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# Wire Brooch



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If you have comments or suggestions about this project, please feel free to email me. I would love to hear from you.

[karen@kjartworks.net](mailto:karen@kjartworks.net).

# What You Will Need

## Materials

18 gage nickel silver wire  
2 brass spacer beads 4mm  
African sandstone bead, 8 x 15mm  
2 horn rondelle beads, 6mm  
1 bone bead, 12mm x 15mm

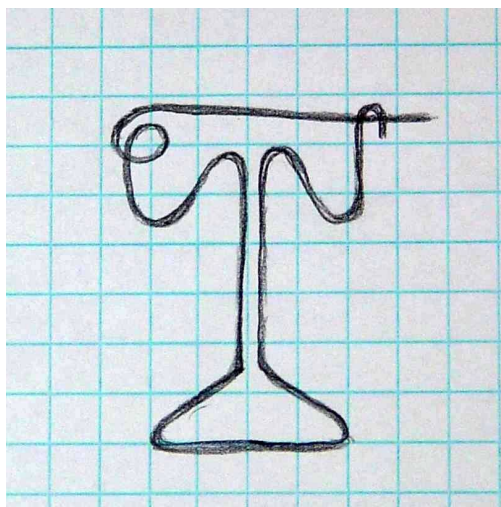
## Tools

Pencil and 1/4-inch (6mm) graph paper (several sheets)  
String or thread  
Ruler or tape measure  
Flush cutters  
Round nose pliers  
Chain nose pliers  
Jewelers flat file  
Polishing machine or flex shaft (optional)  
Fine steel wool

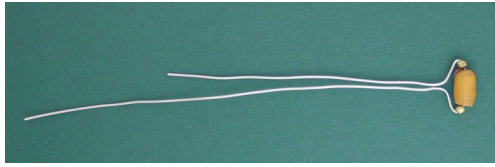
## Let's Get Started

Feel free to explore the quick and easy design possibilities for this brooch. This is a free-form design method so each piece will be unique. Remember, the key to a successful end product is to place at least one formed loop on the pin portion of the brooch. The loop gives the added spring needed for the pin to stay fastened.

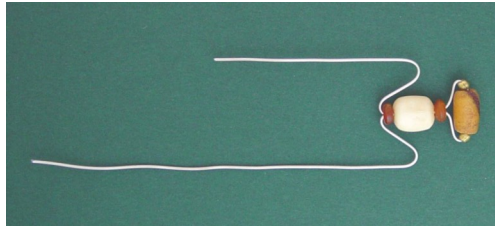
You can also use sterling wire for this project. However, the advantage of nickel is that, because it is not as flexible as silver, it holds its shape much better. Be sure to **wear the piece on loosely woven fabric** as the pin stem is thicker than a standard brooch pin.



**1.** Begin by sketching designs on a sheet of 1/4-inch graph paper. Your sketch, which will be used as a template for the finished piece, should be the same size as the completed brooch. Make several designs and chose your favorite, or use the one illustrated. If you're not inclined to sketch, try making shapes out of copper wire. Inexpensive copper wire can be purchased at the hardware store and is easy to shape and fun to experiment with.



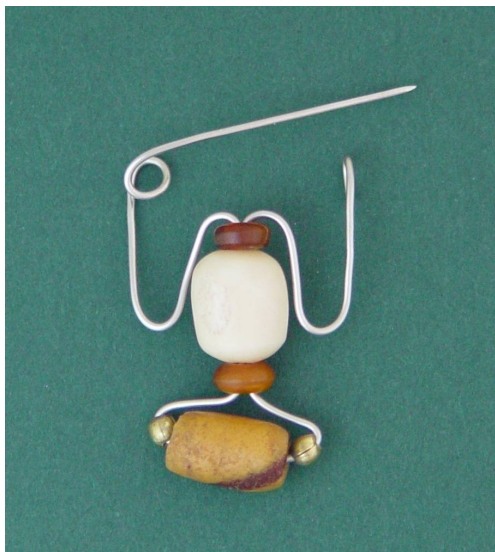
**2.** To get an estimate of how long the wire should be, run a string along the outline of your design. Measure the string and add a couple of inches. Using your flush cutters, clip a section of 18 gage nickel silver wire to length. A 12-inch section is needed for this brooch. Insert the wire through a brass spacer bead, the African sandstone bead, and a brass spacer bead. Leave one end of the wire about two inches longer than the other and bend the wires to the center as shown. I used my hands for this step.



**3.** Insert both sections of wire through one horn rondelle bead, the bone bead and the second horn rondelle bead. Using the sketch as a guide, bend the wires to the desired shape.



**4.** To form the pin portion of the brooch, curl the wire using round nose pliers to form the loop and provide the spring needed for the catch to remain fastened. Form the curve for the catch with the chain nose pliers. Use your flush cutter to cut the wires.



**5.** To finish the piece, use the jeweler's flat file the pin to a point and the end of the catch flat. Be sure to remove all cutter marks. Next, polish the point until it is smooth and sharp. If you have a polishing machine, that will work great. If not, rub fine steel wool over the point as you smooth and sharpen it. When the pin is unfastened, the pin stem should point upward and rest about 1/4-inch from the top of the catch.



The brooch on the upper left was designed with two sections of wire. For the beaded section, I formed the upper loop, added the beads and then formed a small loop to hold the beads in place. The catch is a separate piece and designed like a safety pin. The heart brooch on the lower left was also designed with a loop to attach a heart.

This is a great project for times when you need an immediate result. Play and have fun with these! They make wonderful gifts.



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