

Fun with Forging

Add a handmade look and a touch of charm to your piece by forging your metal. Forging is a technique that uses a hammer to change the shape of raw materials such as wire or sheet. Forge any solid metal including gold, copper, silver, brass or Argentium® Silver.

step 1 Measure about 2½ inches of 10-ga. Argentium® round wire, and cut it at an angle. Taper the end with a file. **Tip:** Because Argentium® contains germanium, your piece will resist tarnish for better than traditional silver.

step 2 Start forming with round/flat forming pliers. Keep bending and tuck the wire into a swirl-shape. Thick wire will require more strength, so when you're just starting out, begin with a 16-ga. or 18-ga. wire.

step 3 Using the domed side of a round/flat forming hammer, hammer the piece out. To absorb some noise, hammer over a steel block on top of a leather pad or a folded towel.

step 4 Smooth the piece out with the flat side of the hammer and continue to curl the piece using the forming pliers.

step 5 Using the domed side again, start widening out the spiral. Let the weight of the hammer fall—no need to force it. Hammer out both sides, keeping your strokes even.

step 6 Instead of drilling, use a hole-punch to create a hole for the ear wire. To give the end a curled effect, use the forming pliers to bend it.

step 7 Add a final shine to the piece using a flex shaft, polishing machine or stainless steel media in a tumbler.

supplies:

Description	Order #
Swanstrom Hole-Punching Pliers	111-785
Peddinghaus Bordering Hammer	112-401
Peddinghaus Forming Hammer	112-406
Argentium® 930 Silver Round Wire, 10 ga.	100-310
Forming Pliers	111-183
Argentium® 930 Silver Ear Wire with Loop and Coil	692-184
Premium Steel Bench Block	115-316
8" Leather Sandbag	112-503
Foredom® SR 30 Flex Shaft	117-534
C-Clamp Side-Mount Flex Shaft Stand	117-261
Safety Glasses	201-054
Rio Mini Rotary Tumbler	202-140
Stainless Steel Shot	339-388
Sunsheen™ Burnishing Compound	339-394



Products. Service. Know-how.

Sharing your passion for making jewelry.

800.545.6566 riogrande.com