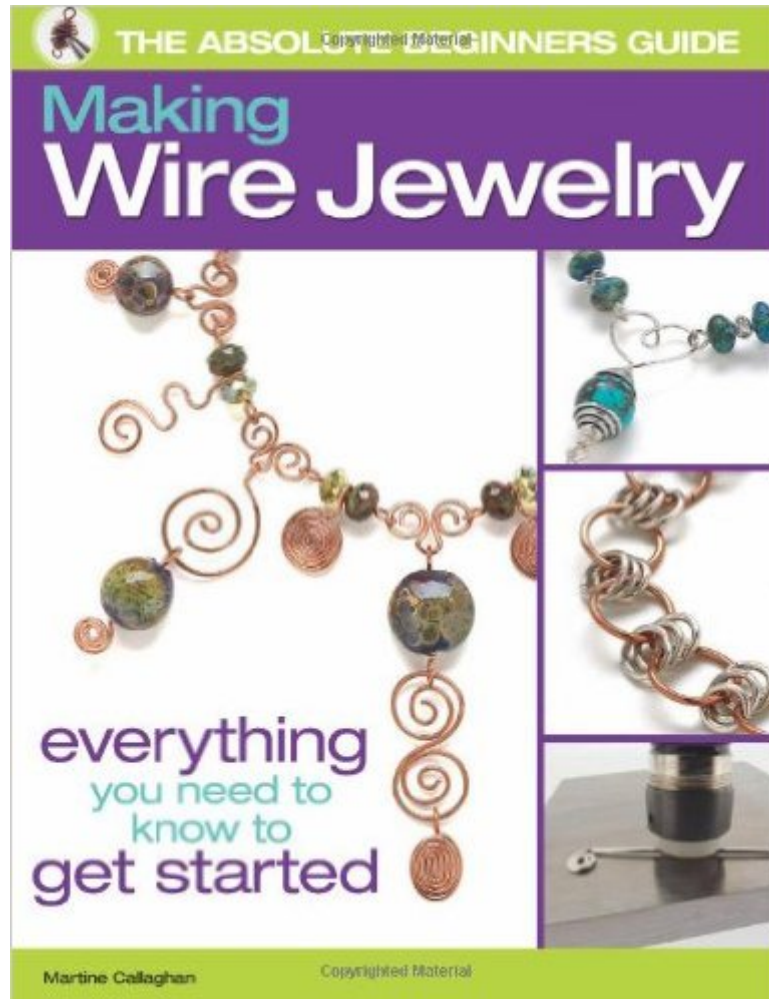


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The Absolute Beginners Guide: Making Wire Jewelry



Synopsis

Get wrapped up in *The Absolute Beginners Guide: Making Wire Jewelry*, the fourth book in the successful *Absolute Beginners Guide* series. This user-friendly wireworking primer takes readers through the basics of wire types, tools, findings and more. Then it's on to progressive, fun-to-make projects designed to teach fundamental techniques and build confidence every step of the way. Wireworkers will learn how to open and close jump rings, make head pins and earring wires, create wire spirals, wrap, coil, and more! Variations for each project give readers the chance to experiment with many techniques. Aspiring wireworkers will learn, practice, and reinforce skills with a rewarding result: fun, wearable wire jewelry!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Confession time. I do some wire work here and there and have been for several years. In a book titled *The Absolute Beginners Guide: Making Wire Jewelry*, I honestly did not think I would learn anything new. I was wrong. Martine has some very interesting tips that I wish I had thought of years ago. However, let's go back to the beginning. The premise of this book is a person with absolutely zero wire working skills can pick up a few basic tools, some wire, a few beads, plus this book, and make wire jewelry. I read this book cover to cover and can honestly say that yes, this is true. The photos are some of the best I've seen when it comes to showing the process of wire working. The instructions are concise. The projects ordered from super basic to what Callaghan calls a

"Masterpiece Charm Bracelet" in which you make charms using the all techniques you have learned in the book. There are helpful descriptions and photos of tools needed and tools that are optional, an explanation of wire types, beads and findings. Did you know that the word "findings" in the jewelry world came from the practice of goldsmiths making them from the scraps of metal found on their workbench at the end of the day? I didn't! I always wondered why they were called that as it seemed a strange word for them. The book contains 25 main projects each with alternative ideas and tips sprinkled throughout. After the masterpiece charm bracelet, there are 3 more projects (for a total of 28) that feel like "bonus" projects since they are small and come after the masterpiece charm bracelet. If you work through the book from beginning to end, there is no reason you couldn't be making wonderful wire jewelry by the end of the book.

The Absolute Beginners Series from Kalmbach Books is geared towards absolute beginners who are good visual learners. The steps are extensively explained and photographed. This book, The Absolute Beginners Guide: Making Wire Jewelry is for novices who want to try making their own jewelry for the first time. There is no soldering and very little special equipment needed to make classics like drop earrings or wire chokers. Since it is a beginner's book, it's too basic for people with more experience, but might be good as a guide if you're teaching someone basics. The introduction covers the tools and materials, all photographed and explained. You'll learn what different kinds of pliers are used, get ideas for mandrels, and learn about hammers and bench blocks. The author gives tips for working on a budget when you first get started using alternative tools. There is a brief section that explains tempering and work hardening wire. It also talks about beads and findings. The techniques are taught in the projects, which are all very wearable. Picking the beads and metals helps you design pieces to suit your personality from the start. Each of the projects lists on top of the page the skills you'll learn doing it.

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