Ear Wires
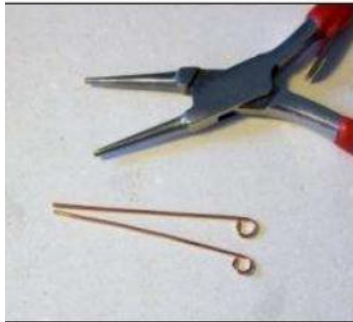
Cut 2 pieces of 20 gage round wire 2 inches each. You may need to file the ends so that they are smooth. (The pliers can leave a ridge on the end of the wire.)

Use round nose pliers to put a small loop on one end of each wire.

On the same end as the small loop, bend the wire around a pencil as shown.
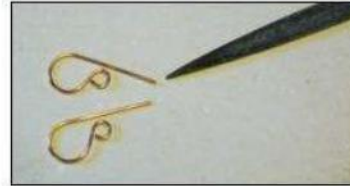
File the free end of each wire to remove any sharp edges. This part of the wire will have to go through the hole in the ear. You don't want to damage the ear.

Use round nose pliers to bend that same end into a gentle curve to make it easier to insert it into the ear.

Optional: Use a chasing a hammer of your hammer the front of the This will strengthen the give the ear wire a look.
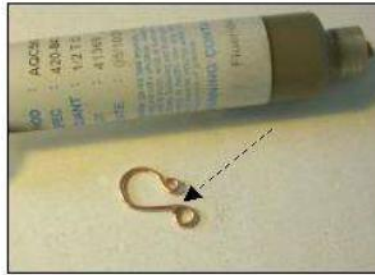
hammer (or choice) to large loop. wire and graceful

Optional: Hammer the ear wires with a rubber mallet to harden the metal.

J-Hook Clasp

Cut a piece of 18 gage round wire 1⅝ inches long.

Optional: Solder closed the larger loop.

Use round nose pliers to make a very small loop on one end of the wire. Make a larger loop, in the same direction as the first, on the other end.

Use a chasing hammer, or the hammer of your choice, to flatten the top of the bend.

Bend the end of the wire with the smaller loop over a pencil until the loop meets the wire just above the larger loop. Often the wire will twist and the small loop will be pointing in the wrong direction. Just use pliers to twist the small loop back so that it is again parallel to the other loop.

There are many ways to restore the wire to its original luster. I usually heat it in a pickle bath and then tumble it in a rotary rock tumbler with stainless steel shot. If you have a rotary tool, such as a Dremel, there are many heads available for finishing and polishing metals. You can also use various grades of sandpaper, starting with 600 grit and increasing gradually to 2000 grit or higher. There are also commercial polishing pads available.
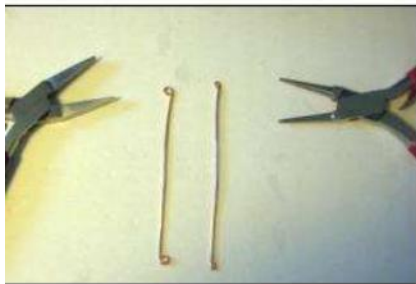
S-Hook Clasp
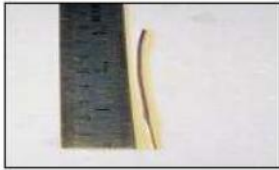
Cut a 3-inch piece of 18 gage round wire. *Be sure to make the center of the wire with a Sharpie.*

Using round nose pliers, make a small loop on each end of the wire. Be sure the loops are facing opposite directions. If you mess this up, you can easily fix it by twisting the wire. Two options are shown for the ends.

Bend the wire over a pencil so that the small loop on the end meets the center mark.

Bend the other end of the wire in the opposite direction so that the small loop on the end meets the center mark on the other side.

Optional: Solder one end of the wire to the center mark.

In this picture, the solder is in place.

Use a chasing hammer (or the hammer of your choice) to flatten the ends of the clasp. This adds strength and it gives the piece a graceful look.