

## Braided wire circlets: by Beatrix Funteyn

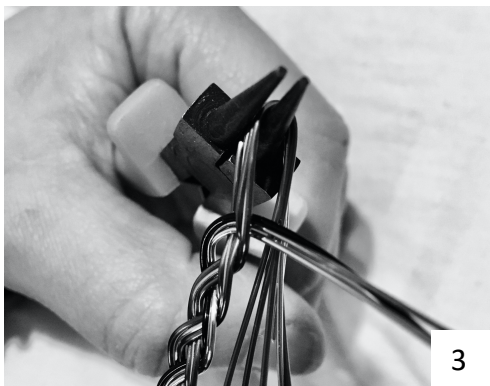
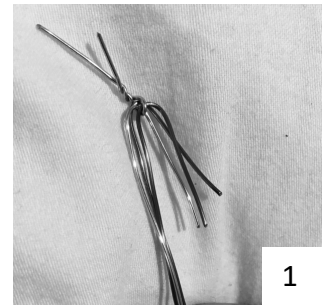
### Materials:

- 20 gauge wire (approximately 8 yards), can be aluminum, coated copper, or brass
- Ribbon, string, or some other cording to tie the back of the circlet
- Waste wire (scraps from previous projects, cheaper thinner wire, etc.)

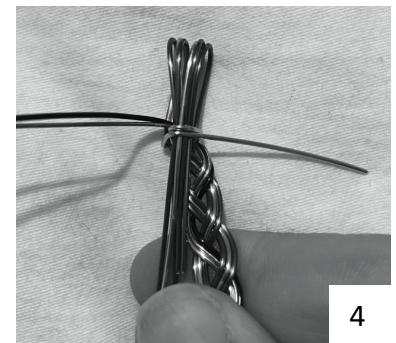
### Equipment:

- Wire cutters (flush cutting preferred)
- Needle nose pliers
- Round nose pliers
- Some kind of tight clamp or clip to hold your wires while you are working (I have used a strong clipboard in the past)

- 1) Cut 9 lengths of wire (24.5" plus 1" tab at one end). Note: These will be worked in groups of three, so I recommend using colors in multiples of three: 9, (6 and 2), (3, 3, 3), etc.
- 2) Use waste wire to hold the groups of three together into three bundles. (Image 1)
- 3) Position groups of wire in the desired order and hold in place with a clamp/clip. (Image 2)
- 4) Braid the wires together in a three-strand braid. Some tips: Keep the clamp toward yourself and the loose ends of wire away from you. Make every effort to keep the groups flat and not allow the wires within a group to get tangled or overlap. Groups should be arranged in such a way that there are two groups of wires pointing one way (right, for example), one group pointing the opposite way (left). The groups simply switch positions during braiding.



- 5) When there is less than 2 inches of wire left at the end, choose the two shortest groups of 3 wires to make into tie loops. Have the six wires point straight away from the braid. Have the remaining three wires go at a 90 degree angle to the right or left.



6) Use the round nose pliers to evenly bend the six wires into about a 0.5 inch loop, allowing the excess wire to fold up against the finished braid. (Image 3)

- 7) One at a time, wrap the remaining three wires around the loop, tucking the loose ends into the wrapping (Image 4). Use the flush-cutting wire cutters to cut off excess length of all wires (Image 5).
- 8) Repeat this process with the wires that were held in the clamp. In this case, you also need to remove the waste wire and straighten out the bend in the wire that you made at the beginning.
- 9) Lace ribbon or string through the loops to connect the circlet in the back.

