

Wire Wrapping a Faceted Gemstone

Note:

This document is to be used in conjunction with .PDF instructions on wrapping an oval cabochon. The only difference in the two techniques is forming the prongs. Use the 'zoom' tool to get a closer look at the pictures once the document is downloaded. Please read all directions prior to starting your project.

Measure for prong placement

Helpful hint: Put a mark around your chain nose pliers where they are 1/8 inch thick



As with the cabochon, wrap masking tape around the stone and mark the 'top of stone' point where it meets.

Remove the stone and fold the tape in half, aligning the 'top of stone' marks together. (Hint: 'thin' your tape with an Exacto knife to make wrapping around the faceted girdle easier. See picture below)

Fold the tape in half again (quarters) and then fold that in half (eighths) to create creases at 2 o'clock, 5, 7 and 10 o'clock.

Unfold the tape and secure it to your work surface as before.

Starting at one of the 'top of stone marks', mark the first fold in, skip one, mark one, skip one, etc, until you have four marks between the 'top of stone marks'. (Hint: Once you've done this a few times you will be able to 'eyeball' where the prong markings go. Once you've folded the tape in half, visually divide the distance between the bottom fold and 'top of stone' marks into quarters and mark the tape *while its folded in half* to maintain symmetry.)

Measure and mark the extra distance to the right and left of the 'top of stone' marks that you will need for the bail wires.

Cut a piece of 21 gauge half round that is about 2.5 to 3 inches longer than the two outside marks on the tape.

Curve about 1/2 inch of one side of the wire into a 'tail' with the flat side down. This helps maintain orientation for the next step. **The flat side of the 1/2 round is the bottom of the prong wire and will be bound onto the frame wires in a later step.**



Lay the wire on the tape with the 'tail' extending past the outside bail mark, with the flat side of the 1/2 round wire towards you. The half round will be laying on its side.

Grab the wire with your flat nosed pliers just to the right of the first prong mark. I try to grab the wire with the pliers just touching, but not covering, the edge of the mark.



Pick up the wire with the pliers and bend it upward 90 degrees.



Now place the mark on your chain nose pliers at the base of the 90-degree bend and bend the wire again 90 degrees.



Next using the flat nose pliers again, grab the wire with the side of the pliers along the *short* piece just formed,



And bend another 90 degrees

Gently grab the newly formed prong with the flat nose pliers, and



once again bend the wire 90 degrees, so it looks like this.



Lay the wire on the tape, with the newly formed prong back on its mark, and repeat the above steps until all four prongs are formed.



(Marking the prong placement on the wire first won't work since you will be changing the length of the wire each time you form a prong.)

Once you have all four prongs made, bind the prong wire on top of 4 pieces of 21-gauge square. I place three bindings on each side of each prong, crossing from one side to the other on the back of the frame.



At this point you may squeeze the prongs together to make them neat.

You are now ready to form the frame around the template,



And straighten the bail wires. (See instructions for wrapping a cabochon if your unsure about this step)



Grab the top half of a prong



and roll the top half 45 degrees inward



Repeat on all 4 prongs.



Insert the gemstone and bind at the top. Finish the bail as you normally would.



Wrapping a Pear shape

Mark your tape and form the prongs as detailed above. Bind the prongs to your frame wires.

Once you are ready to form the bezel, use a round template that will fit the stone. In this case I wrapped a 12 x 8 Mystic Topaz.



Next, form the bail wires at about 22 degrees (1/4 of a 90 degree bend). Bend in your prongs as described above, to hold the stone.



Test fit the gemstone and adjust the gap at the top.



Bind the bail and finish with the lollipop bail described in the cabochon .PDF or as you normally would.

