

“Pop” Beads by Diane Whiting

MATERIALS:

22 Gauge Silver or Gold Non-Tarnish
coated copper wire, 60 foot spool 1

SWAROVSKI ELEMENTS:

36-45 Article 5000, 8 mm Round Beads 36-45

OTHER BEADS:

Any type of bead

TOOLS:

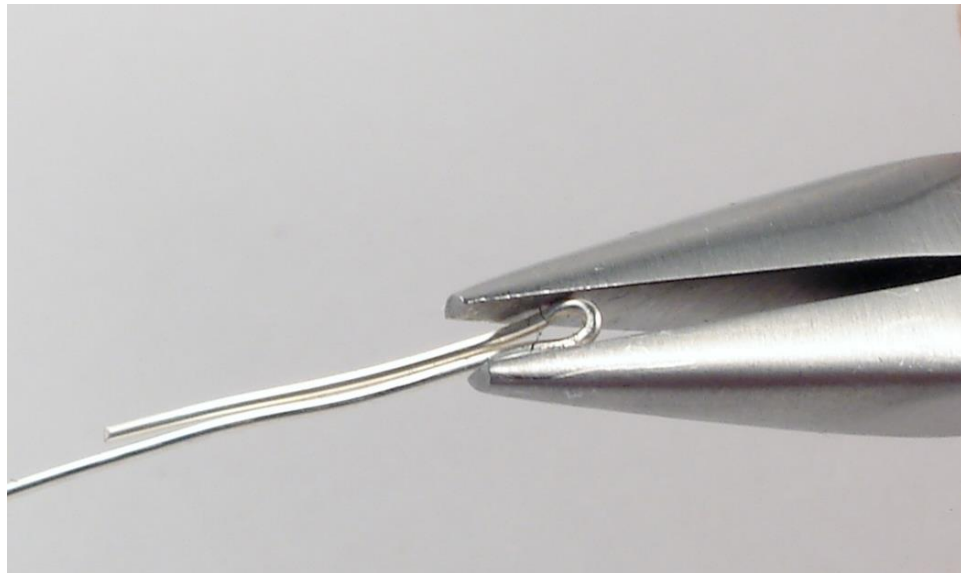
Round Nose pliers
Flat Nose pliers
Flush Wire Cutters

This updated version of a childhood favorite is made with wire and round crystal beads. Mix and match, pop them apart and then pop them back together and you have a brand new necklace!

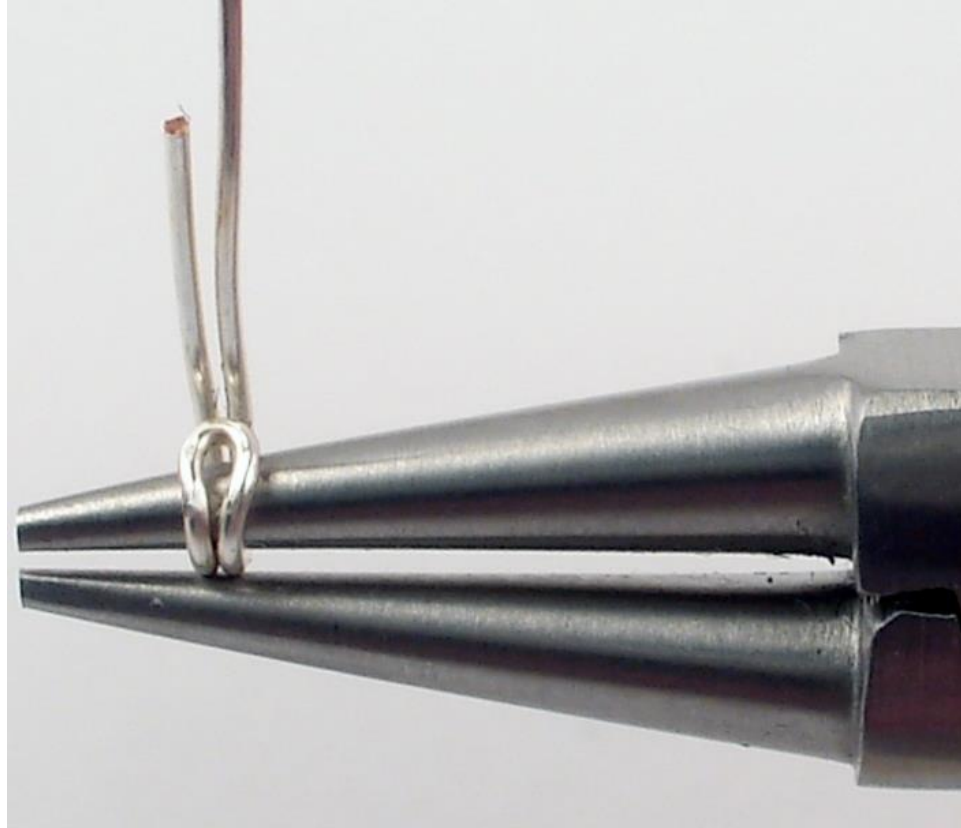
Tip: I prefer to make the Pop Beads on a continuous length of wire to minimize waste, but you can cut 2-1/2” pieces if you prefer.

[1] String all 8mm round beads onto the wire.

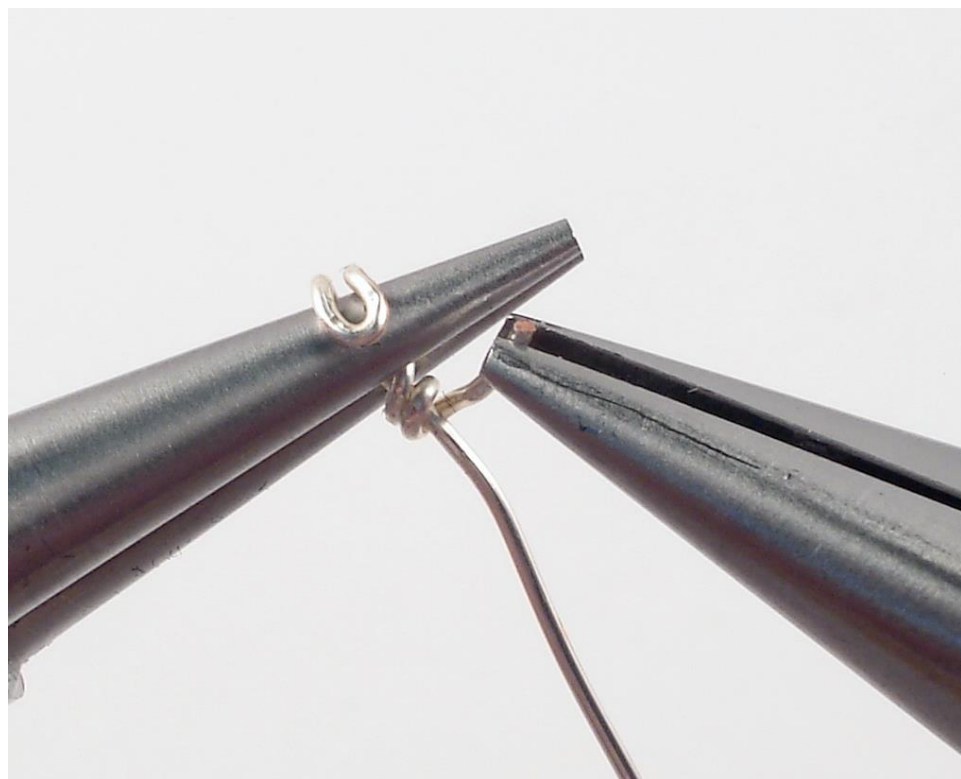
[2] Grasp the wire with the tip of the round nose pliers about 3/4”-1” from the end. Bend into a U-shape. With the flat nose pliers, squeeze the u-end of the wires so they are parallel and touch.



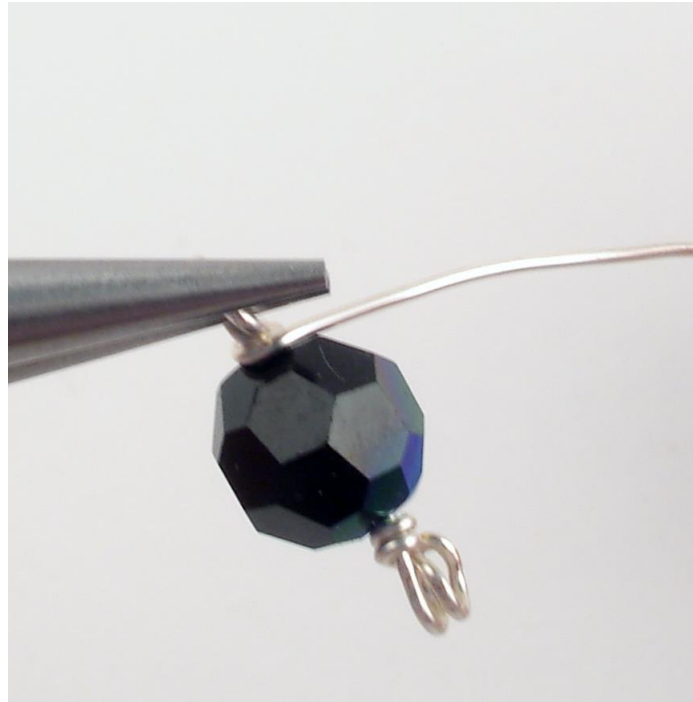
[3] Grasp the U-end at the very tip with the round-nose pliers and curve away from your body $\frac{1}{2}$ turn.



Keep the round nose pliers in the loop, loosen the pliers and pivot so the top jaw rotates toward you and touches the wires. Squeeze the pliers and turn away from your body to complete a round hook.



[4] Keep the pliers tight and transfer to your non-dominant hand. While holding the loop in the round nose pliers, grasp the long of the wire and pull it down to create a 90° angle with the short end. Grasp the short end with the flat nose pliers and tightly wrap it around the long tightly 2 to 3 times. Cut any remaining wire from the short end flush with the wraps, and use the flat nose pliers to tuck the cut end into the wraps.



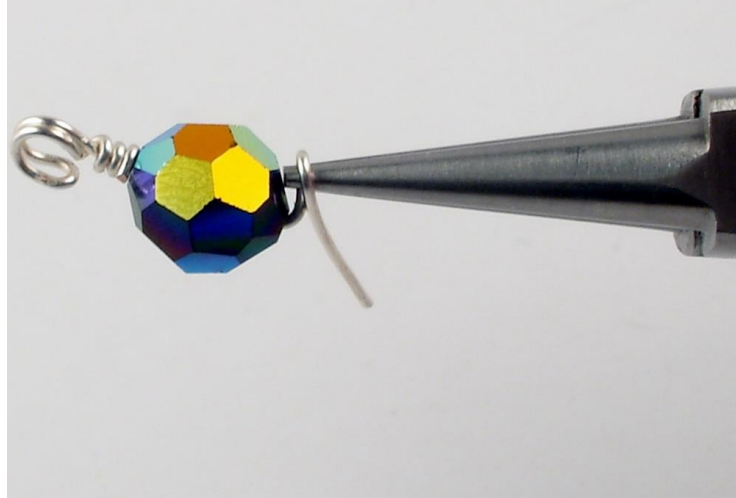
[5] Advance one bead all the way down the wire so it lies tight up against the wrapped loop. Bend the wire 90°.

[6] Grasp the bent wire using the round nose pliers. Bend the pliers 90° toward the crystal. Hold the wire with the round nose pliers in your dominant hand and using your non-dominant hand, bring the long end of the wire around the round nose pliers to make a loop. Reposition the round-nose pliers to hold the loop from the outside, and use the flat nose pliers to tightly wrap 2 times between the loop and the crystal. Cut wire close to the wraps.



(Use the flat nose pliers or crimp pliers to tuck the cut end into the wraps.)

[8] To assemble the beads, open the hook end just enough so that the loop end of another bead will fit.



Squeeze the hook just a bit to secure the loop. Continue adding beads in the same or different color combinations until desired length is reached.

Convert It!

Make a Y-necklace from a Pop-Bead strand.

[1] Separate one of the Pop Beads from a regular 36-bead necklace.

[2] Make an end bead by stringing one bead onto the wire and make a hook as for the regular pop bead. Bend the wire 90° and cut about 1" from the bend. Position the round-nose pliers right where the wire bends and wrap the short end of the wire around 1 jaw of the pliers to form a coil.



Cut the coil if needed and flatten against the crystal bead.

[3] Attach the end bead onto the loop end of the 36-bead strand, wrap around your neck and use the hook end to attach 5 or 6 beads from the end bead. Do not squeeze the hook.



Convert It Again!

Try wearing an 11 or 12-bead strand as a bracelet. Be careful to squeeze the last hook where it attached the beads together so the bracelet stays on.

Tip: 22 gauge wire will also work if you want to make the Pop-Beads with 6mm crystals. For very delicate Pop-Beads, use 3 or 4mm beads and 24 gauge wire. Harden the wire after Step [2] by hammering the U-shape a few times before making the hook end. Use of 26 gauge or smaller wire is not recommended.