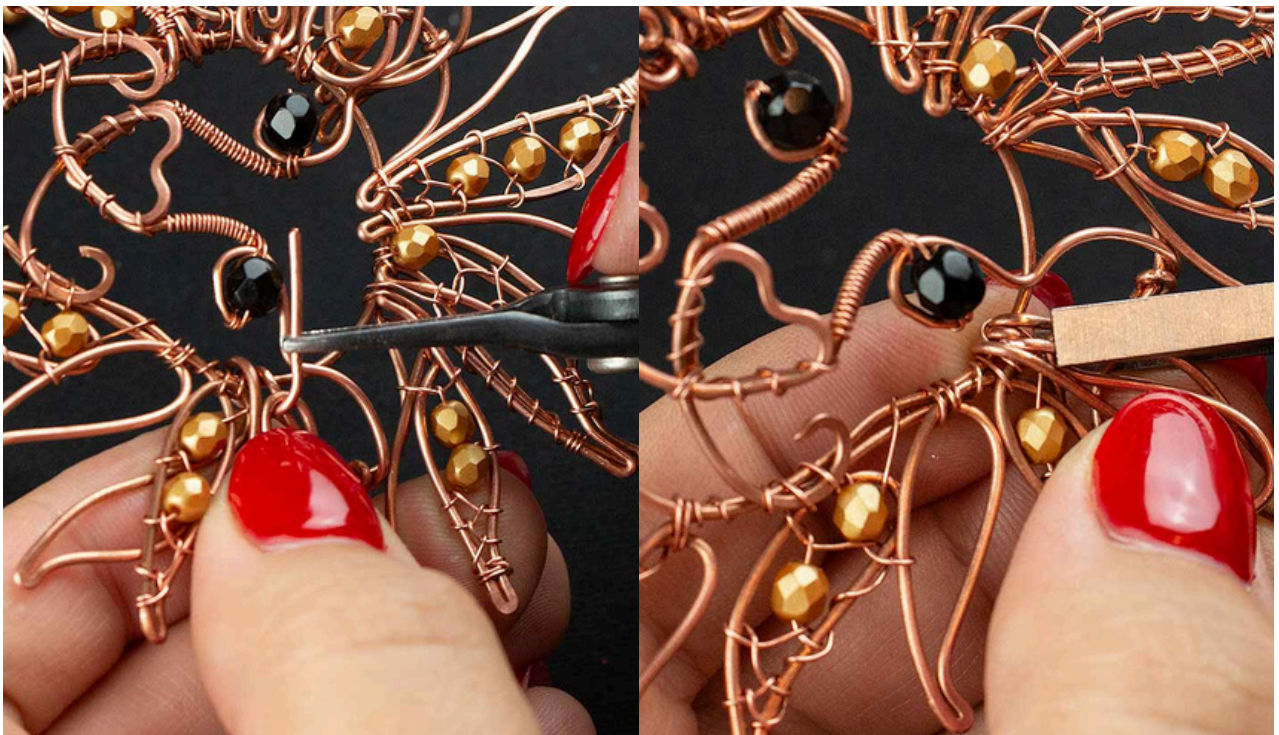


60. Now take the head with the attached lower mane and continue attaching the upper part of the mane in the same way.





61. This is how the lion's head with the complete mane looks.

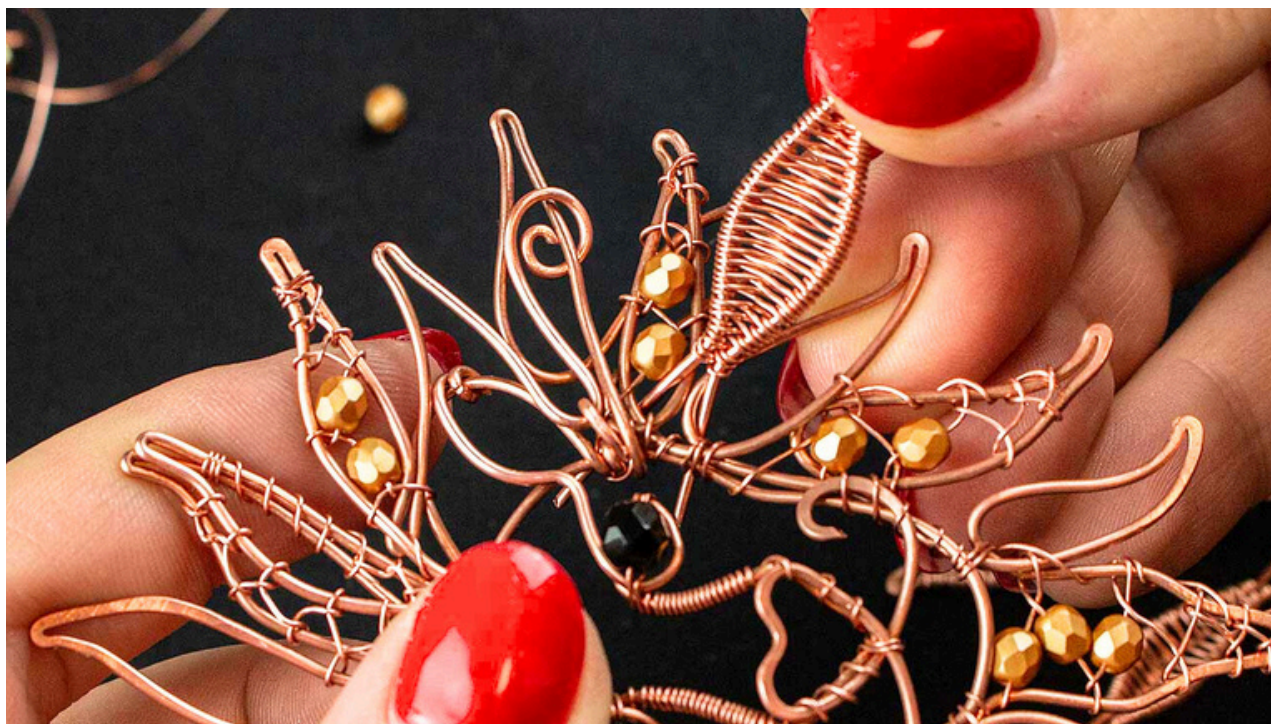


62. 63. Now join and finish all four loose ends of the wires from both parts of the mane. You can twist them into decorative spirals or wrap the wire, cut it, and finish it neatly.





64. Now prepare the woven loose strands that you will insert into the finished mane.



65. First, find a suitable spot where you want to insert the strand.





66. Then place the strand in position and tightly wrap both ends of the wires around the nearest wire of the mane or head at that spot using pliers. Always cut and finish the wire neatly. Continue this process until you have placed all the prepared loose strands into the mane.



67. And the wire-wrapped Leo zodiac sign is finished.





68. Finally, prepare the finished hoop to which you will attach the sign.



69. Secure it firmly in a few places and the product is complete.





70. Bravo! :)



## conclusion

Have you created your Leo Zodiac Sign? Show off and share them in the Facebook group Wire Art Academy :-). You'll also find plenty of other inspiration from fellow wire enthusiasts!



## about The author

Monsterance (BcA. Anna Benešová) is a wireworker, jewellery designer and lecturer of wirework technique. She makes original wire jewellery and regularly teaches wirework courses in the Czech Republic and abroad. She has over 15 years of experience in the field and has come a long way from traditional wirework of pots and decorations, through wrought jewellery to elaborate jewellery with fantasy motifs, in which she combines the American style of working with wire, the so-called wire-wrapping. She is the author of several courses on wirework and the e-book How to Start Wireworking Jewelry, teaches regularly online in her Wirework Club, and enjoys sharing her experiences in the Magic Wirework fb group. She is a big fan of all things handmade and creativity is an essential part of her life. Her wirework classes attended thousands of satisfied participants have already passed through.



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*The manual was created in July 2024.*