

Copper Spiral Kippah

(wire wrapping)

By Wanda Pitzele

WLCJ Convention 2012



Goal: Using basic wire wrapping techniques, we will wrap the spiral copper blank with fine gauge copper wire and beads.

Some Cautions:

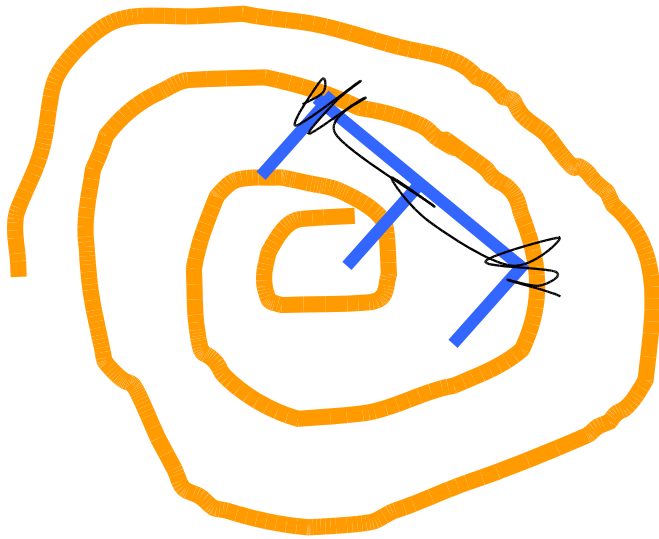
- One of the most important things to know when working with metal is that ‘overworking’ metal results in it becoming work hardened or brittle. You may gently shape the copper blank to a pleasing shape for your head, but be careful not to constantly bend it. It will eventually break. The thin wire will also break with too much manipulating. It’s better to start a new strand, rather than try to redo an old one.
- Use needle nose pliers to make nice tight wraps. Most of the time hand tightened wraps are fine, but when the wire is short, you will need the pliers to get a grip on the wire.
- After cutting fine wire after a wrap, use needle nose pliers to smooth cut end against the wire frame.

Beads: Bicone Crystals

The spiral style will need about 100 – 120 beads to finish it.

Techniques:

- Clean copper spiral with flannel cloth.
- Cut off about 18 – 24 inches of fine wire from spool. Be careful not to let it kink while working with it.
- Anchor the wire:
Lay about 2” of wire over your starting point and wrap 3X – you will see three coils on tops of the spiral. Trim.
- Anchor the wire in the center of the spiral. Once the wire is anchored, string one bead. Hold it on top of the spiral and wrap the thin wire around the spiral. String the next bead and repeat. Continue until the end. When you reach the end of the working wire, anchor it with three wraps, cut and smooth. Anchor another working wire and continue. At the end, wrap the wire three times and cut and smooth.
- Wire comb in with about 6” of fine wire. Lay comb onto kippah in a place that looks good to you. At one edge of where the comb will lay, anchor wire to spiral with 3 wraps. Continue wrapping around comb and spiral 2X. Weave around middle tooth down to end of comb. Wrap around comb and spiral 2X. Anchor with 3 wraps to spiral only and cut.



Caring for your copper kippah

Copper will tarnish over time. Some people like a tarnished look, others don't. A light wash in Tarnex will remove any tarnish. It should not damage your glass beads, but may damage the plastic comb. When not in use, store your new kippah in the organza bag to protect it.

Copper Spirals are hand made by Wanda Pitzele. Kits are available for group projects.
Contact information: wandanp@sbcglobal.net or 630-289-3349

Kit Contents:
Copper Spiral Blank
Comb
Organza Bag

On Tables:
Work Mat
Needle nose Pliers
Diagonal cutters
Fine gauge copper wire
Flannel cloths for cleaning spiral

Preparing for a Group Project

Advance Work: A few weeks before you present the Copper Spiral Kippah project, get together with a few friends who are comfortable with crafts and make your own kippot. It is understood that these friends will help you the evening of your event. If you have difficulties, feel free to

email be at wandanp@sbcglobal.net to set an appointment and I will be available by phone to help with any questions. Best to solve problems before you are presenting to the group!

Setting up the Room: Cover the tables with something soft, like a cotton table clothe or an old blanket or towels. The idea is to keep the beads from rolling all over the place.

At each place, lay out the individual kits. Cut about 18" of fine wire and place with the individual kits. This way, participants don't have to wait to get started once they understand the directions. Lay a pair of needle nose pliers and a pair of wire cutters about the table – everyone gets to share! Also place spools of wire about the table.

At a separate table, lay out the bags of crystals. Participants will need to pick two bags of beads – either the same or contrasting colors.

The leader should go through the basic directions and demonstrate how to wrap the fine wire around the spiral and add beads. Once participants get started, leader and helpers need to circulate around the room and help as needed. Be sure to demonstrate how to attach the comb before the end of the workshop.

Have Fun!

Wanda