

Wire-wrapped Bracelet



MATERIALS

bracelet 6½ in. (16.5cm)

- assorted 4–8mm beads
- 6 ft. (1.8m) 20- to 24-gauge sterling silver wire
- sterling silver bracelet form (Metalliferous, metalliferous.com)
- chainnose pliers
- nylon-coated flatnose pliers (optional)
- wire cutters

Wrap assorted beads around a sterling silver form to make an upscale accessory in a flash. Make your bracelet with a single layer of beads, or wrap layers upon layers for a sculptural look.

designed by **Miachelle DePiano**

stepbystep

To create a neat appearance at the ends, wrap the wire in two sections, working from each end toward the middle. As you wrap, your wire may kink. To smooth it out, flatten the kinks with nylon-coated flatnose pliers.

[1] Cut the 20- to 24-gauge wire in half. With one piece, make a right-angle bend

about ¼–½ in. (6–13mm) from one end.

[2] Place the bent end of the wire along the inside of the form at one end. Be sure the tip is pointing away from the end of the form. Neatly wrap the long end of wire around the form (**photo a**) until the tail is covered.

[3] Pick up one or two beads, and, holding the beads on the outer surface of the form, wrap the wire around

the form (**photo b**). To anchor the beads, make another wrap (**photo c**). Repeat until you reach the middle of the bracelet, picking up beads as desired.

[4] To secure the wire, make a few more wraps without any beads. With chainnose pliers, tuck the tail under the beads on top of the bracelet (**photo d**). Trim, if needed.

[5] Repeat steps 1–4 on the other end of the bracelet.



[a]



[b]



[c]



[d]



[6] To make a bracelet that is more sculptural, as in the purple-and-blue bracelet (bottom), add layers of beads using the following methods:

- Continue wrapping around the bracelet form as before, placing the new beads directly on top of the previous layer.

To reduce the amount of exposed wire on the inside of the form, use the previous layer as an armature around which to wrap instead of wrapping around the form.

- If your bead holes will accommodate more than one pass of the wire, string a few beads, and go through a bead on the previous layer.
- String a few beads, go under a wire on a previous layer, do not wrap, and continue. •

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Choose a bracelet form with a flat inner surface. Some bracelet forms are made with round wire, which makes it difficult to get the beads to stay in place.