

# Techniques

## How to make wire wrapped caps for briolettes

**Professional Tip:** Precious metal wire such as sterling silver is softer so it is easier to manipulate for more intricate designs.

### Briolettes

Teardrop shaped beads that are drilled through the pointy end are called briolettes. Popular for all sorts of jewelry designs, the shape works especially well in earring designs. Start by learning a wire wrapped loop for this project. Now add to that by creating a wire wrapped cap.

1. Cut about 3 inches (even 4" will do if you'd like a large "cap") of wire 24 guage works well. (a)
2. Instead of placing the drop in the center of the section of wire leave about an inch on one side and 2-3" on the other. (b)
3. Cross the wires above the bead. (c)
4. Bend the longer wire vertically, the shorter one horizontally. (d)
5. Wrap the shorter one around the stem twice, then cut that wire. Bend the vertical wire away from you at a right angle above the wrap. (e)
6. Make a regular wire wrapped loop (see Topdrill loops) but instead of wrapping the wire to meet the existing coil, continue wrapping the excess wire around and down the bead creating a "bead cap". (f)

