

Bracelet Fastening Helper

Designed by Judy Markwell

Have you ever needed just a little help fastening your bracelet? Do you know someone who could just a little help? Here's a quick, inexpensive and easy to make aid that might be just the thing.

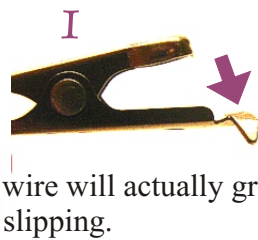


Tools:

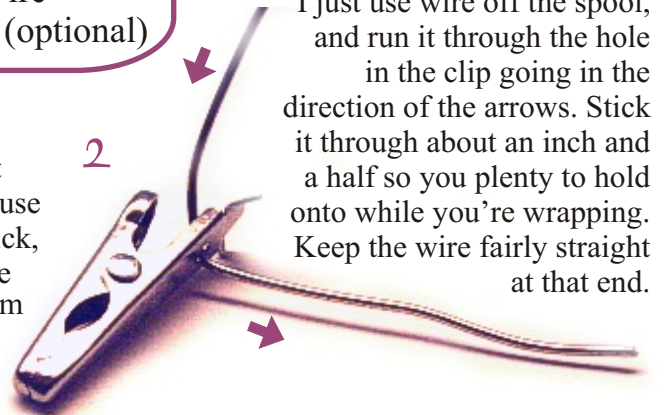
Wire Cutters
Round Nose Pliers
Chain or Flat Nose Pliers

Materials:

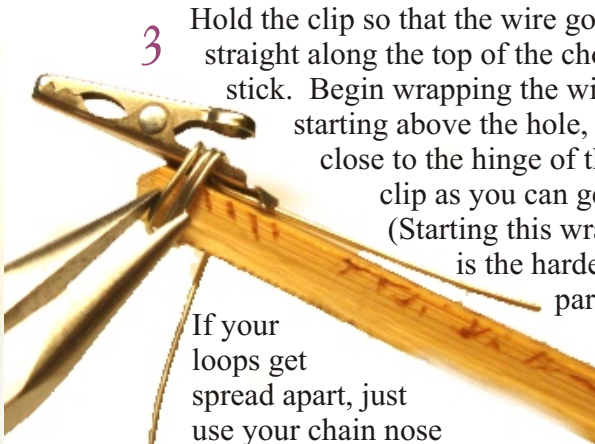
Chop Stick
Alligator Clip
20 Gauge Wire
Tool Magic (optional)



1 Start by turning the ends of the alligator clip so that they will fit around the chop stick. You can use either a round or square chop stick, but I'd use a soft wood one. The wire will actually grip the wood and keep the clip from slipping.

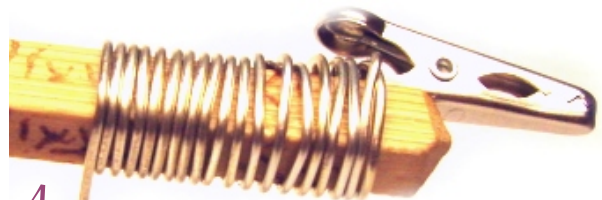


I just use wire off the spool, and run it through the hole in the clip going in the direction of the arrows. Stick it through about an inch and a half so you plenty to hold onto while you're wrapping. Keep the wire fairly straight at that end.



3 Hold the clip so that the wire goes straight along the top of the chop stick. Begin wrapping the wire starting above the hole, as close to the hinge of the clip as you can get. (Starting this wrap is the hardest part.)

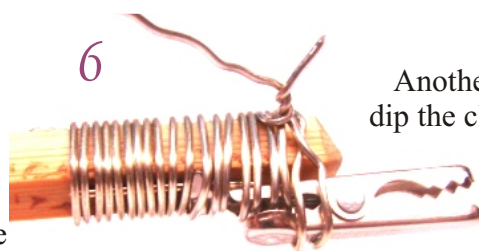
If your loops get spread apart, just use your chain nose pliers as shown to pull them together. Keep tension while you wrap.



4 Continue wrapping until you've got about an inch worth of wraps. Cut the wire that is running along the top, and wrap a couple more rounds to hide the end of that wire. Leave a tail about 3/4" long to make your spiral.



5 A quick spiral will finish off your Bracelet Helper quite nicely, and keep the tool from having any rough ends.



Optional:

Another nice touch is to dip the clip in Tool Magic if you've got it.

Just wire the tool open, and dip the end into a jar of Tool Magic. This will help keep your tool from marring the jewelry being clasped. Make sure there isn't a drip from one side to the other before you let it dry. 24 hours is a good amount of time to wait before removing the wire holding the clip open.

That's it! If you're giving one of these as a gift you might want to include a picture of the tool in use, so the recipient will know how to use it. It's not the fanciest of tools, but boy, is it handy. The green charm bracelet shown is my favorite, but I was NEVER able to put it on by myself until I made this.