

Wired Up

A Compilation of Mixed-Media Projects
from North Light Books



CreateMixedMedia.com

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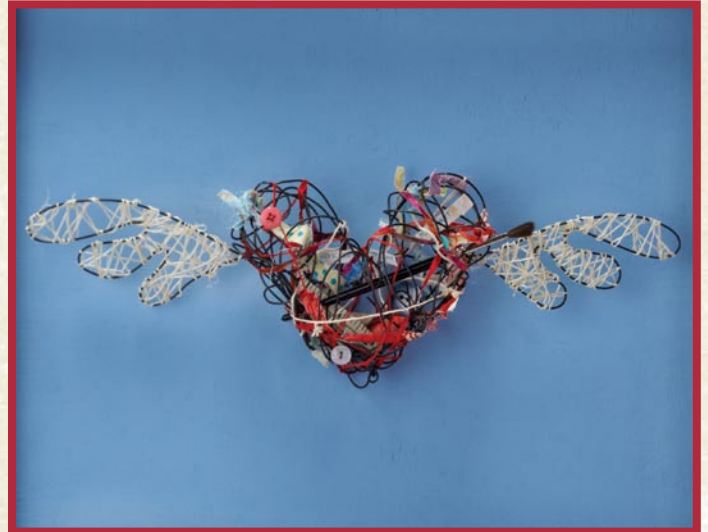
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The Origin of Strength © Kelly Snelling and Ruth Rae, *A Charming Exchange* (North Light Books, 2008)

Hanging Particles © Giuseppina Cirincione, *Bent, Bound and Stitched* (North Light Books, 2008)

Scribble Heart © Jennifer Swift, *Creative Bloom* (North Light Books, 2010)

Prayer-Holder Bracelet © Robert Dancik, *Amulets and Talismans* (North Light Books, 2009)



Metric Conversion Chart

To convert	to	multiply by
Inches	Centimeters	2.54
Centimeters	Inches	0.4
Feet	Centimeters	30.5
Centimeters	Feet	0.03
Yards	Meters	0.9
Meters	Yards	1.1


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Introduction

Many of us think of wire when we think of crafting our own jewelry (myself included), but really, wire can actually be used quite expressively in dimensional works of art that go beyond adornment. The collection of projects in *Wired Up* includes not only a bracelet and a pendant but a couple of display pieces, too. Have you ever considered not only the intrinsic qualities of wire, but the correlating symbolic ones as well? Wire is strong, yet at the same time, flexible. It begins straight and smooth, yet it's shaped by forces that apply pressure to it. A single strand cannot do as much on its own as several working together—each offering a different direction.

All four of the projects collected for you here share something similar in the processes that are used to create them. Whether it's weaving, coiling or randomly winding, each offers an almost meditative action to working with wire. But, of course, there's more for you to learn here than simply working with wire. You'll see that copper wire is easily blackened with liver of sulfur. You'll see how fun it is to weave assorted paper and fiber bits into a "nest" of wire. You'll create a vessel that resembles actual bone, but is really simple PVC pipe and you'll turn a humble wood hanger into a piece that displays photos. I really love each of these projects and I hope you enjoy the process as much as the finished pieces.

~Tonia Davenport
Acquisitions Editor,
North Light Craft

The Origin of Strength



MATERIALS

18-gauge wire
20-gauge wire
24-gauge wire
basic jewelry tools
drill
liver of sulphur
vinegar
charm

From A CHARMING EXCHANGE by Kelly Snelling and Ruth Rae

From the author:

Crystal Neubauer created her talisman with a gorgeous wire basket centerpiece. She ingeniously made the small basket by weaving steel wire and suspending an old mother-of-pearl cross, taken from a rosary, inside it. Crystal's talisman is based on verse 2 of Corinthians 4:7, "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."

Crystal explained it like this: "In the Bible, the term 'jars of clay' represents our human frailties. The treasure inside the jars is God. I wanted to use the wire to represent the jar and to show that having God in my life is where my strength comes from. I then designed the top of the basket to resemble a crown of thorns."

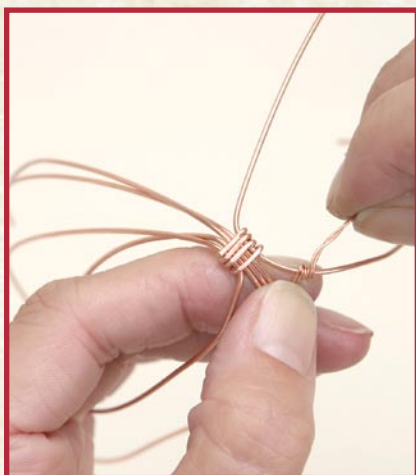
In the example stepped out here, Ruth added a button-stack charm that was made by Liz Smith in place of the rosary cross used in the original piece.



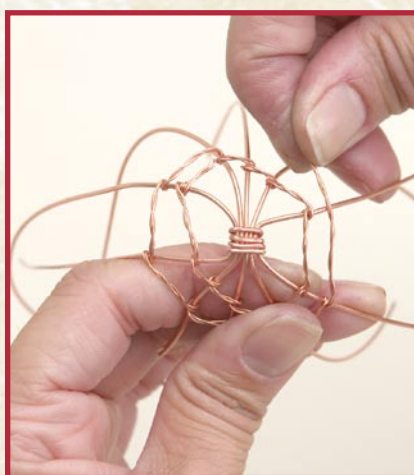
1 Twist enough 24-gauge wire to create 48" (122cm) of loosely twisted wire. Cut five pieces of 10½" (27cm) 18-gauge wire. Also cut a 3" (8cm) piece of 18-gauge wire. With the 10½" (27cm) pieces stacked, find the center and wrap the 3" (8cm) piece around them to secure. Start the wrap with a hook at one end of the wrapping wire.



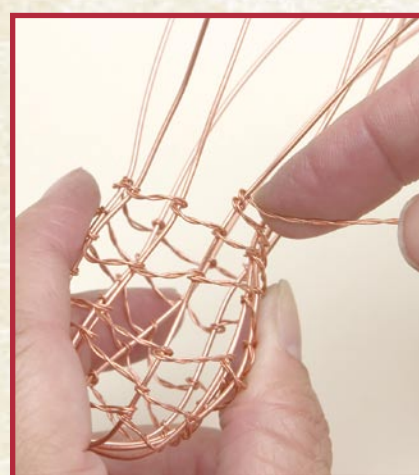
2 Wrap the wire about four times, and cut off the excess wrapping wire. Use the pliers to really smash the wrapping to hold it together tightly.



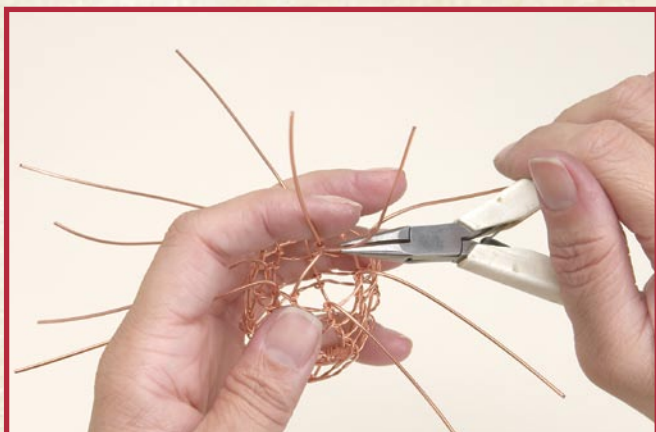
3 Begin curling the spokes up to form the general shape of the basket. Take the piece of twisted wire and wrap it around the base of one of the spokes.



4 Start to make the basket by wrapping the twisted wire 360 degrees around each of the spokes, working in a spiral around the entire piece, from bottom to top.



5 As you continue working around and begin to shape the sides of the basket, keep the spokes evenly spaced and your tension consistent. When your basket is the desired height, finish by wrapping the wire one extra time around one of the spokes.



6 Trim the twisted wire with flush cutters. Choose two wires that are opposite one another. Bend one wire in toward the center, and then straight up. Bend the opposite wire toward the center and wrap it around the first wire.



7 Trim the wrapping wire. Form the first wire into an eye and wrap the excess around the base of the loop over the first wrapping.



8 Trim the excess, if any. Trim the remaining spokes each to 2" (5cm). Starting with round-nose pliers, create a spiral on each piece. Switch to chain-nose pliers to coil each spiral down until it meets the basket.

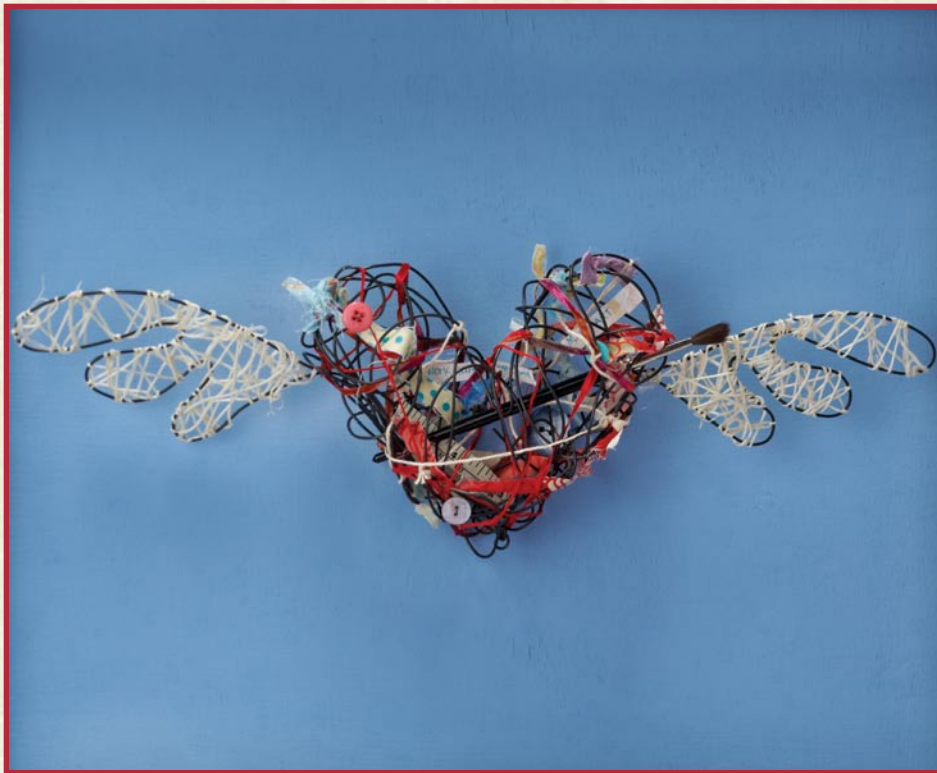


9 Dip the basket and a 5" (13cm) piece of 20-gauge wire into liver of sulphur to blacken it. Rinse with vinegar and water and let dry. Use the piece of 5" (13cm) wire to create a rosary wrap on the charm you wish to suspend from the basket.



10 Wrap the end of the wire to the eye loop hanger at the top of the basket.

Scribble Heart



From CREATIVE BLOOM by Jennifer Swift

MATERIALS

buttons
19-gauge craft wire
16-gauge dark annealed steel wire
embroidery floss
fabric strips
found objects
glue stick
old paintbrush
paper strips
needle-nose pliers
scissors
wire cutters

From the author:

It's surprising to me how strong a connection I feel toward certain images. One that I use repeatedly in my work is the heart. It's a symbol important to so many people, speaking to them of love or passion. It can represent kindness or compassion, or it can speak to you of your dreams and aspirations.

My scribble heart with wings represents my artist's soul, free and able to fly. It can soar into the clouds or skim the edge of the ocean, wherever my dreams lead it. I think of it as my talisman. It hangs in my studio, and as I work it reminds me I am allowing my heart to fly free through my art.

You can personalize your scribble heart by including symbols, fabrics, quotes or anything else you feel describes who you are. Make your heart meaningful to you. Then hang it in your home as a visible and potent representation of your artist's heart.



1 Working from the spool, form a large heart shape from 16-gauge wire, starting and ending at the bottom of the heart. Cut the wire, leaving a small amount of excess.



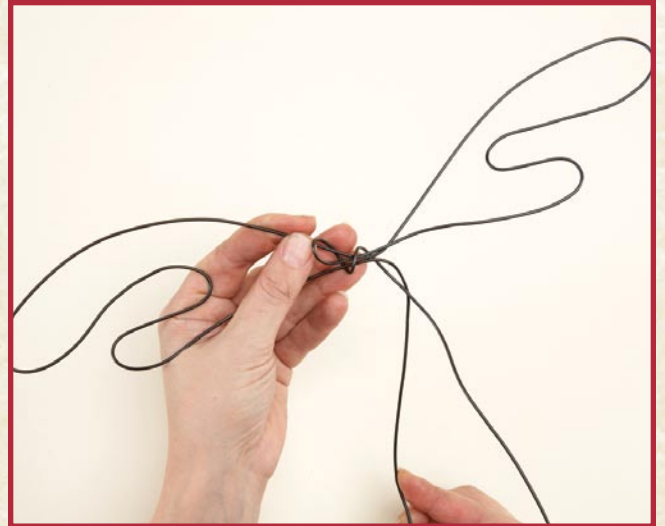
2 To keep the shape of your heart, secure it at the bottom by twisting the cut ends together with needle-nose pliers. Bend them under to secure.



3 Working from the spool, loosely wrap and weave the wire around the heart shape until it starts to take on a 3-D form. Cut the wire, leaving 12" (30.5cm) excess to weave through the heart. Feel free to wrap and weave as much as you want.



4 I think the scribble heart looks better when it's a little squished. Set the heart on a hard surface and push against it with the palm of your hand to flatten it slightly.



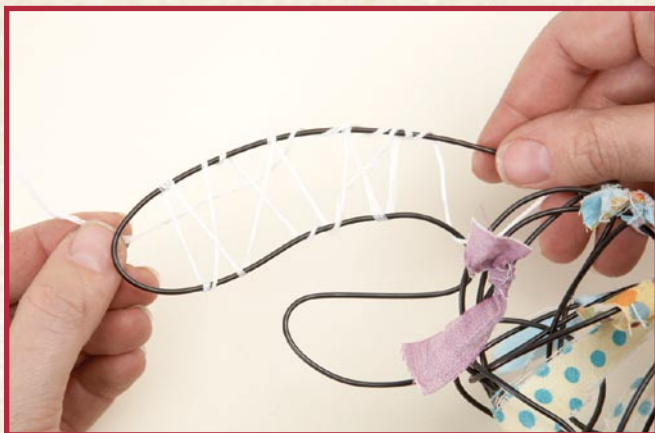
5 Form a pair of wings from 16-gauge wire by forming 1 wing, wrapping the wire at the center and then forming the second wing. Cut the wire from the spool, leaving some excess for fastening it to the heart.



6 Insert the excess wire from the wings through the scribbles on the back of the heart, bending the wire to secure. If the wings aren't securely attached, use 19-gauge wire to attach the elements more snugly.



7 Tie 1 end of a fabric strip to a wire on the heart. Thread the rest of the strip through and around the heart. Tie the other end to another scribble to secure. Repeat this process as often as desired. Be sure to weave strips through the wire, as this creates depth.



8 Tie 1 end of a skein of embroidery floss near the base of your wings. Wrap the floss once around the top wire, and then bring it down to the bottom wire. Wrap the bottom wire twice and then bring it up to the top wire again. Repeat this process, moving across the entire length of the wing. Once you've wrapped half the wing, start to wrap a little more haphazardly. Continue until the entire wing has been wrapped. Repeat this step with the second wing.



9 Choose objects and sayings to include in the heart to personalize it and give it meaning. Include tools of your trade (like an old paintbrush), buttons or pretty found objects you've collected. Attach these items with 1"-2" (2.5cm-5cm) pieces of 19-gauge wire bent into "U" shapes, or simply insert them through the scribbles (as was the case with my paintbrush). Weave strips of paper with inspirational quotes or your favorite sayings through the wire, or wrap 1 end around a wire and use a glue stick to secure it.

Prayer-Holder Bracelet



From AMULETS AND TALISMANS by Robert Dancik

From the author:

Women (and sometimes men) from various cultures wear pieces of jewelry that contain "prayers" of different sorts. The containers for these prayers range from Coptic snakeskin vials to sterling silver boxes and tubes, and are used by both Christian and Muslim religions. What is contained in this jewelry varies just as much. Sometimes it is a prayer for the protection of a child, sometimes a section of the Koran or perhaps a plea for deliverance from adversity.

What you insert into your bracelet is up to you and can take any form you deem proper. Address any idea, feeling or desire you choose. I have made these for friends experiencing a difficult time or dealing with a loss of some kind, and I find that my focus on something outside myself often informs the designs that decorate the container.

MATERIALS

- 18-gauge wire, 45" (114cm)
- 16-gauge wire, 4" and 3" (10cm and 8cm)
- spray paint can or something with a similar diameter
- $\frac{3}{4}$ " (19mm) PVC tubing, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (4cm) long
- Faux Bone shaving tool
- 24-gauge sheet metal
- acrylic paint or shoe polish
- written prayer or other object to be contained within the tube



1 Cut 45" (114cm) of 18-gauge copper wire. Using an old flat-faced hammer, pound the wire to texture it. (An old hammer will leave more of an interesting texture, as will the uneven surface of the side of your anvil.) File the ends of the wire.



Some Like it Rough

If you can get an old hammer, you can texture the wire completely. You can do this by turning the wire regularly but randomly while hammering, and by hammering on a rough surface such as concrete or the side of an anvil.



2 Using a spray paint can, tightly wrap the wire around it.



3 Using a jeweler's saw and a Faux Bone blade (or pipe cutter), cut a 1½" (4cm) piece of ¾" (19mm) PVC pipe.



Let's Get This Straight

Here's a super trick for using paper as a guide while drawing a straight line around a cylinder. Bring the ends of the paper evenly together. When the paper lines up, draw your circle along the edge of the paper.



4 File the ends of the PVC tube square. Use the Faux Bone forming tool (or the round side of a half-round file) to smooth and bevel the inside of the pipe's edges.



5 Trace two 1" (3cm) circles onto 24-gauge copper sheet. Using a cross-peen hammer, texture the circles. Using a 1/16" (2mm) drill bit, drill a hole in the center of each circle. Using a jeweler's saw and a metal blade (or tin snips), cut out the disks from the sheet. Place one disk into the largest hole in the dapping block and use a round-face hammer to shape the disk.



6 Cut a 4" (10cm) piece of 16-gauge copper wire. Bend it into a U shape. Using a flat-faced hammer, flatten the bend.



7 Measure in $\frac{1}{2}$ " (12mm) from both ends of the PVC tube and mark. Using a $\frac{1}{16}$ " (2mm) drill bit, start at the marks and drill straight down through the other side of the tube.



8 Use a file, carving tool, craft knife, electric etcher or other tool to scratch designs into the surface of the tube. Sand the surface to remove burrs and impart a shine to the surface. Finish with shoe polish.



9 Patina the U-shaped wire. Insert the U-shaped wire into the PVC tube.



10 Prepare a prayer or intention on a piece of paper, wrap the paper with red waxed linen and insert it into the bead, or merely speak the prayer or intention into the bead.



11 Cut a 3" (8cm) piece of 16-gauge copper wire and make a loop on one end. Patina the wire. Thread one of the metal disks onto the wire and then thread the wire through the tube and through the other disk. Coil the end of the wire to secure the disks to the bead.



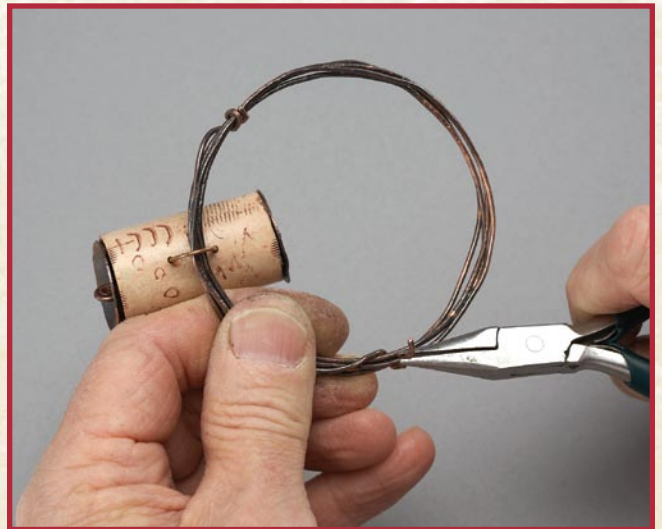
12 Spiral the excess shafts of the U-shaped wire and fold it against the bead.



13 Patina the wire coil using liver of sulfur.



14 Thread the bead onto one end of the coil, making sure to pick up the beginning of the coil at every rotation.



15 When the bead has fully attached to the wire, curl the two wire ends around the coil to secure the bracelet, using chain-nose pliers to crimp.

Hanging Particles



MATERIALS

28-gauge annealed wire
19-gauge wire
baling wire
vintage dress hanger
acrylic craft paint: teal
retractable pencil
1/4" (6mm) dowel
3/4" (19mm) dowel
drill and 1/16" (2mm) bit
pliers pack
hammer and metal block
vise

From BENT, BOUND AND STITCHED by Giuseppina Cirincione

From the author:

With their own unique brand names and fonts, wooden hangers of the past have an intrinsic beauty of their own. Add a few baubles and decorative, handmade wire "lace," and turn an innocuous everyday object into a functional message or display board. Each hanging element contributes something unique and can be interchanged to fit your mood.



1 Use a drill to make a hole in one end of the 1/4" (6mm) dowel.



2 Working directly off of the 19-gauge spool of wire, insert the end into the hole and begin wrapping the wire around the dowel.



3 Keep the wrapping snug and continue coiling it around until you have about a 12" (30cm) coil. Snip the wire where it went into the hole.



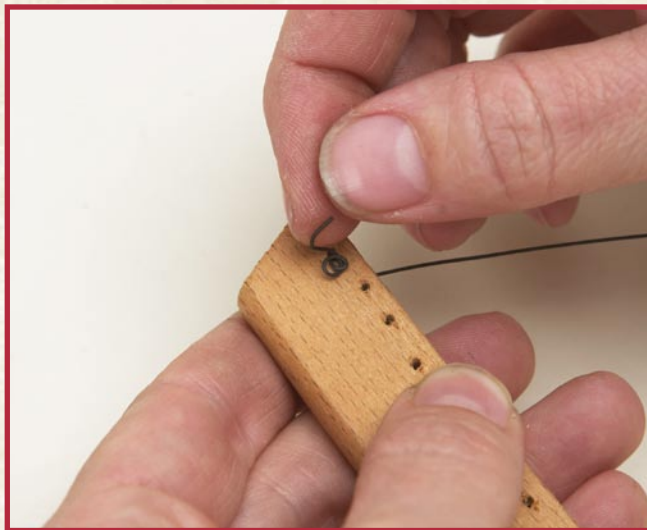
4 Remove the coil from the dowel. Use your hands to flatten and slightly spread the coil.



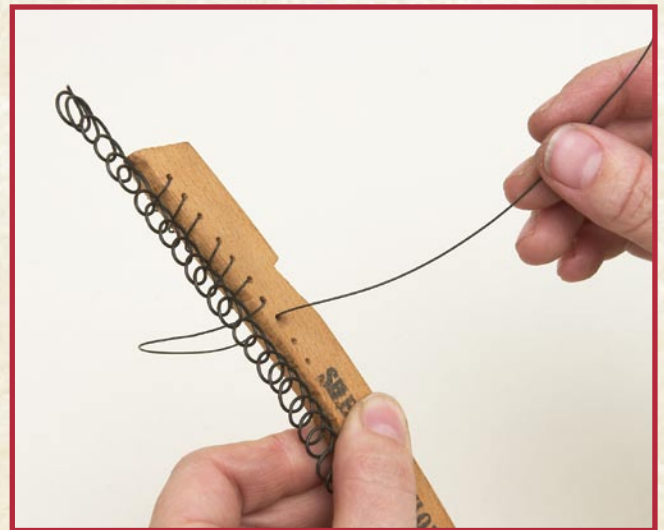
5 Stretch the coil to slightly longer than the length of the hanger, and then hammer it on a metal block.



6 Starting at the center and measuring out, mark for holes along the bottom edge of the hanger, every $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm). Drill a hole at each mark.



7 Cut a length of 28-gauge wire to sew with, and create a small, tight coil at one end to make a "knot." Thread the wire through the hole on one end of the hanger and begin sewing the coil to the hanger.



8 Leave a little overhang of the coil to start, if it's a bit long for the hanger, and you can trim it off when you're done. Pull the wire taut as you go, and keep the coil centered at the bottom of the hanger.



9 When you reach the end of the hanger, pull the wire tightly through a couple of wire wraps just before the end, and snip the wire to leave about 1" (3cm). Then, coil the end as you did when you began, creating a sort of knot. Trim off the excess coil piece to be just a little bit shorter than the hanger.

10 Use a retractable pencil to add teal paint dots along the top of the hanger, along the sides and just above the drilled holes.

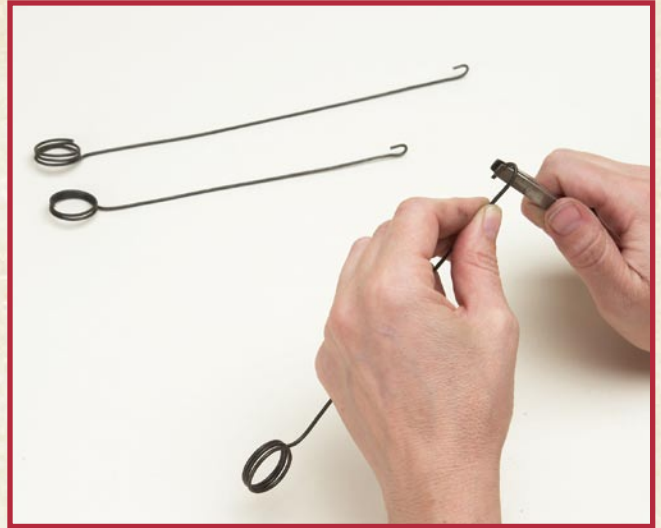


11 Choose five objects to hang from the hanger, and set each one in a vise to drill. You may want to protect the object by putting it in a towel before clamping the vise down.

12 Use 19-gauge wire to hang the objects. You may need to experiment with the wrapping to find the best solution for each item. I used a trapeze-like system for the dice and a coil wrap for the doll arm. To make a photo holder, cut a 24" (61cm) length of baling wire and wrap one end around the 3/4" (19mm) dowel about three and a half times. Bend the remaining wire straight.



13 Take the wire off the dowel, and snip the short end of the wire to leave at least two rings.



14 Trim the long, straight end of the wire to the length you want it to hang, then create a small hook on the end. Create as many additional photo holders as you desire.



15 To create hangers for the objects, create a hook at both ends of a length of wire, using round- or flat-nose pliers depending on how sharp you want the angle of the hook to be.



16 Another way to hang something is to drill a hole in it, just large enough to accommodate the wire, insert the wire through the hole, and then hammer the end of it flat to spread it, making it too wide to come back through the hole. (Fold the wire on each side of the object to hang.) Create a hook on the opposite end.



Resources

To learn more about the artists or purchase any of the books featured in this publication, please visit the web addresses listed below:



A CHARMING EXCHANGE

by Kelly Snelling and Ruth Rae

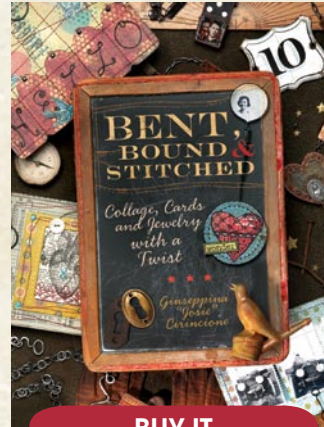
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by Giuseppina Cirincione

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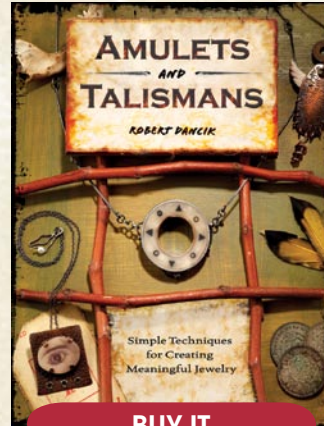


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