

1408-2

Brenda Schweder demonstrates a convertible ring or necklace using crystals and steel wire.

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Cage Contender Convertible Ring or Pendant Necklace



Materials needed

- Swarovski Innovation Article 4869 (Fancy Stone), 14mm, Crystal CAL VZ SI (001)
- 19 and 28 gauge steel wire
- Gift tissue, 1/4 sheet

Tools

- Ruler
- Heavy duty cutters
- Chain nose or flat nose pliers
- Bench block or mini anvil
- Utility or ball peen hammer
- Ring mandrel or metal rod sized to ring size
- Wire brush or steel wool (Fine, 00)
- Renaissance wax and rag

*\* Use pliers (and tools) dedicated to use with steel wire*

### Instructions

#### *Prepare the fancy stone for wrapping*

1. Wrap fancy stone in tissue keeping track of where the flat end is
2. Mark the spot with a permanent marker

#### *Wrap the stone*

3. Cut 2 yards of 19 gauge wire.
4. Clean the wire with steel wool and hammer the length slightly.
5. With a chain or flat nose pliers, bend a right angle 2 inches from one end.
6. Place the 2-inch tail at the dot and wrap the tissue stone tightly and in a “willy-nilly” manner all around the stone until one yard of the wire length has been used and/or the negative spaces between the wires are consistently sized and small enough to cage the stone.
7. Wrap the long end tightly around the 2-inch tail

#### *Create the ring or bail*

8. Wrap the remaining wire around the ring mandrel or rod at the preferred ring size 5-10?? times.
9. Wrap 2-5 wraps tightly around the juncture.
10. Trim and hide the ends.

#### *Finish*

11. Finish cleaning any remaining carbon off the wire and apply wax to this portion of the ring/pendant.
12. Carefully remove the tissue with a chain nose pliers, keeping the bottom of the stone close to the bottom of the ring.)

#### *“Set” the stone*

13. Cut 1 yard of 24 gauge wire. Clean and wax the wire.
14. Anchor one end at the ring base.
15. Thread the wire across slices of the inside of the ring to form a liner between the stone and the outer cage. Anchor or loop the wire at each point and continue until the stone remains firmly in place and the bottom remains at the bottom of the ring. (Note: This is also a good time to pinch any wayward wires together.)
16. Anchor end, trim and hide the ends.

*Thread the finished leather necklace through the bail/ring to adapt the ring as a pendant.*

### Guest:



**Laura Timmons**

