



# Smithsonian Associates

## Wirework Intensive

Instructor: Mia Vollkommer

In this 3-week class we'll tackle a variety of wirework projects. Here's what to expect:

Week 1 – Coils 3 Ways: decorative headpins, clasps, and a bracelet (finished outside of class)

- 20g wire, 16g wire, 19g (or more 20g) wire

Week 2 – Using Mandrels Pt1: Ear wires and bangles

- 20g wire, 14g wire, 24g wire

Week 3 – Using Mandrels Pt2: Wire wrapped frames (for use in earrings or necklaces)

- 18g wire, 24g wire

### Tools:

- chain nose pliers - look like needle nose pliers, but the inside of the jaws is smooth, as opposed to serrated
- round nose pliers - pliers with smooth, round tapered jaws, for bending wire and creating loops (please do not get the kind with the silicone coated tips)
- flush cutting wire snips - fine wire snips designed for getting into small places and making precision cuts

Highly recommended (project options will be presented for those who don't have these tools):

- Curved head chasing hammer
- Steel block or anvil
- Wire straightening pliers
  - <https://www.riogrande.com/product/flat-nose-pliers-with-nylon-jaws/111606GP/?code=111606>

### Wire:

A kit, with all the wire you'll need (and more!) is available to purchase on my website. Kits will begin to ship on Monday August 15. <https://www.shop2dots.com/product/wirework-intensive-class-kit>

If you have (or want to purchase) your own wire, you can work in sterling silver (1/2 hard, except for 24g which should be dead soft), copper, and/or brass. All projects (except for the **\*\*coil bracelet\*\***) will be shown in silver *and* copper or brass. Therefore, you can purchase only the copper/brass amounts, or only the silver amounts and still make every project. Do remember that brass and copper wire are much less expensive than silver and are great for both practice and final pieces.

- 24g – 14ft brass or copper (should match 18g wire) 16ft sterling silver, 2ft brass or copper (should match 14g wire)
- 20g – 9ft brass or copper, 7ft sterling silver (9ft if only working in silver)
- 19g\*\* – 9ft sterling silver (hard to find this size in other metals, can substitute 20g if desired)
- 18g – 4ft brass or copper, 2ft Sterling silver (4ft if only working in silver)
- 16g – 4ft brass or copper, 4ft sterling silver
- 14g – 4ft brass or copper, 3ft sterling silver (4ft if only working in silver)

**CONT. PG.2**

FACEBOOK: SMITHSONIAN STUDIO ARTS INSTAGRAM: @SMITHSONIANASSOCIATES

EMAIL: [ASSOCIATES-STUDIOARTS@SI.EDU](mailto:ASSOCIATES-STUDIOARTS@SI.EDU)

**Other:**

- Mandrels – mandrels are any round thing that you can wrap wire around. Try and gather some straight sided things from around the house such as:
  - Pens
  - Dowels
  - Prescription bottles
  - Lipstick or other cosmetic containers
- Ruler
- Fine Tip Sharpie Marker
- To make a finished necklace with your clasps, please have beads in the length of the desired necklace, soft-flex beading wire, and 2x2mm crimps. (week 1)
- Earrings can be made from the wire alone, but you can also have beads to add to your design.
- Beads can also be added to your wire frames (week 3). If you don't already have a stash of beads, feel free to email me for recommendations
- Large-holed beads – with a hole that is 2mm or bigger – or charms to embellish the bangle bracelets (week 2).
- Sheet and Wire Gauge – Optional
  - <https://www.riogrande.com/product/sheet-and-wire-gauge/116015GP/?code=116015>

**Resources:**

Local bead shops in your area are easy to find via Google. I would highly recommend “shopping local” so that you can see what you are purchasing, and get design help from store staff.

Or I recommend the following online resources:

- Rio Grande: - Rio is my go-to for wire, tools, and findings. [www.riogrande.com](http://www.riogrande.com)
- [www.firemountaingems.com](http://www.firemountaingems.com) is another option. They are more like a “big box” store for beads.
- <https://www.beadshop.com/> Order early as this lovely shop is in California. Their site is easy to navigate and their inventory is lovely.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at: [2dotsoverthei@gmail.com](mailto:2dotsoverthei@gmail.com)

Can't wait to see you in class!

Mia (pronounced Maya)

FACEBOOK: SMITHSONIAN STUDIO ARTS INSTAGRAM: @SMITHSONIANASSOCIATES

EMAIL: [ASSOCIATES-STUDIOARTS@SI.EDU](mailto:ASSOCIATES-STUDIOARTS@SI.EDU)