

Haywire Bangles

Materials

- 20 or 18 gauge half-hard sterling silver wire, 4 to 5 feet (1.2 to 1.5 M) for each bangle*
- 24-gauge gold-filled wire for contrast wraps and embellishments
- Basic Tool Kit
- Strip of paper, 1 inch (2.5 cm) wide by 11 inches (27,9 cm) long
- Tape
- Liver of sulfur



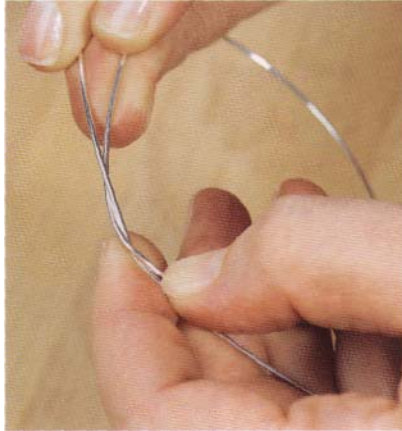
Techniques

1 Curl the paper strip into a circle that slides snugly over your hand. Tape it closed at that point. You'll use this paper circle as a general size template while forming the wire into a bangle.

2 Use wire cutters to flush trim the tips of the sterling silver wire. Hold the wire 2 to 3 inches (5.1 to 7.6 cm) from one end. With your other hand, bend the long end of the wire to form a rough circle the same circumference as the paper template.

When it's about the right size (err

on the larger side, not on the smaller), use one hand to hold the wire circle together while using the other hand to twist the short tail around the circle.



Let go of the long, loose end. Hold the bangle's shape, and tighten the tail wrap by cutting it close and tightening it with chain-nose pliers. Be sure to position the cut end so it faces away from the wrist. This is the bangle frame.

3 Hold the frame in one hand while passing the loose wire end through the center opening and around the frame with your other hand. Repeat all around the frame. The wrapping can be fairly loose to create free-form gaps, but pull the wire tighter every 2 to 3 inches (5.1 to 7.6 cm) to add some structure. For a more free-form look, position the tight wraps in different spots, and force the looser wraps to pop up in different points on the inside and outside

of the bangle frame.

4 Continue wrapping until you are left with about 3 inches (7.6 cm) of loose wire. End the wire by wrapping it around just

one of the wires in the bangle.

Use chain-nose pliers to get a tight double wrap and use wire

cutters to flush cut the wire close to the bangle. Use chain-nose pliers to tuck the tail into the wire wrapping.

5 Sand or file any exposed wire ends so they are smooth to the touch.

6 You can leave the bangle as is, or apply any finishes as desired.

7 Embellish your bangle with 24-gauge wire wraps (work with a contrasting color or finish). Try a variety of techniques: make tight or open coils, wrap around the full bangle width at various points, or coil around individual wires.

