

Skill Level; Beginner

This is a tutorial covering a copper ring shown in the picture. It's an easy project with stunning results.



I'll also cover how I oxidize and give it that antique look.



polish to

image shown is of actual completed project upon creating this tutorial

***Tip**

A size seven (7) ring equals shank length of 7.25 inches or 5.5 cm

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***Tutorial is for size 7 ring.**

Tools require for this project are;

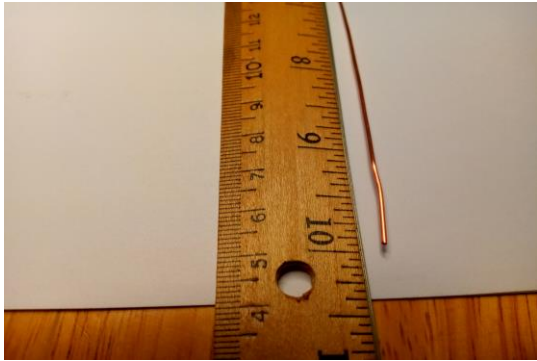
1. 10 inches or 26 cm, 18 gauge dead soft round copper wire
2. 3 inches (7-8cm) 26 gauge dead soft round
3. Ring Mandrel
4. Flat nose pliers
5. Wire cutters
6. File (optional)
7. Round nose pliers (optional) not used in this tutorial



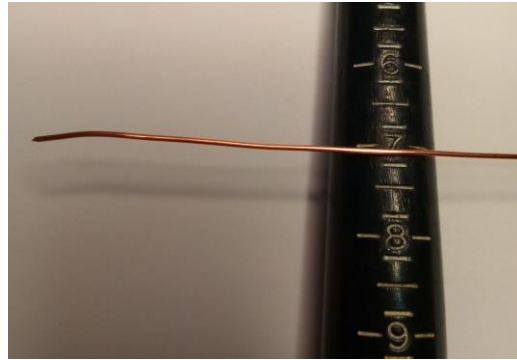
8. *Upon skill advancement you can use half hard wire for better durability. For this tutorial I use dead soft for ease. It can still be worn and will last forever, however the metal is softer so will require a little extra care.*

The metal you choose is up to you, I'm using copper.

1. Begin by measuring and cut up to 10 inches (25cm) of 18 gauge copper wire



2. Place the wire on your mandrel so at least 1 inch hangs off the side as shown in photo

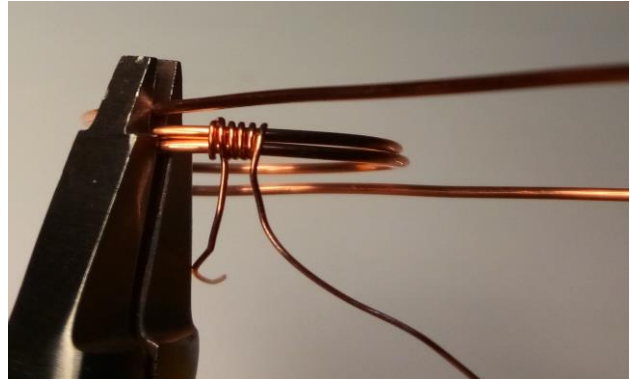


3. Wrap the longer end of the wire around the mandrel 2 times so you have 2 wires showing in front and 3 show in the back. Stop and leave wires sticking straight up as shown in photos.

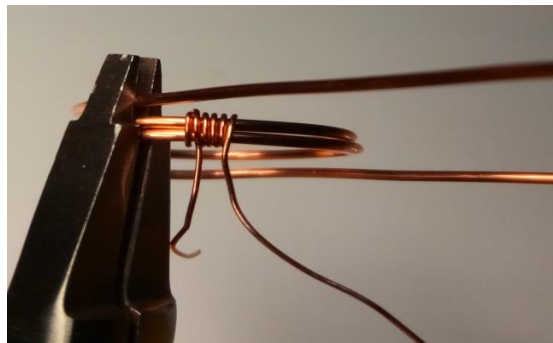
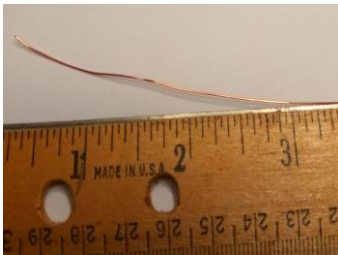


Be sure to take your wrap off the mandrel, flip it around and place it back on to even out your shank. The mandrel is tapered and will make your ring lopsided. Flipping it around ensures a nice even circle

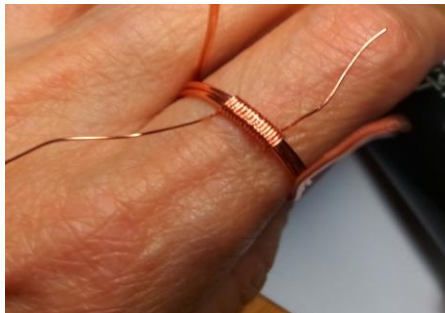
4. Remove shank from mandrel and hold it tight with your flat nose pliers, Not so tight that you leave marks, but tight enough to hold it still and even while you wrap.



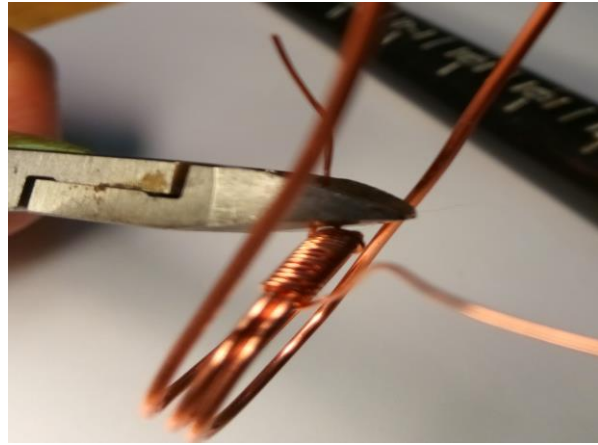
5. Take the 3 inch 26 gauge wire and put one end through the center of your ring. Begin wrapping so the wire is tight against your frame without overlapping. Make about 10 to 12 wraps.



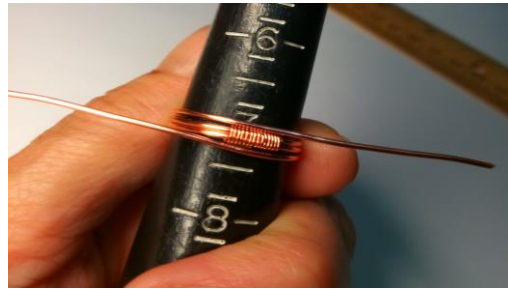
6. Put the ring on your finger to see if this is enough wrap for the size you want. If too wide for your liking, unwrap some, if too short, wrap more around the shank. Do this until you're satisfied with how it looks. Keep in mind there will be a frame around that coil wrap, so make sure you keep that in mind when checking



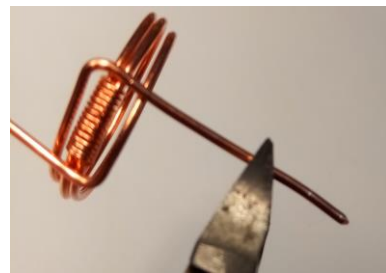
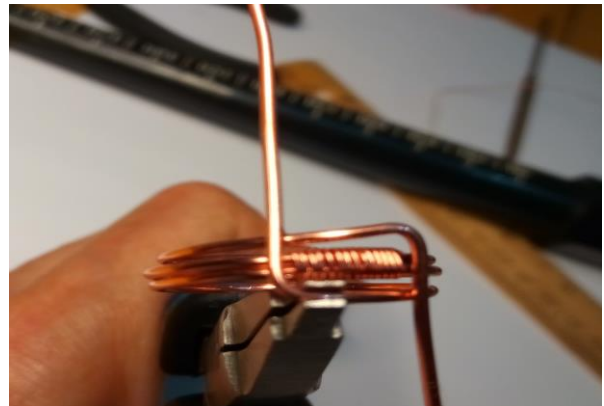
7. Put the ring back on the mandrel to reshape and check for size. Remove the ring and snip the wrapping wire so it is even with coils. The frame will secure plus hide the ends and also prevents them from scratching you.



8. Place the ring back on the mandrel and wrap the last 2 ends around to create the frame.

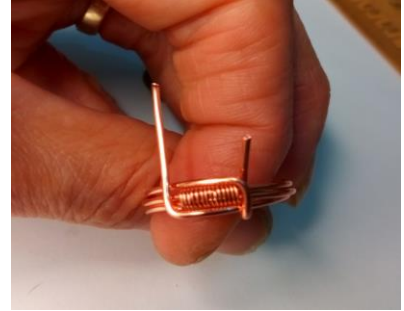


9. This next step is probably the trickiest of the whole project. You can keep the ring on the mandrel if it's easier for you. In this tutorial I remove it. Then with my flat nose pliers, I take one side of the frame, placing my pliers against the coils while holding the frame wire, I bend it sharp around the coils so it ends up straight. Do this for both sides.



10. If the frame wire is too long to easily wrap it through the shank, you can clip some off. You only need enough to wrap around once.

Hold the ring tight between your fingers and begin to gently bend the outer wire around and under the frame, bringing it through and flat against the ring.

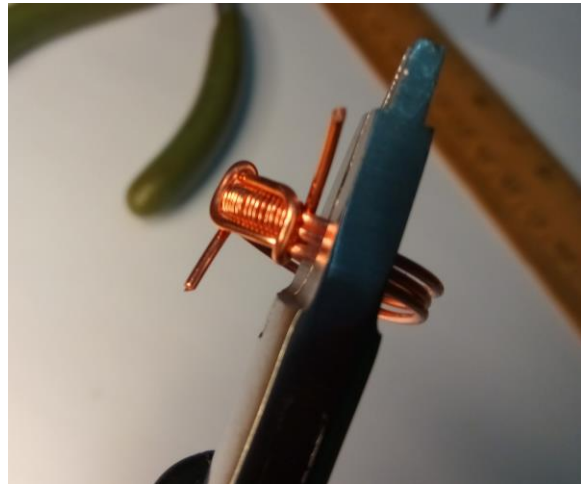
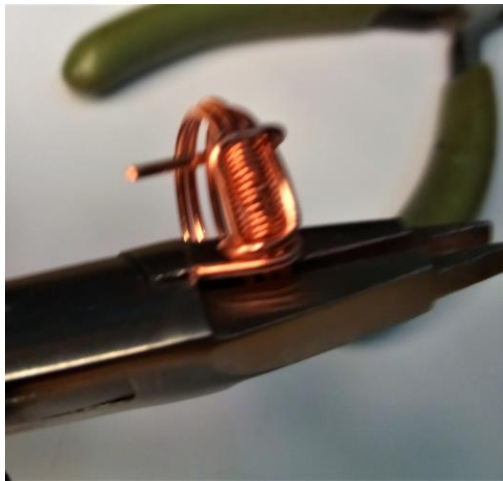


- Place back onto the mandrel when you're happy with the coil width. This is to ensure the ring stays round and checking for size. Make any adjustments necessary now.

This is the final stretch.

Remove the ring from the mandrel and hold it with the flat nose pliers again. Take the wire from the middle of the ring and fold back over the top.

DO NOT SQUEEZE THE WIRE DOWN YET!

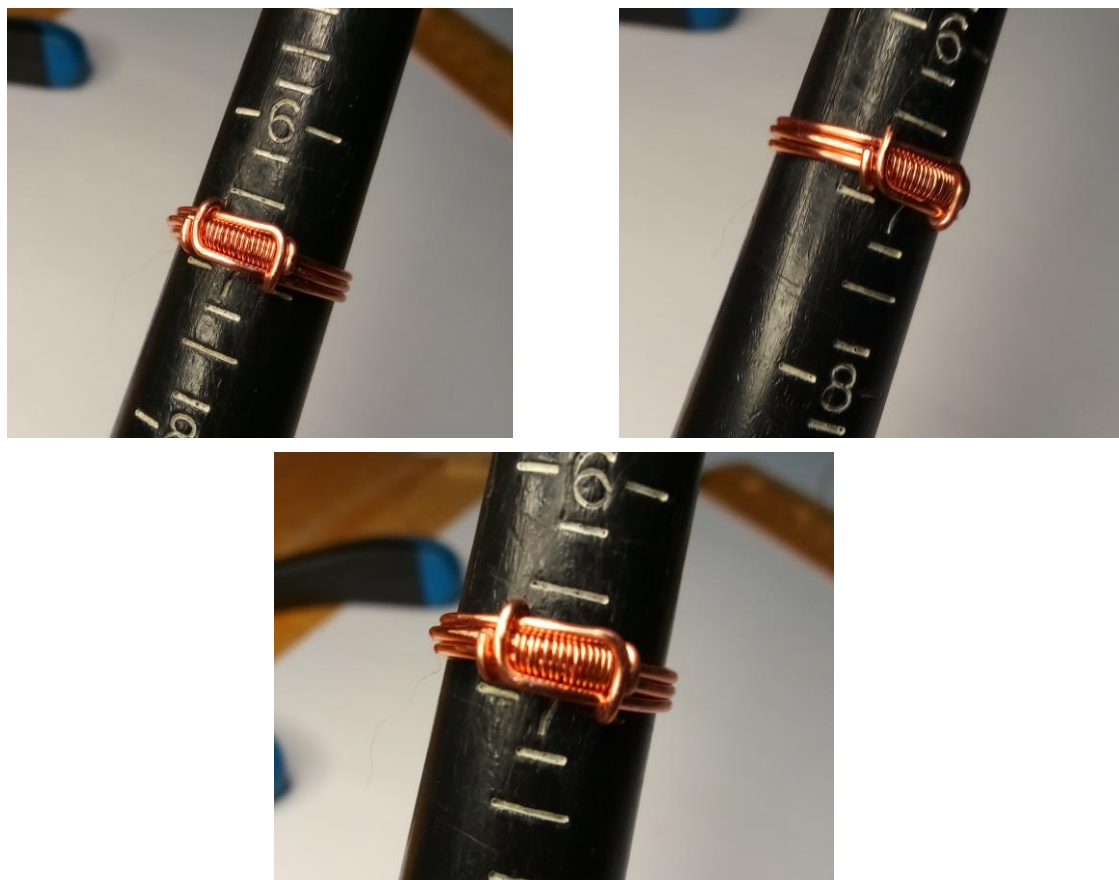


The ends need to be trimmed to fit the ring and not over hang. Using your wire cutting tool, cut the end of the wire so it ends in the middle of your ring, on the middle wire or slightly overlapping



Now with your flat nose pliers, you can gently squeeze the cut wire against the ring shank and slightly under the first fold.

This is what your ring should look like. Not exactly, but very close.



Try on your ring, feel over the top for any sharp sections. If you feel any, and you're confident using a file, you can file the sharp sections to smooth them out or use your flat nose pliers to tuck the cut ends under the frame a little more.

That concludes this part of the tutorial. Below I have pictures and comments covering how I oxidize the ring. Not many tutorials cover this. I think it's important for this tutorial because it completes the ring. A complete start to finish ready for wear tutorial.

OXIDIZING

Liver of sulfur is a stinky chemical for oxidizing silver and copper. It comes as liquid or solid form (chunks). L.O.S. will work better if the solution or your piece of jewelry is hot. What I really like the most about liver of sulfur is that it can create different colors on your metal. If you play around with the temperature of either or both the solution and your piece as well as the length of time you leave your piece in the solution, you may end up with purples, blues, and more! Leave it in long enough to get a black color.

Always rinse your piece and let it dry before you begin to polish.

Safety first!

Tools or necessary items to complete the task are as follows but not limited to...

- **Goggles**. If the chem splashes, you do not want it in your eyes.
- **Latex or rubber gloves**. Which ever you are most comfortable wearing. If you don't have any, you can still follow through with oxidizing, just **PLEASE BE CAREFUL** and wash your hands immediately afterwards.
- **Nylon brush**, brass brush (Optional) Can be found in tool sections, automotive, and most craft stores. Usually comes in a 3 pack with brass, nylon, and a steel brush. DO NOT USE THE STEEL BRUSH ON THIS PROJECT
- **Steel Wool Pad** very fine. Most of the time I use a cleaning cloth to clean and highlight, but for this project I use steel wool.
- **Live of Sulphur (LOS)** of course. You'll need to mix it with water so be sure to read the instructions before using it. I use the hard LOS. 1 part LOS 2 parts hot water. (*Example: 1 tablespoon LOL – 2 tablespoons of water*)
- **Cleaning Cloth** to touch up and get spots you might miss with the wool pad.
- **Clean safe spot to make a mess**. **Please use caution**. LOS is a toxic chemical with toxic fumes. It smells bad and should be properly ventilated when using. I'm in my kitchen today with my windows open. **This is**

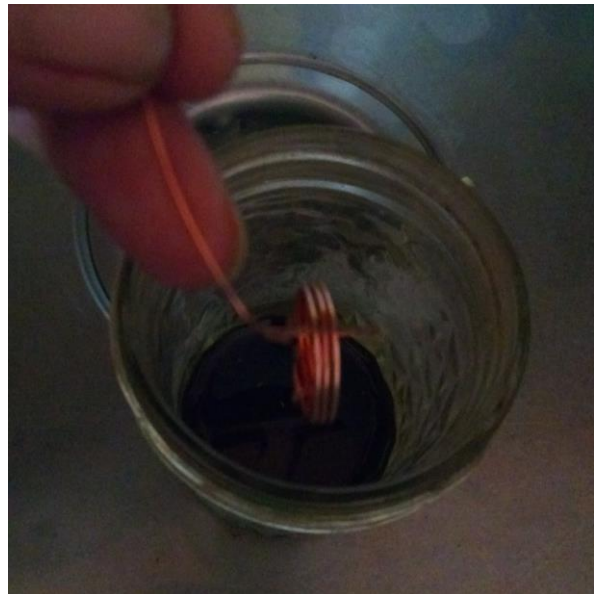
incorrect. I should be using a slop (craft/wash) sink or do this outside with good ventilation.

We'll first put a piece of wire through the center of the ring to use as a handle for dipping your ring into the solution.



through the center dipping your ring

To make your LOS solution, 1 part LOS 2 parts hot water. Not boiling, tap hot will do. Use a glass jar you don't use for anything else. Mix 1 teaspoon of LOS into 2 teaspoons of hot water. It will dissolve within seconds. Take your ring and dip it in.



It will turn black fairly fast. This is perfectly fine and suppose to happen that way. The longer you keep it in, the darker it will end up. If you need to dip again, that's fine too. I dip a couple times, and rinse until I like how

dark it looks

when you're happy, rinse the ring and put it aside to dry.



After drying for about an hour or so, use the nylon brush to gently brush away flaking of the patina. Do this outside or over a trash bin.

You should wear gloves for this, but if you don't have any, remember to wash your hands after you're done. I can not stress enough how important it is to stay safe.

I hold the ring between my piece of paper separating the



fingers and have a wires so I can

highlight areas of the ring.

Using the steel wool pad, start to rub the single wire to remove some of the patina. Being gentle and rubbing in one direction. When you have the look you want, take paper out and separate the other outer wire from the center wire and repeat the cleaning process. Leave the middle wire dark.



the

Remove the paper once you are satisfied with your cleaning and proceed to clean the top. You can clean the top first or last, it doesn't matter.

To get the center, pinch your steel wool to make it fit the coiled center. Rub it gently making it look worn.

For the rest, use your cleaning cloth and rub down until the black stops coming off.



it



Put it on!! What do you think?

Are you happy with your results?

To prevent your finger from reacting with the copper, spray some acrylic or you can also use clear nail polish. Both will give your ring a shine and keep your skin protected. Of course, copper needs a little more care than other metals, but will hold up to everyday living. Keep it clean with mild soap and warm water.

I hope you have enjoyed this tutorial as much as I enjoyed making it for you. If nothing else, you have a new ring now, and can make them for friends, family, craft shows and more!

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