

## Wire Wrapped Laboradorite Pendant



This is a picture of the finished pendant in gold-filled wire. We will be using 20 ga copper wire. I recommend cleaning the wire to remove oxidation. This will present a much nicer appearance.

1 Starting at the top of a 40x30mm cab, stick a thin piece of masking tape completely around the circumference of the stone. **See Helpful Hints Nos 1 and 2.** Along the bottom of the stone, place two marks on to the tape to show where you will put a (centred) binding on the setting. Diagonally across from each mark, mark the tape on the upper edge of the stone. (These last two marks represent small bindings.)



The distance between the two marks on the bottom should be  $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Another way to do this is to mark the center bottom of the stone then make two additional marks  $\frac{3}{8}$ " on either side of it.

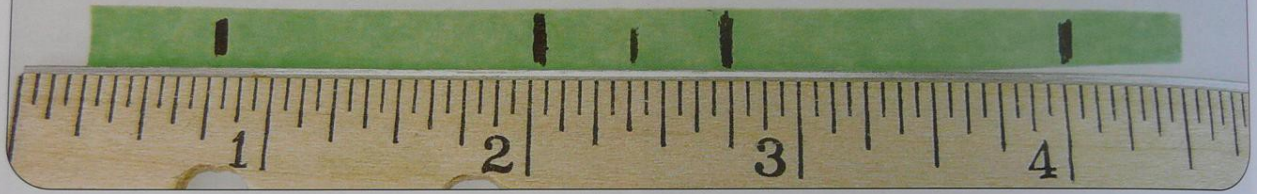
## HELPFUL HINT No 1

This tape will record how you will plan out your bindings and each secure point. Secure points are shapes formed in the wire to hold the back and front of the stone within the bezel setting. They can simply be strategically-placed kinks, or more elaborate designs involving several wires from the bezel.

## HELPFUL HINT No 2

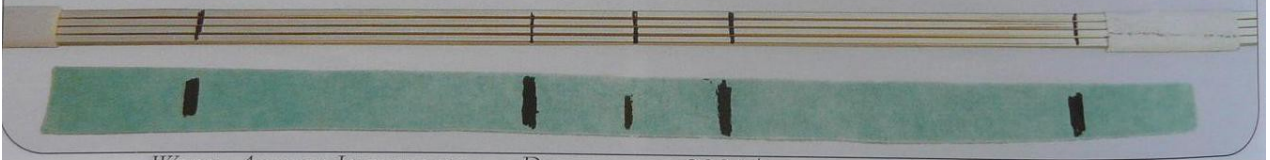
The pen marks on the tape were placed by simply eye-balling equal distances from the middle of the stone. This is fairly easy to do once you have a little experience. Should this prove to be too much of a challenge, do Step 7 first and then add on the circumference tape.

2 Remove the tape and place it onto your work surface. Halfway along the tape, mark middle and then check that the measurements on either side of middle are equal. From these marks, measure along the tape towards the outer marks and make sure these measurements are equal. If necessary, change any of the marks to ensure that the binding placements will be even along the setting.



Notice that the distance from the center to the outside marks is  $1 \frac{3}{4}$ "

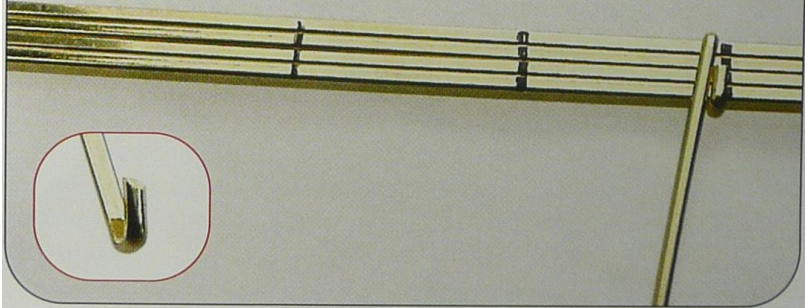
3 Straighten and cut four pieces of 20-ga square soft wire into 8-1/2-inch lengths. See Helpful Hint No 3 (facing page). Line them up parallel and tape their ends to hold in place. Halfway along their length, mark middle and then line up this mark with the middle mark on the tape. Transfer the other marks that represent binding placements onto the wires.



If you haven't cleaned your wire, now is the time to do it.



**4** Straighten and cut a 12-inch length of 21-ga half-round hard wire and, on one end, form a small hook that is slightly skewed to one side, as shown in inset. Slip the hook over one of the two outer marks that represent the larger binding at the bottom of the setting and begin binding with the long end of this wire towards centre.



From your 18" piece of 22 ga square wire, cut a 12" length. When you make your hook, notice that it only covers two wires. You will need to cut off any excess. Also, you may need to compress the hook with your flat nosed pliers to make it fit tighter.

Do not squeeze the wire too hard or you will leave tool marks on the wire.

When you begin winding, if you cannot hold the wire with your fingers you may need to hold the hook with your pliers.

Do not overlap the wire and keep it tight.

### HELPFUL HINT NO 3

To determine the length of wire you will need to cut to set any size of stone (as well as form the pattern at the bail), the rule is to add four inches to the circumference (tape) measurement.

The depth of the stone will also determine whether you will need to cut three or four pieces of wire. Since the stone in this project has an 8mm depth, the bezel setting will require at least four wires to look (esthetically) in proportion with the overall pendant.

**6** Using the remainder of the binding wire, place four turns of binding on each of the outer marks. Remember to keep all binding ends on the same side, start each binding on their mark and work towards the ends of the wire.





**7** To ensure that your bindings are positioned evenly around the circumference of your stone, measure its width and place a thin strip of masking tape — that runs from top to bottom — to mark middle. Repeat this on the back of the stone, as shown in inset.



**8** With binding ends facing towards the top edge of a 1-inch wooden dowel, place your thumb over the middle of the larger binding and partially shape it to take on the outline of the stone. See Helpful Hint No 5.

### HELPFUL HINT No 5

Should you be setting a different size of cabochon, use a wooden dowel that has the same degree of curve as that of the bottom edge of your stone.

**9** Cut a 3-inch length of 1/2-inch masking tape and, with half of the tape attached to the back of the cab, place it down on to your work surface. Set the edge of your binding across the tape, taking care to line up the middle of the binding with the middle of the stone.

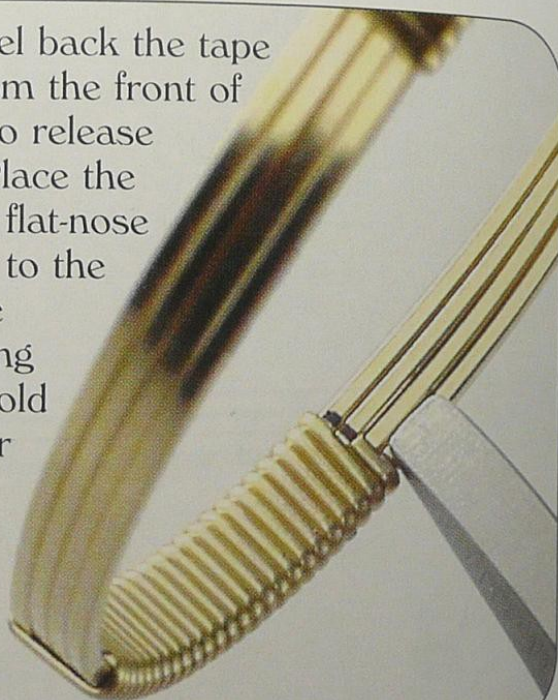




**10** Bring the tape up over the front of the stone to hold the binding in place and then use your fingers to shape the wire around the sides of the stone.

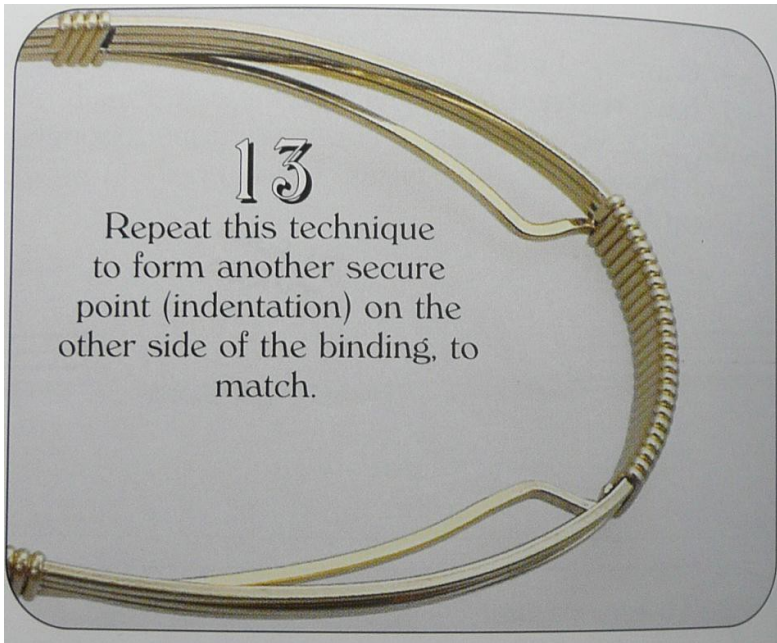


**11** Peel back the tape from the front of the stone to release the wire. Place the tip of your flat-nose pliers next to the edge of the large binding and take hold of the outer wire.



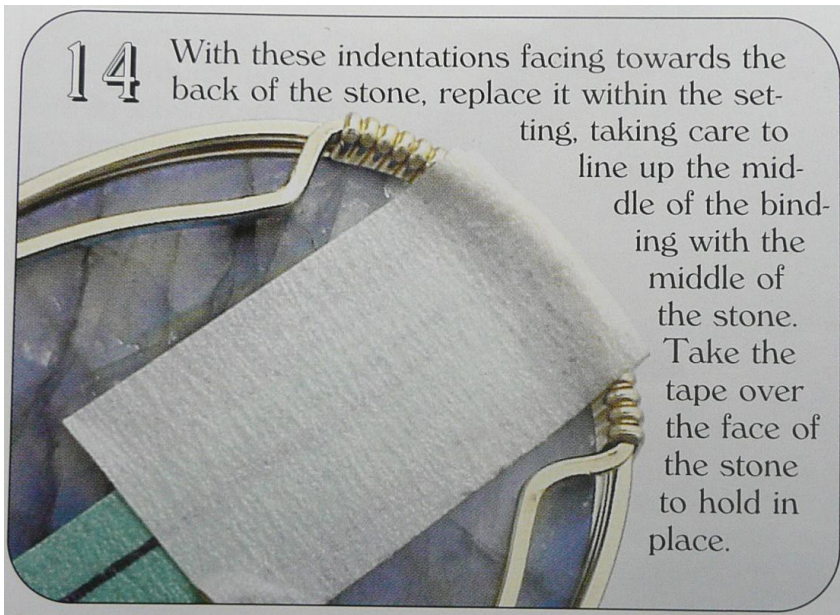
**12** Turn the pliers in towards the middle of the binding to bend the wire at a right angle. While forming this indentation, a secure point, the length of wire between the bindings (on that side of the setting), will move inwards.





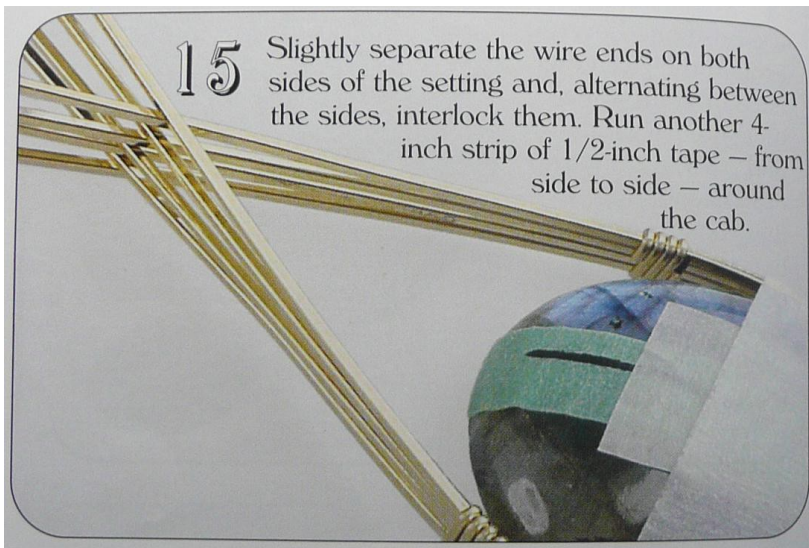
13

Repeat this technique to form another secure point (indentation) on the other side of the binding, to match.



14

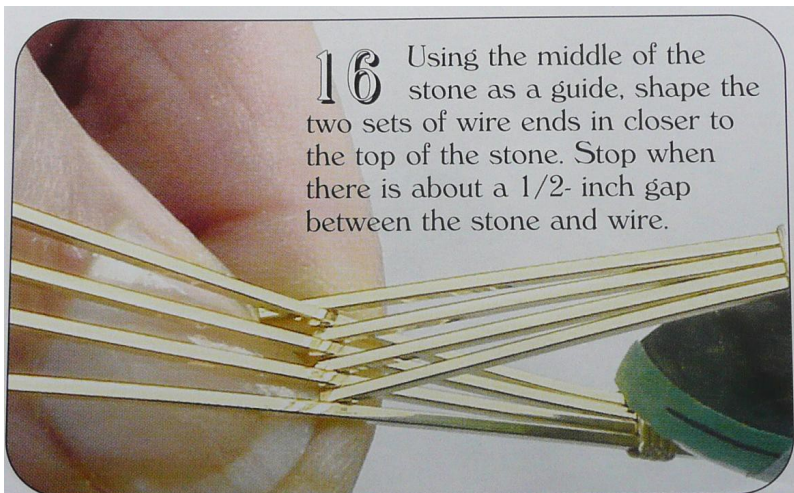
With these indentations facing towards the back of the stone, replace it within the setting, taking care to line up the middle of the binding with the middle of the stone. Take the tape over the face of the stone to hold in place.



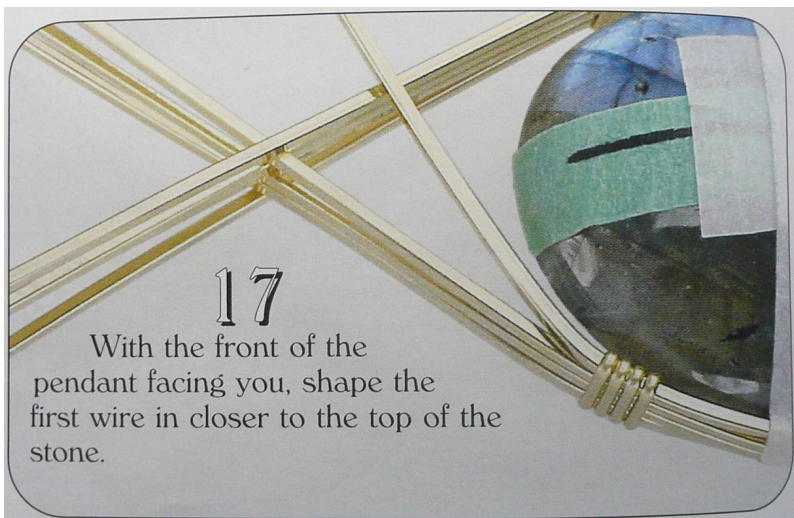
15

Slightly separate the wire ends on both sides of the setting and, alternating between the sides, interlock them. Run another 4-inch strip of 1/2-inch tape – from side to side – around the cab.

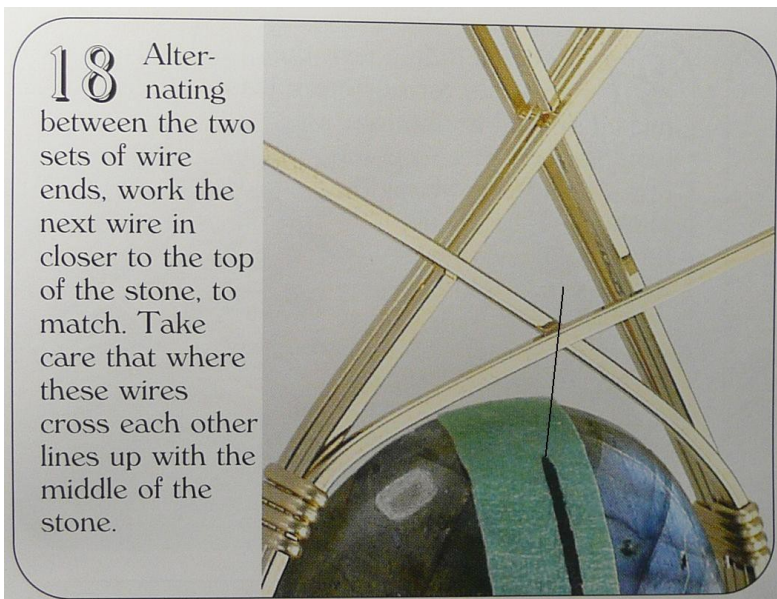




**16** Using the middle of the stone as a guide, shape the two sets of wire ends in closer to the top of the stone. Stop when there is about a 1/2-inch gap between the stone and wire.

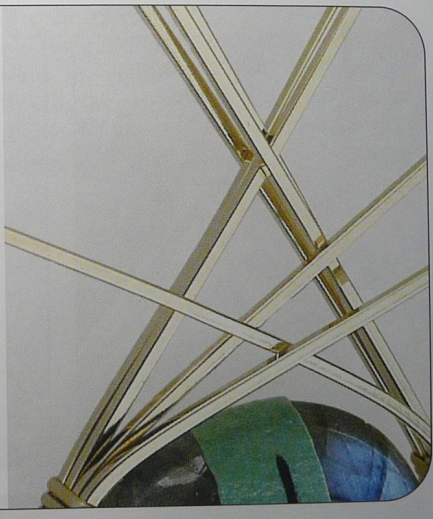


**17** With the front of the pendant facing you, shape the first wire in closer to the top of the stone.

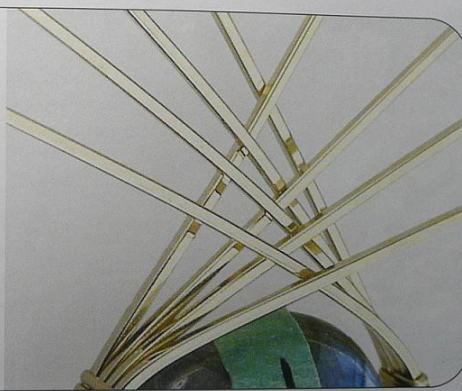


**18** Alternating between the two sets of wire ends, work the next wire in closer to the top of the stone, to match. Take care that where these wires cross each other lines up with the middle of the stone.

**19** Again, alternating between the two sides, move the third wire down — but this time leave a small space between it and the first two.



**20** As you did with the second wire, bring down the fourth — taking care to cross it (below the third) in line with where the first two wires crossed. While leaving a space between each pair of wire ends, bring down the remaining ones. (Make any necessary adjustment to ensure each pair of wires crosses each other in line with the middle of the stone.)



### HELPFUL HINT No 6

When shaping this wire and each subsequent wire end, it is important to keep the wire on the square. This simply means that the lines on the edges should not turn over.

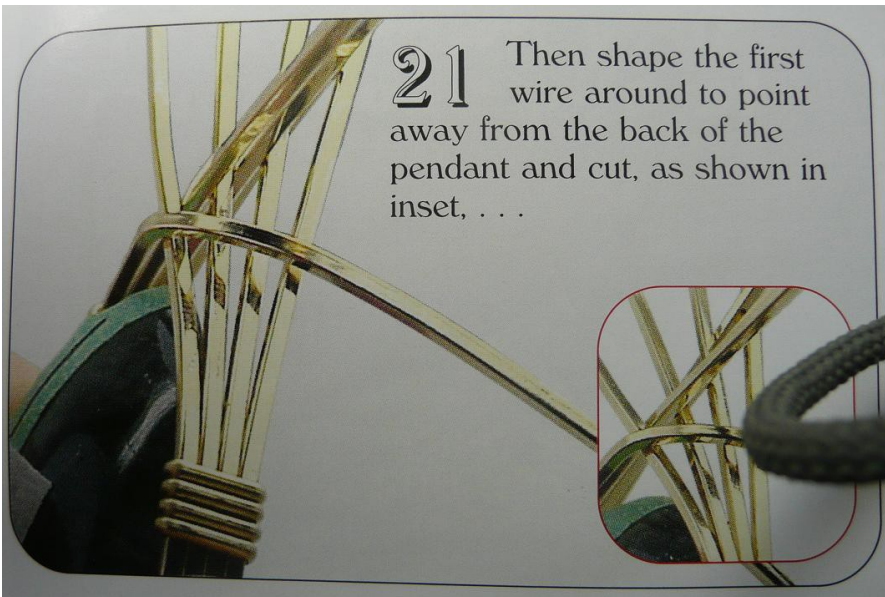


On the square



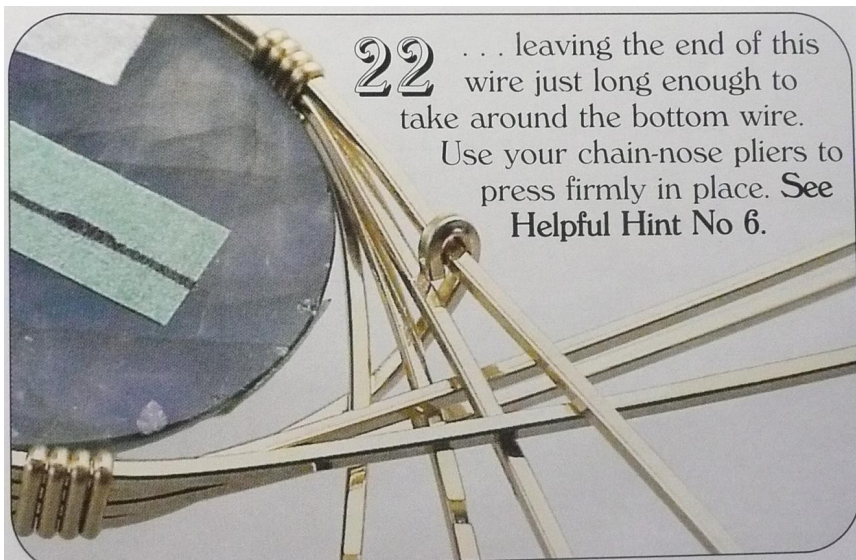
Off the square

**21** Then shape the first wire around to point away from the back of the pendant and cut, as shown in inset, . . .

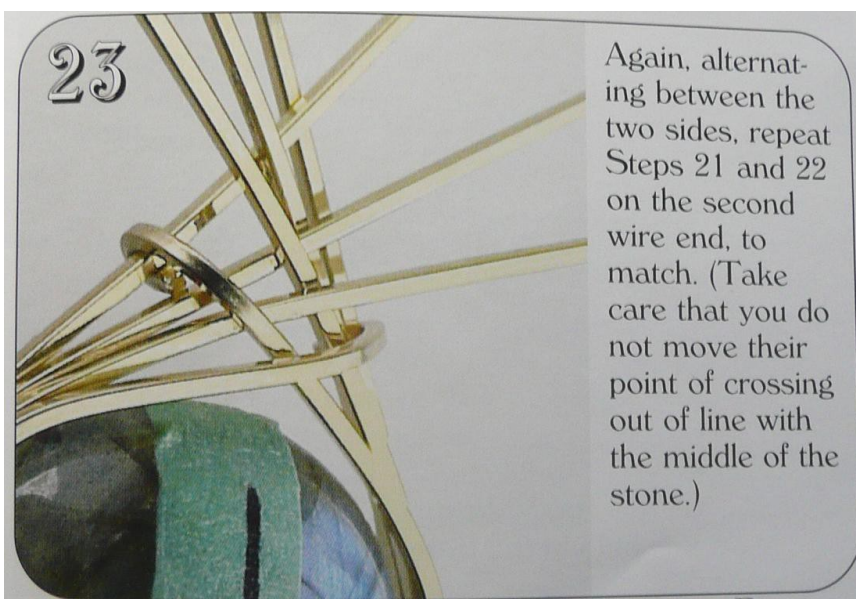


In this step we are positioning the wire so that it can be hooked under the last (bottom) wire. In the next couple of Steps we will do the same with the rest of the wires.

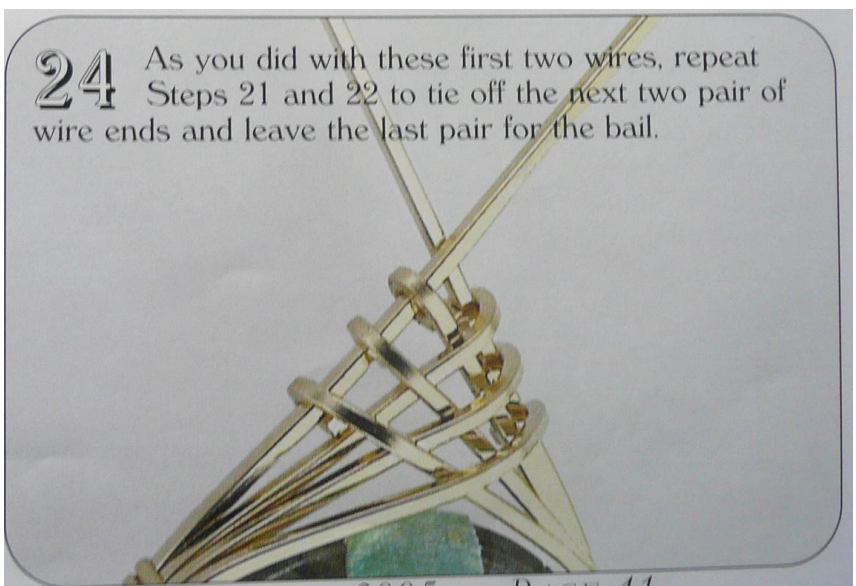




**22** ... leaving the end of this wire just long enough to take around the bottom wire. Use your chain-nose pliers to press firmly in place. See Helpful Hint No 6.



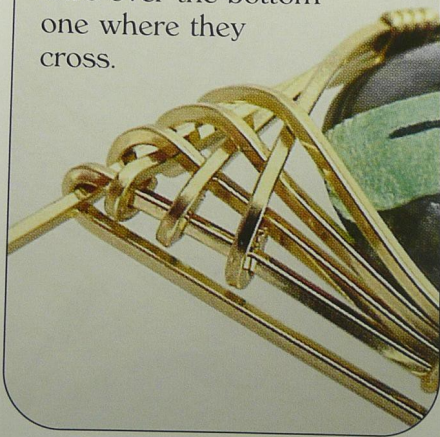
Again, alternating between the two sides, repeat Steps 21 and 22 on the second wire end, to match. (Take care that you do not move their point of crossing out of line with the middle of the stone.)



**24** As you did with these first two wires, repeat Steps 21 and 22 to tie off the next two pair of wire ends and leave the last pair for the bail.



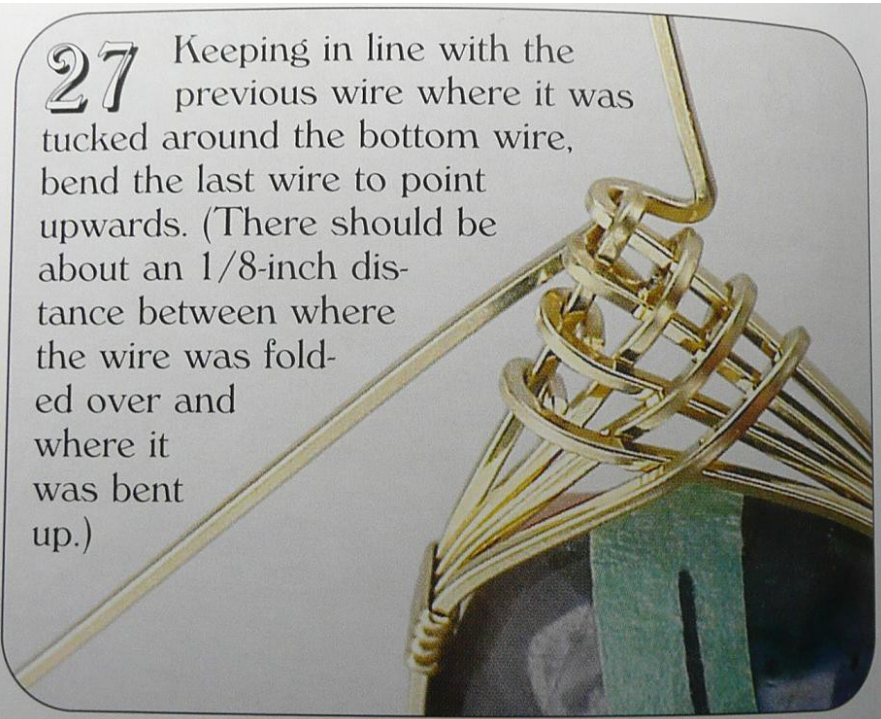
**25** To make the double bail, fold the upper wire over the bottom one where they cross.



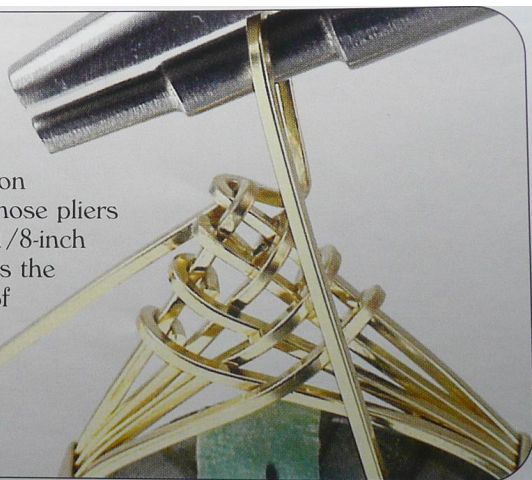
**26** Then fold the bottom wire over its counterpart, to match.



**27** Keeping in line with the previous wire where it was tucked around the bottom wire, bend the last wire to point upwards. (There should be about an 1/8-inch distance between where the wire was folded over and where it was bent up.)

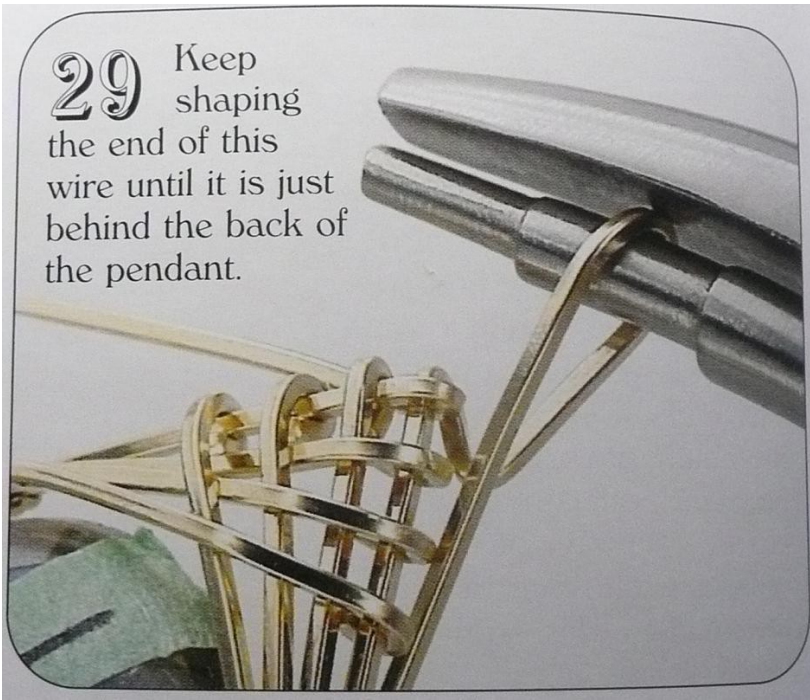


**28** From where the wire was bent, measure 1/4-inch and place the second step of your 3-step combination pliers (or your round-nose pliers where they measure 1/8-inch across one jaw) across the wire. Shape the end of the wire around the pliers towards the front of the pendant.





**29** Keep shaping the end of this wire until it is just behind the back of the pendant.



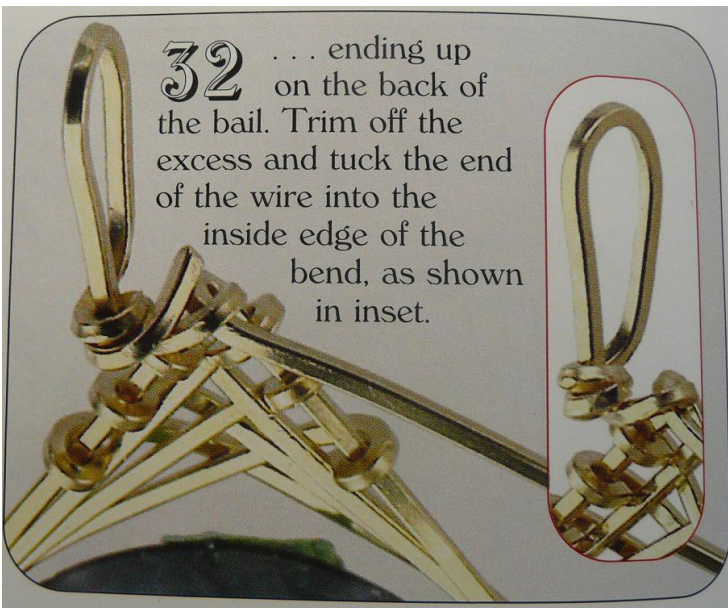
**30** Close to where you bent the wire upwards, place your flat-nose pliers across the wire to hold on to both sides as you shape its end (at a right angle) away from the bottom of the pendant.



**31** Then coil the end of the wire around itself 1-1/2 times, . . .



**32** . . . ending up on the back of the bail. Trim off the excess and tuck the end of the wire into the inside edge of the bend, as shown in inset.



**33** Repeat Steps 27 through 32 on the last remaining wire to make the matching second half of the double bail.

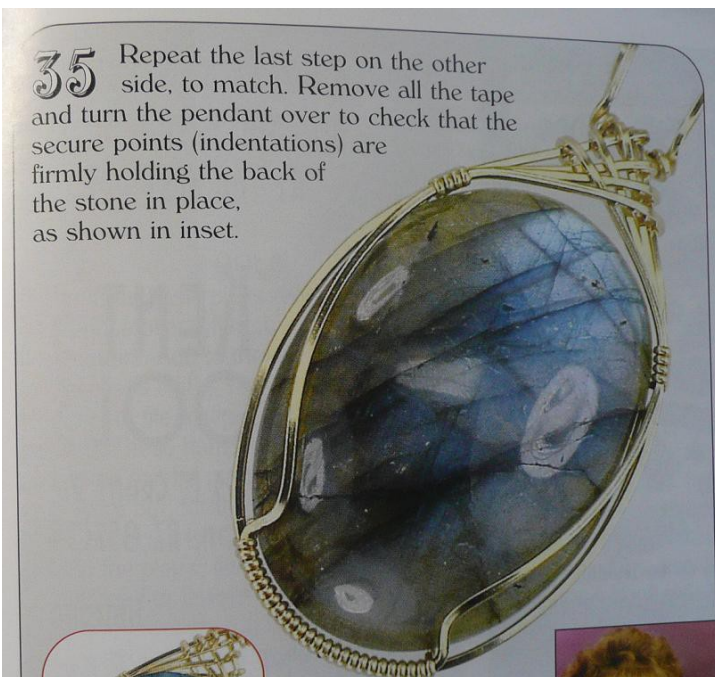


**34**



Remove the tape that went around the sides of the pendant. Working on the front of the pendant, place the tip of your flat-nose pliers next to the edge of the large binding to take hold of the top wire and turn the pliers in towards the middle of the stone. This will form a secure point on this side of the pendant to hold in the front of the stone.

**35** Repeat the last step on the other side, to match. Remove all the tape and turn the pendant over to check that the secure points (indentations) are firmly holding the back of the stone in place, as shown in inset.





**36** Now that your lovely pendant is finished, you will want to find just the right chain to show off your latest! Janet hopes you enjoy making and wearing this pendant.



To keep the wire from tarnishing too quickly you may want to spray the entire pendant with a light coating of laquer spray.