

# Design

## How to make Earring Hoops

**Professional Tip:** We recommend using half-hard wire for projects such as these because it holds shapes better than dead soft wire.

### Earring Hoops

You can buy hoops half an inch to two inches in diameter. But it's easy to make your own larger or custom designs out of 20 gauge wire. Precious metal sterling silver or gold filled wires are best for your ears, but practice on copper to learn the techniques.

1. Keep in mind that wire will take the shape of whatever you bend it around. Be creative and look around for bottles or cans that are sized for hoops you like.
2. Cut enough wire to go around the form plus a little bit more that will overlap by 1/4 inch on each end.
3. Optional: Use Nylon Jaw Pliers to further work harden your wire. But if you are using Half-hard wire it will already feel a little resistant to shaping. Overworking wire will make it brittle, so don't go too far.
4. Shape your wire around the form. **(a)**
5. Make a loop (like the end of an eye pin) at one end. **(b)**
6. String beads or dangles onto your hoop, if you like. Avoid long beads that would distort the curve. **(c)**
7. Optional: Break out your Chasing Hammer to flatten or add texture to your hoop.
8. Bend the non-loop end at a right angle that will fit through your ear and lock into the loop. **(d)**

