

1 Wrap the wire tightly round the needle. Twist the needle rather than the reel of wire, and don't let the wire overlap on the needle.

2 Continue until the wrapped wire measures 1³/₄in (4.5cm) when compacted. Avoid kinks, which spoil the bead; start again rather than try to correct the problem.

3 Snip the reel end and twist tightly once more to make sure the wire lies flat against the needle. Make all the coils you need now so they measure the same length.

4 Feed the loose end of the reel through the coil.

5 Hold the loose end of the wire against the needle and wrap it around about 8 times.

6 Bring the coil up the wire and carefully wrap this around the needle.

7 Wrap the reel wire around the needle so it matches the other end.

8 Hold the knitting needle in both hands and gently push the opposite ends of the work together to compact the wire-

coil bead. Slide it off the needle. Repeat to make 12 beads.

9 Feed the wire-coil beads onto a length of wire, including the Swarovski and enamel beads as required. Attach the fastening.

Variations you can try...

Use a larger needle, and wrap the wire more times around it to make a larger coiled bead. You can also make longer coils, and use fewer beads in between them. A heavier wire can be used if you are doing this.

For a matching bracelet, use slightly shorter wire-coil beads and experiment with placing a few differently shaped beads in between them. If you want earrings, use a single short coil for each one, and add beads if needed.

