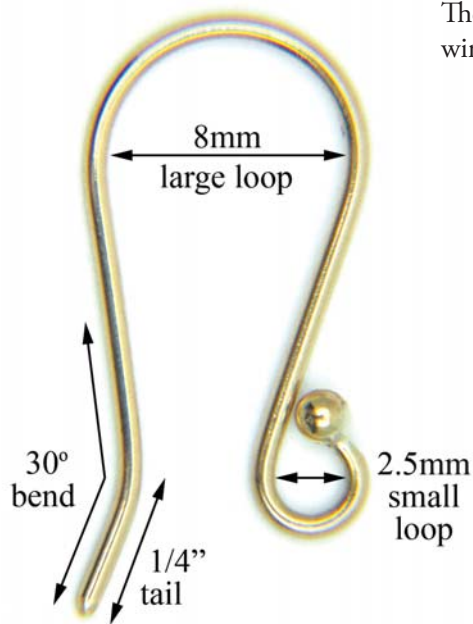


BENDING EARRING BACKS

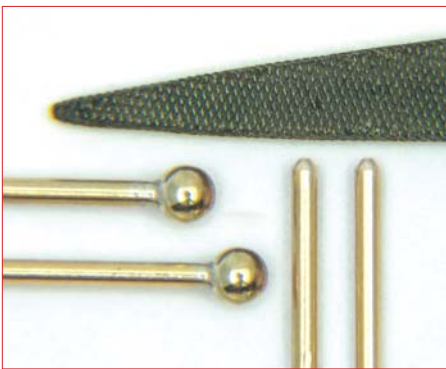
The principle behind a matching pair of earring backs is to bend both headpin wires at the same time, so that both earring backs will be identically shaped.



This diagram illustrates the big picture of the earring backs design. Starting at the 2mm ball, the headpin gets a 2.5mm small loop and is then bent around an 8mm mandrel to form the large loop. As the large loop is formed, the tip of the wire will come past the small loop by a 1/4-inch and then gets bent outwards by 30 degrees.

Tools: Flat-nose pliers; round-nose pliers (marked at a 2.5mm diameter); flat file; and two bending mandrels, one small 2.35mm (3/32-inch) and one large 8mm (5/16-inch).

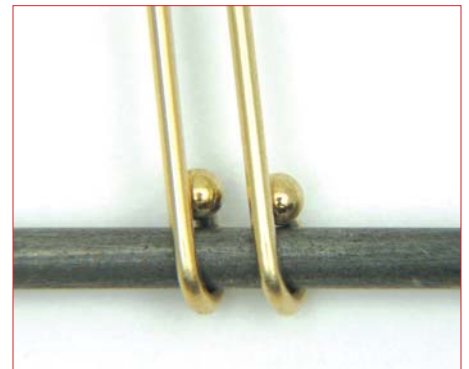
Materials: Two 19-gauge, 2-inch gold headpins.



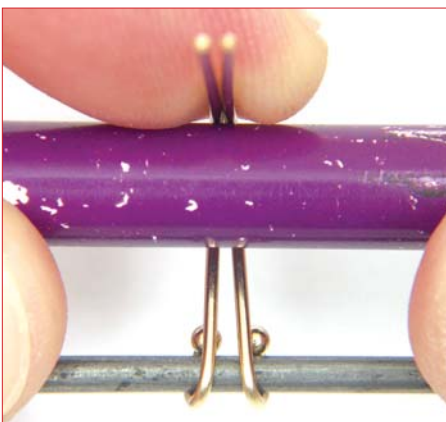
1. Use a flat file to bevel the tip of both headpin wires at a slight 45-degree angle, but not too sharp.



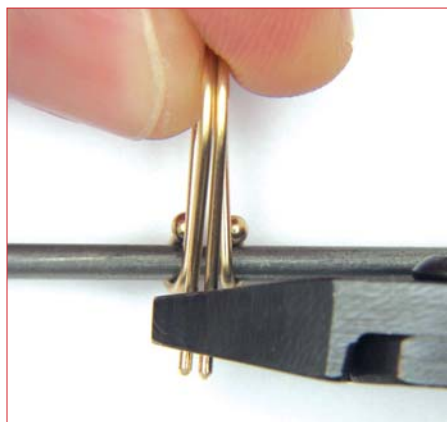
2. Grip each headpin below the 2mm ball and bend each wire around the round-nose jaw at the 2.5mm mark in a complete loop.



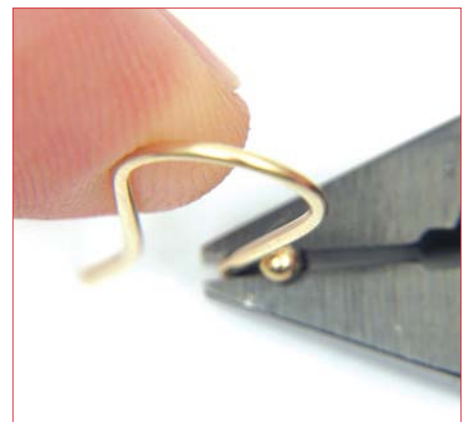
3. Add both small loops, facing the same way, onto the small 2.35mm mandrel.



4. With the small mandrel holding both wires, place the large 8mm mandrel in front of the wires. Be sure to keep both mandrels parallel with a gap between them and bend both wires over the large mandrel with your finger.



5. Remove the large mandrel and grip both 1/4-inch wire tails in the flat-nose pliers. Bend both wires slightly outward by 30-degrees to create a safety stop, which helps to prevent accidental loss of the earrings.



6. The finished earring back may need to be straightened. Grip the small loop with pliers, and adjust the form as needed. To add your chain design to the earring back, twist open the small loop like a jump ring, add your earring design, and twist the small loop closed.