

# Techniques

## Wire wrapped loops

**Professional Tip:** Practice wire working techniques on less expensive wire, you will gain confidence without worry of waste.

### Wrapped loops for top-drilled beads

The wire wrapped loop offers both a decorative finish as well as a way to secure your work. Try adding to your pieces by using top-drilled beads (one of the most popular being the briolette shaped gemstone) as pendants.

1. Cut about 3 inches of wire (try 24 guage since its both strong and fits most beads). Place your bead in the center of the wire. Shape the wires upward following the the shape of the top of the bead.
2. Criss-cross the wires, basically making an X above the bead (a). Bend one of the wires vertically and the other horizontally, making a right angle where the wires meet (b).
3. Wrap the horizontal wire around the vertical one (about one and a half times, moving up as you spiral). Cut any excess wire.
4. Bend the vertical wire away from you at a right angle above the wrap. Make a regular wrapped loop here. When you spiral the wire tail around have it meet up with the end of the first one. Cut excess wire. Tuck the end close to the stem, using chain nose pliers. Optional: use a metal file to smooth any sharp end.

