

HAMMERED HOOP EARRINGS

with Beth Lawrence (a.k.a. Freshie)

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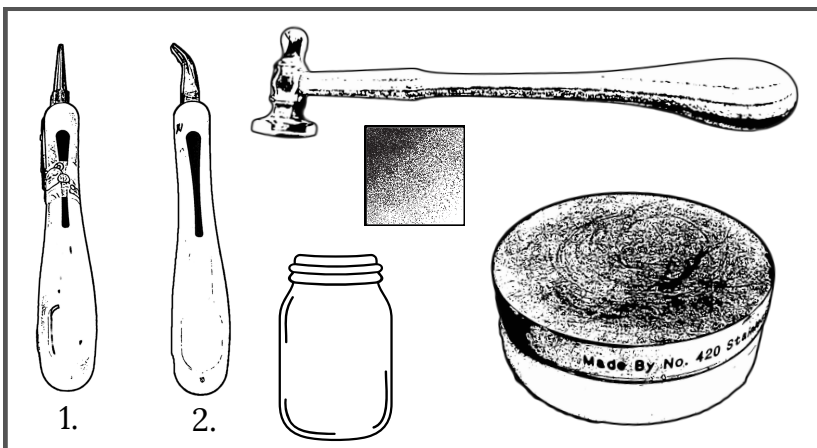
Welcome! We are going to learn how to make hoop earrings with practice wire (copper) and a hammer. You will learn how to make 2 styles in 2 different sizes. At the end, you will pick your favorite style and size and make a pair using jeweler's brass wire. Get ready to have fun!

Tools per student

1. Needle Nose Pliers
2. Bent Nose Pliers
3. Empty Bottle
4. Sandpaper

Tools per 2 students

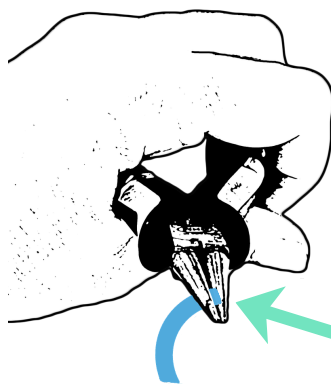
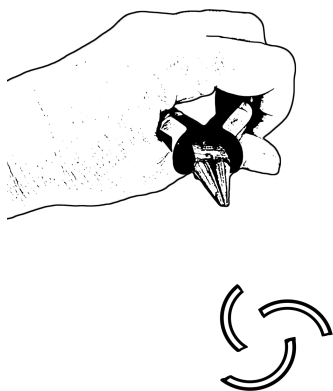
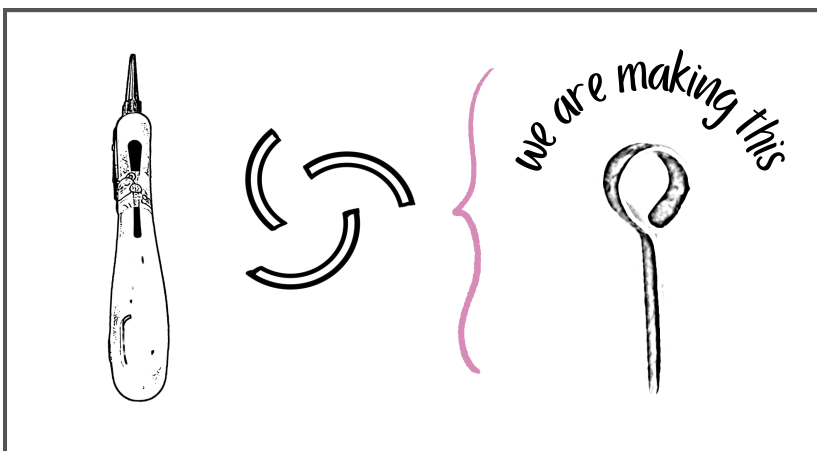
5. Chasing Hammer
6. Bench Block



Skill 1: Circle Loop

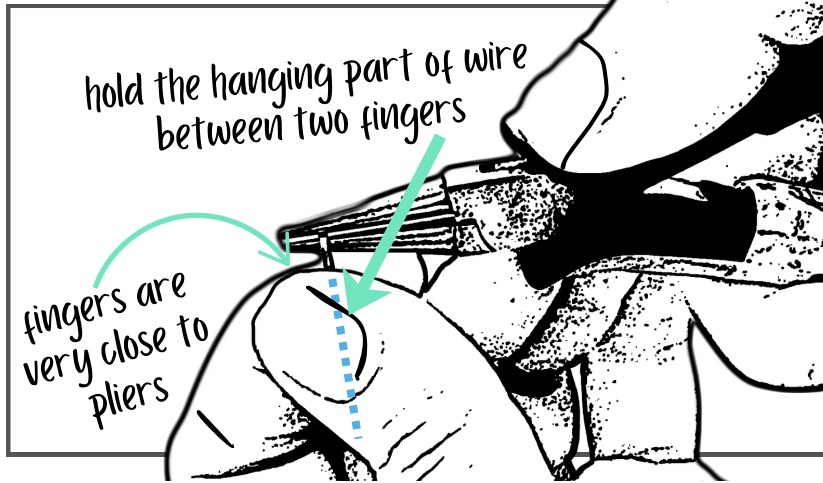
Learn to curl flat wire into a circle on a stick shape

USE: needle nose pliers + scrap flattened wire



1. Using a practice wire scrap, lay wire **flat** in between the pliers, near the edge of one side of the wire. A **tiny bit** of wire should peek through.*

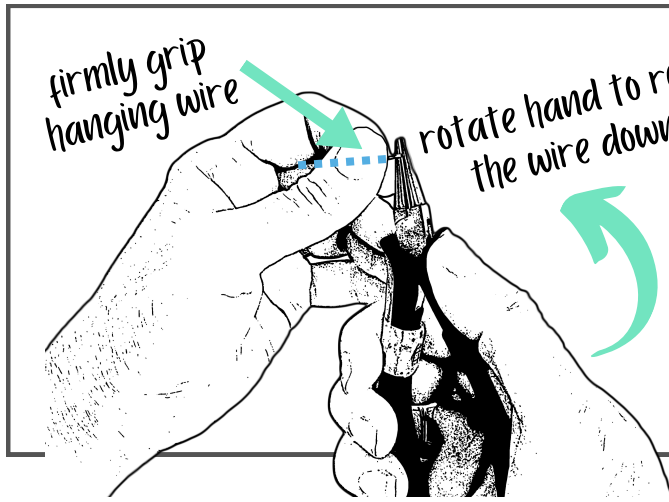
you should only see a tiny bit of wire peeking through the middle of the pliers



hold the hanging part of wire between two fingers

fingers are very close to pliers

2. Close the pliers firmly on the wire. Firmly hold the hanging part of wire with thumb + pointer finger up against the pliers. Your fingers will be leverage as you roll the wire down.

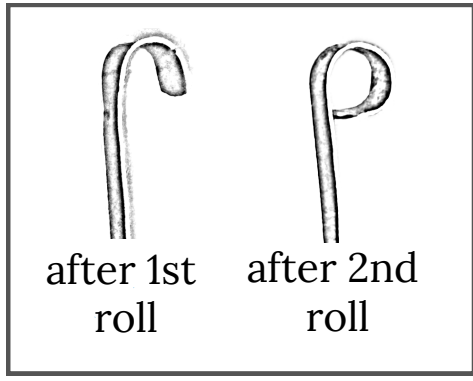


firmly grip hanging wire

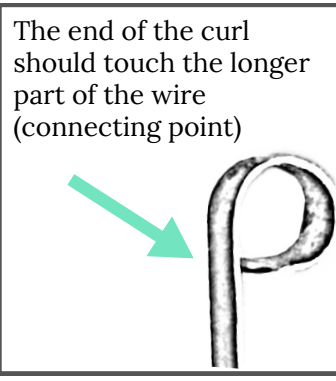
rotate hand to roll the wire down

3. Rotate **pliers hand** downward to roll the wire into a curl while firmly holding the hanging wire with your two fingers. Don't curl all the way - this will hurt your wrist after a while.

4. After rolling a **half turn**, rotate the tips of the pliers back to where you started while leaving the wire where it is. Now you can roll the wire another half turn to complete a circle.

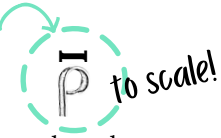


after 1st roll after 2nd roll

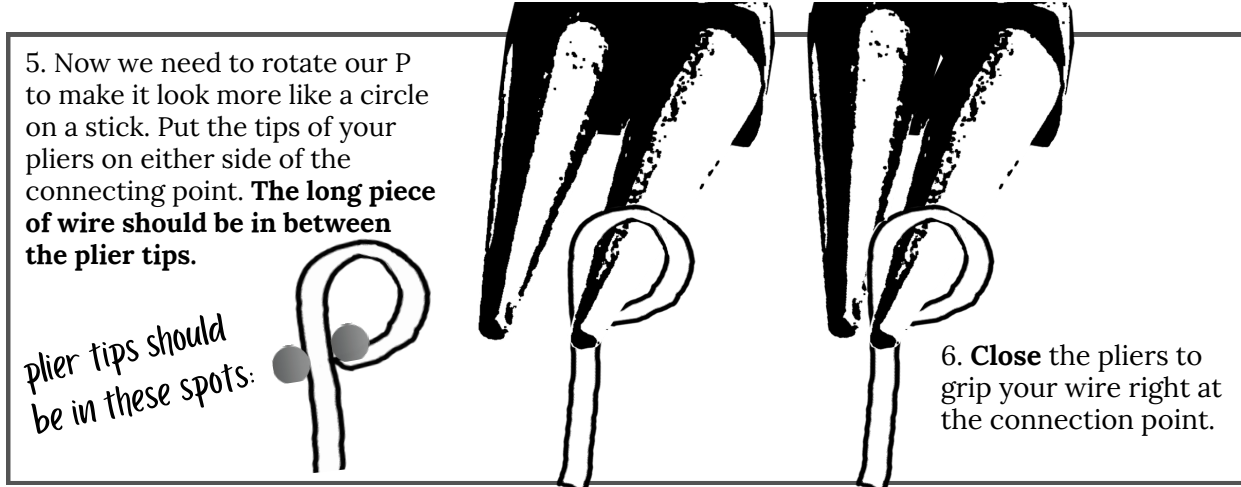


The end of the curl should touch the longer part of the wire (connecting point)

Wire should now look like a lower case p. The diameter of the loop should be about 1/8" wide:



The circle needs to be centered on top of the wire, so we have another step.



5. Now we need to rotate our P to make it look more like a circle on a stick. Put the tips of your pliers on either side of the connecting point. **The long piece of wire should be in between the plier tips.**

plier tips should be in these spots:

6. **Close** the pliers to grip your wire right at the connection point.

7. Hold the wire firmly with two fingers close to the pliers. Keep your fingers still and use the pliers for the next move.

wire between two fingers

Now while keeping the long piece of wire still, use the pliers to **bend** the wire base of the circle slightly. The circle loop should now be centered over the rest of the wire.

just bend this spot

It may look a little like a balloon

oops! A little too much of an oval*

It should look more like a lollipop

yes! circle on a stick!

Keep practicing! Hole too small or too big? You can put the needle nose plier end inside the circle, rotate it open, then re-curl it to make it bigger or smaller by changing the depth of how far the plier goes through the hole.

*If it looks like an oval, move the pliers tips **closer** to the end of your wire loop and roll the pliers again to curl it.

Roll the wire into a circle like curling a ribbon, not like a twist tie! Don't twist the wire, just roll it.

use both side of scrap to practice

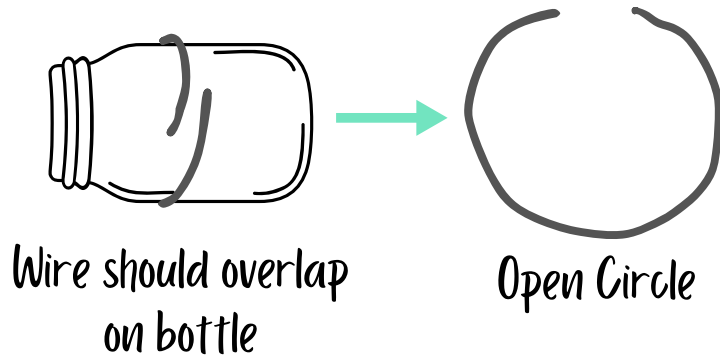
Skill 2: Circle Hoop

Now let's make a hoop!

USE: bent nose pliers + empty bottle + wire

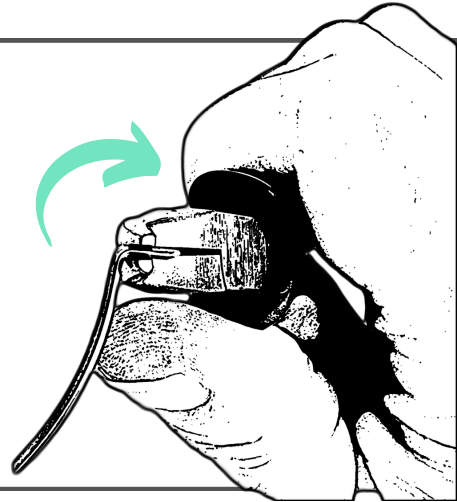
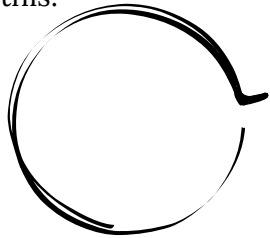
8. Grab a bottle!
 Small bottle gets 4.5" wire
 Large bottle gets 6.75" wire

9. Using your hands, wrap the wire around the bottle to form a circle.
 Use your fingers to push the wire ends on the bottle. Wire will bounce back into a somewhat open circle.



10. Using the Bent Nose Pliers, bend one end of the wire at a 90 degree angle away from the center, as if it is stuck between two sheets of glass. It should look like this:

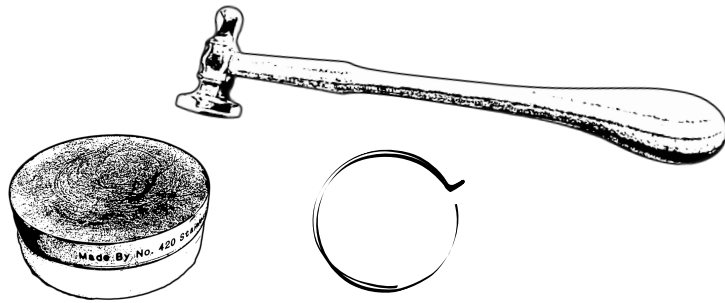
The bent part will go in your ear! It should be about .25" long:



Skill 3: Hammer!

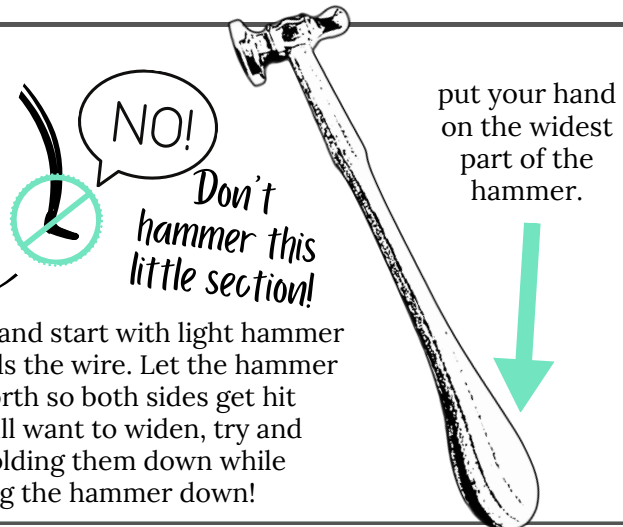
Time to hammer!

USE: hammer, bench block, shaped hoop



11. Place your hoop on the bench block. Use your fingers to hold the two ends on the block to stay close together.

tip **Do NOT** hammer the bent part that goes in your ear! I like to cover that part with my finger to remind me.**

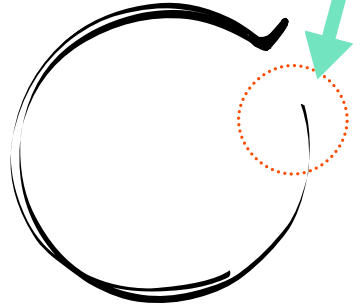


12. Hold the hammer (don't GRIP the hammer) and start with light hammer taps, aiming the **middle of the hammer** towards the wire. Let the hammer do some of the work. Flip the hoop back and forth so both sides get hit with the hammer. As you hammer, the hoop will want to widen, try and keep the ends together with your fingers by holding them down while hammering. Experiment with force as you bring the hammer down!

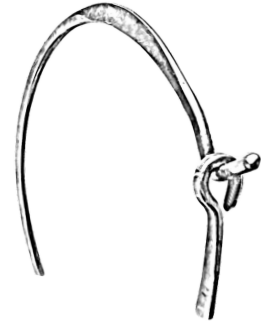
13. When you are happy with the amount of hammering, it's time to do the **circle loop**, the first Skill you learned! You will make this on the unbent end of the wire.

tip Make sure you roll down the **flat** part of the wire like a ribbon. If it feels weird, you may be holding the wire or pliers incorrectly. It should feel natural.

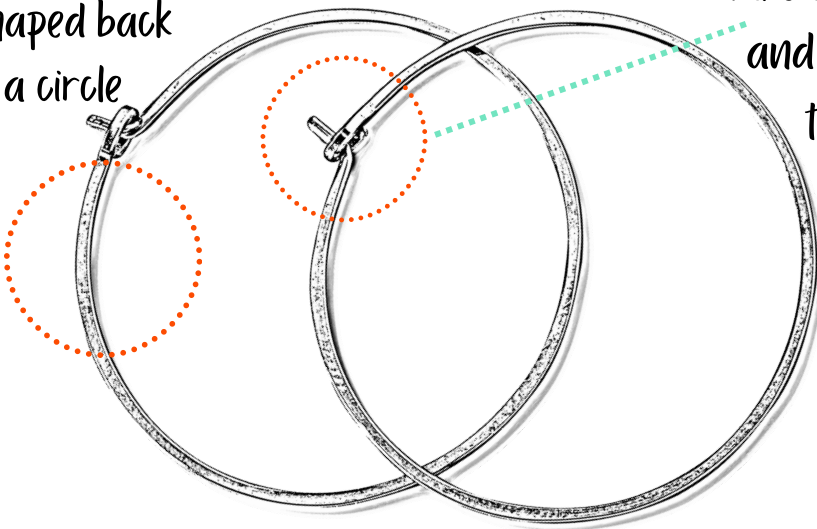
Make the circle loop here.



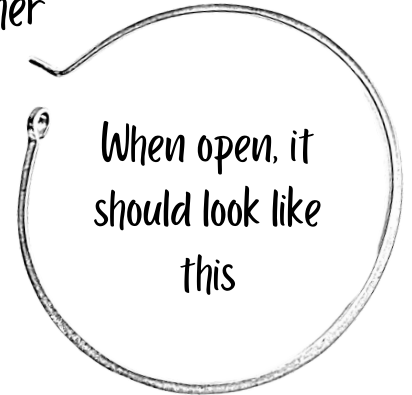
There will be some fine tuning to your hoop, but it should look like this when finished:



This part may need to be shaped back into a circle



Make sure the bend and the loop fit together



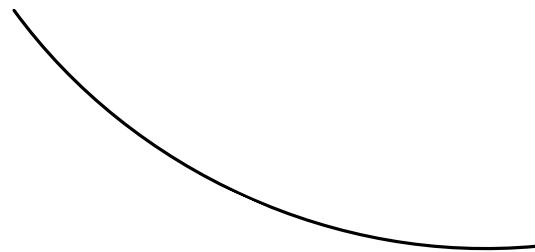
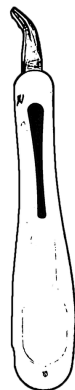
Finishing touches:

- Reshape! If it's not very circular, place the hoop around your bottle again and use your hands to pull the two ends together and shape it back into a circle
- You can use your hands and the bent nose pliers to make tiny adjustments to sculpt wire into a better circle
- Practice a few more!

Skill 4: Organic Hoop

Let's make a less perfect circle!

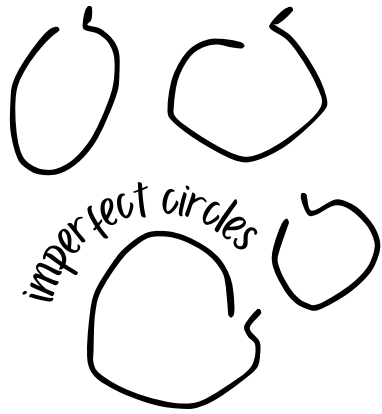
USE: bent nose pliers + wire



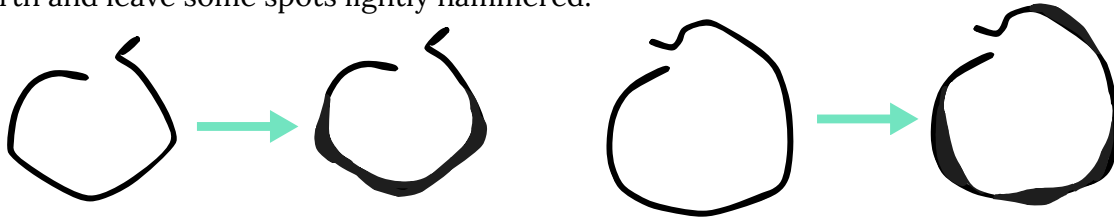
14. Take your wire and only using your hands, form it into a circle. It is not supposed to be perfect!

15. Repeat step 10: bend one end at a 90 degree angle.

16. Now we're going to hammer again, but we are hammering a little differently this time... Go ahead and lightly hammer the entire circle, making sure to not hammer the bent part of the wire. Try and keep the ends close together. Do not hammer very much... yet.



17. Now pick 3 or 4 spots on your hoop, preferably where it is slightly bent and **not too close to the ends of the wire**. Take your hammer and really smack those spots! Give them extra force so the wire in those spots flattens out more than the rest of the wire. However try not to OVER hammer these spots. Keep rotating the hoop back and forth and leave some spots lightly hammered.



18. Now make that circle loop again!

19. The organic hoop will be much less round than the first one, so use your hands and bent nose pliers to gently form it into a circle where the bent end fits inside the circle loop. The **less hammered parts** are where you should focus the reshaping.

PRACTICE PRACTICE! Make at least 2 each of the organic hoop and the circle hoop.

20. Graduation! When you feel READY, decide if you want a SMALL or LARGE size and a CIRCLE or ORGANIC hoop.

21. Finally, when you have finished your hoops, use the sandpaper to sand the end that goes in your ear so it's nice and smooth. Be patient, it can be tedious!

OMG you did it! If you are interested in making more on your own, you can use my educator tool code at Rio Grande to purchase wire, etc. **RFSFZ**

To view a list of the supplies we used and how to use the educator tool code, visit beth-lawrence.com