

Large Kidney Earwires

By Kat Kramer & Glasskatz

As a glass artist, I was always looking for “different” ways to display my fused glass earrings...in a way that didn't look like everyone else's, and a way that won't break the bank.

So I created this variation on a regular earwire that's secure, stylish, and lightweight. And with the various Wubbers pliers, making these is a breeze!

Try these with my other tutorial, Triangular Peyote Beaded Earrings.



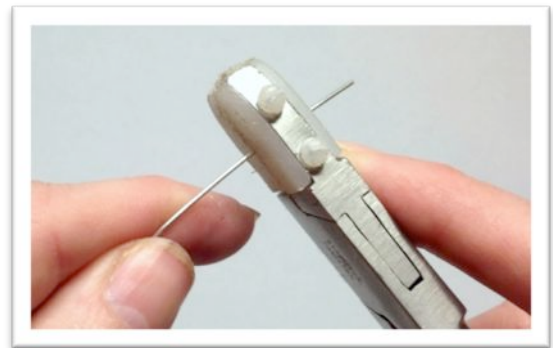
Materials List

- 21 gauge half-hard round sterling silver wire or silver filled wire (silver plated hobby wire may cause problems because of sensitivities, and is not recommended)

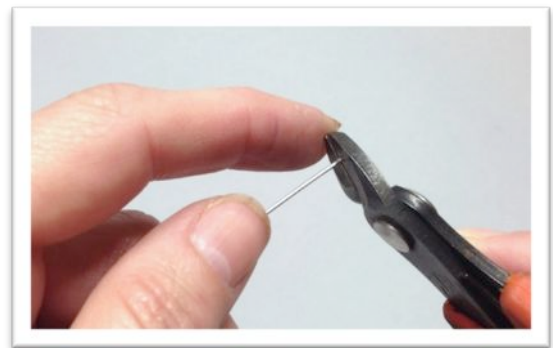
Tool List – Don't forget Safety Glasses!

- Wire cutters
- Sanding sticks or sandpaper
- Safety Glasses
- Nylon jaw pliers
- Fine Sharpie marker
- Ruler
- Wubbers Classic Chain Nose Pliers or Wubbers Classic Narrow Flat Nose Pliers
- Wubbers Classic Round Nose Pliers
- Wubbers Jumbo Round Mandrel Pliers

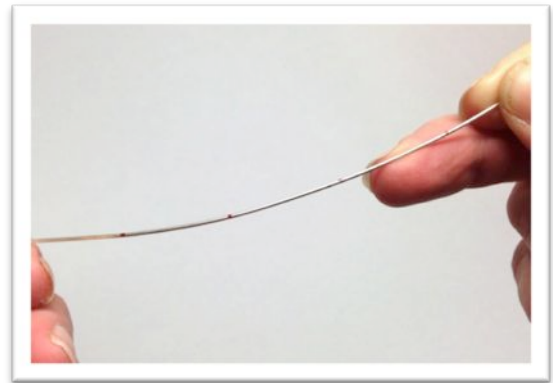
Step 1. Using the nylon jaw pliers, straighten a one-foot section of wire.



Step 2. Using flush cut wire cutters, cut the end of the wire flush.

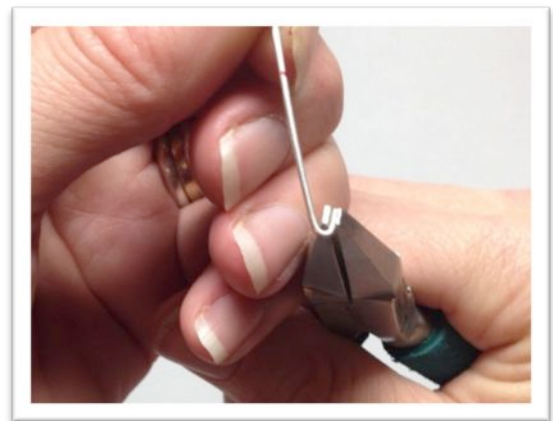


Step 3. Using a fine Sharpie marker, make five marks at 1" intervals on the wire.

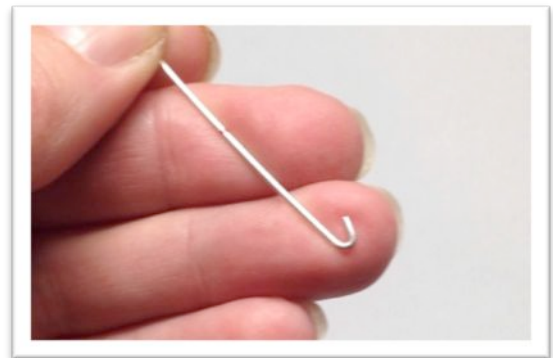


Step 4. Using the Wubbers Classic Narrow Flat Nose Pliers or Wubbers Classic Chain Nose Pliers, create a small bend in the end of the wire as shown. The bend is approximately 3/16" of an inch.

If you were looking at the wire as if it were a clock, the long end of the wire is at 12 o'clock, and the short end is at 1 o'clock.

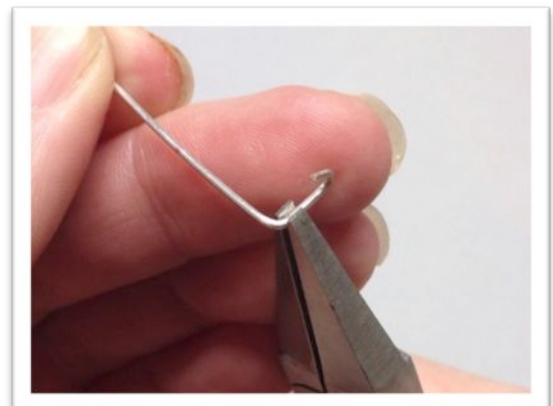


Step 5. The bend should look like this. We'll call this the "catch" from now on.

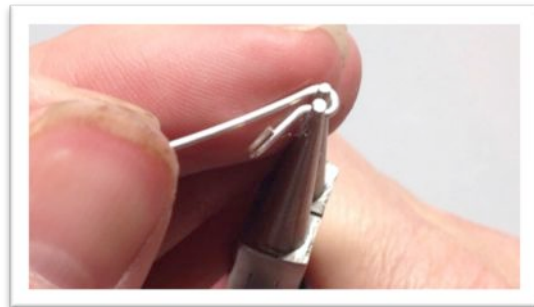


Step 6. Hold the wire so that the tip of the catch is facing you, at 3 o'clock.

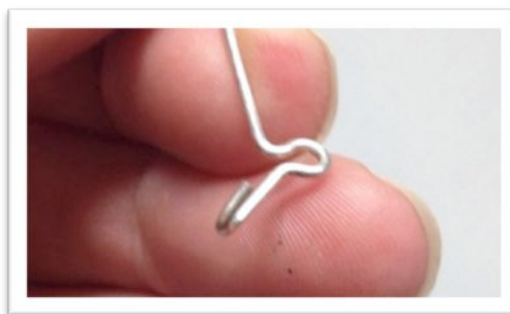
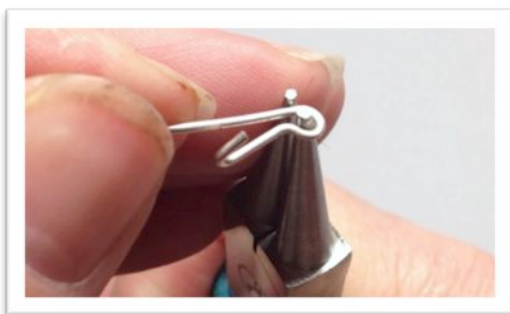
Using the Wubbers Classic Narrow Flat Nose Pliers or the Wubbers Classic Chain Nose Pliers, make another bend in the wire approximately 1/4" from the tip of the catch as shown, bending the long end of the wire up to the 12 o'clock position.



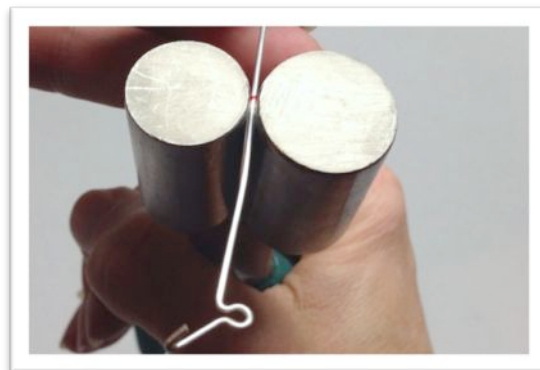
Step 7. Using the Wubbers Classic Round Nose Pliers, make a small loop using the tip of the pliers.



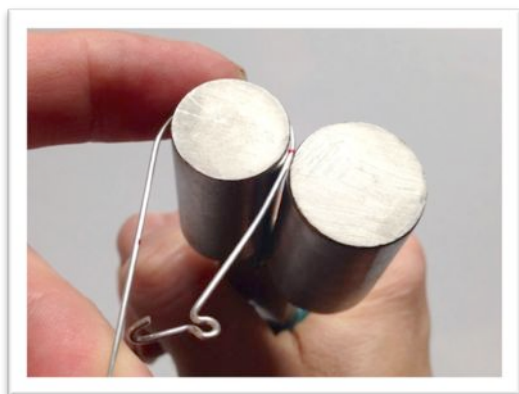
Step 8. Reposition the Round Nose Pliers as shown, and “break the neck” of the loop. The loop should resemble the second picture. We’ll tighten up this loop later.



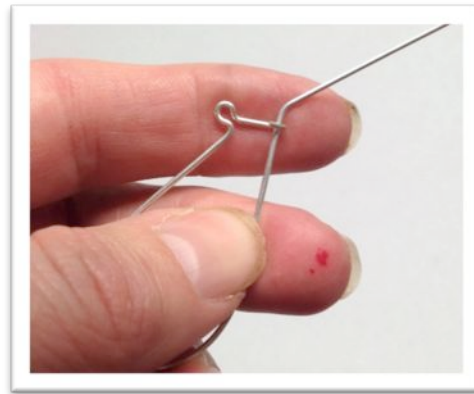
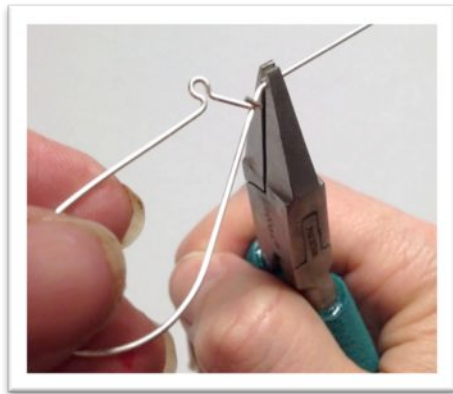
Step 9. Position the Wubbers Large Round Mandrel Pliers as shown, with the second Sharpie mark between the barrels. We’ll be using the smaller barrel to create the loop of the earring.



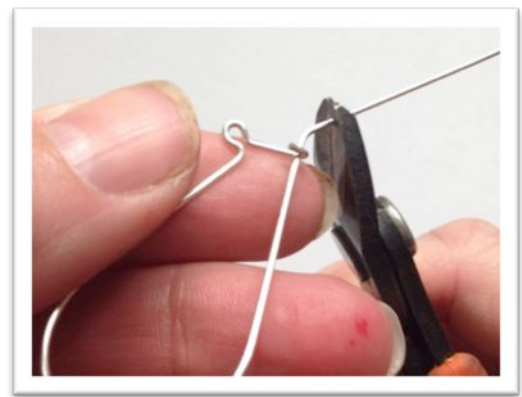
Step 10. Wrap the long end of the pliers around the smaller barrel. “Hook” the end of the wire in the catch made in the Step 1. There should be enough tension to close the earwire securely...don’t try to bend the large loop too much, or it may not close correctly.



Step 11. Using the Wubbers Classic Narrow Flat Nose Pliers, make a slight bend in the wire just below the catch.



Step 12. Using the flush cutters, cut the wire, leaving a small tail.



Step 13. Use a sanding stick to soften the edges of the cut end.



Step 14. Repeat for the second earwire. A great hint...it's easier to make both earwires at the same time. They're more likely to be identical.

You can also adjust the length of the earwire...try variations to suit your needs.

The earwires are ready to use!



Review Questions

- 1) Which Wubbers pliers work well for creating the catch?
 - a) Wubbers Classic Narrow Flat Nose Pliers
 - b) Wubbers Classic Chain Nose Pliers
 - c) Either of these pliers works GREAT!
- 2) What's an advantage of making your own earwires?
 - a) More cost effective
 - b) Handmade earwires will go with your handmade designs
 - c) You can make them any size
 - d) All of the above
- 3) What is the very last step of creating the earwires?
 - a) Sand the tip of the wire to "soften" the edge and make it more comfortable
 - b) Straighten the wire with nylon pliers
 - c) Mark 1" marks on the wire with a permanent marker
- 4) Which Wubbers pliers are perfect for making the large loop?
 - a) Wubbers Jumbo Square Mandrel Pliers
 - b) Wubbers Jumbo Triangle Mandrel Pliers
 - c) Wubbers Jumbo Round Mandrel Pliers