

# Rings for Her Fingers

This is a brief introduction to making finger rings from wire and specialised ring findings.

## Choosing Your Beads

Rings need to be durable, comfortable and fun to wear.

Make sure the beads you choose to decorate your ring are resistant to water damage and can take the knocks and scrapes of everyday life -

**Good** - smooth glass or glass with rounded corners, semi-precious, plated metal, quality plated plastics

**Avoid** - wood, glass with fine surface detail that can break away if knocked, thinly plated or coated beads, beads with dyed finishes

## Rings Made With Wire

You will need a former or mould to wrap the wire around - the former needs to be a little thinner than your finger as the wire will spring out a little

0.8mm half hard wire for the shank

0.5mm soft wire to bind the shank if you wish

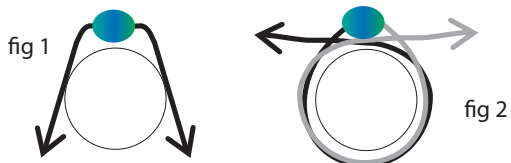
Your chosen bead or beads

A small amount of masking tape is useful to hold the shank to size whilst you work.

## Single Bead Ring

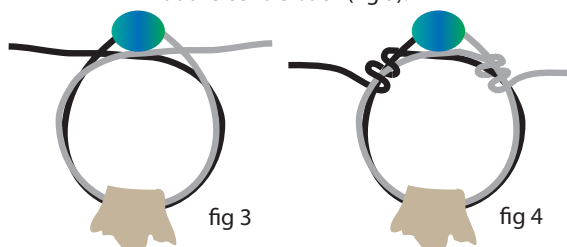
You will need to make a completely circular shank behind the bead so the bead does not press into the front of the finger.

Cut 20cm of 0.8mm half hard wire and thread the bead into the middle of the length.



Place the bead against the former. Gently bend the wire at either side of the bead until it touches the side of the former (fig 1). Wrap the ends of the wire around the mould in both directions so they cross over behind the bead by at least 1cm (fig 2).

Remove the former. Try the ring for size and adjust the loops until the ring is a good fit - don't make it too tight - if you want to bind the shank with more wire make the ring a little larger as the binding will close up the sizing quite a bit. Use a tiny bit of masking tape to secure the ring to size at the centre back (fig 3).



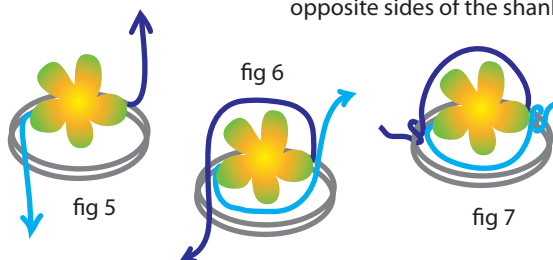
Where the wire from either side of the bead meets the circle of the shank wrap the ends of the wire over just two or three times to secure the shape (fig 4). Trim off the wire ends very closely and flatten to the shank if necessary so they are neat and the finish is smooth. If you wish you can bind the shank with a length of 0.5mm wire.

## Using a Flatter Shaped Bead

If you choose a disc or cushion-style bead it will be comfortable resting against the front of the finger. Thread the bead onto the middle of a 20cm length of 0.8mm half hard wire. Wrap the wire around the former so the wire crosses over by at least 1cm just below the bead.

Remove the former and adjust the ring size as for the single bead ring instructions. Secure the size with a bit of masking tape (as fig 3).

Bend the wire ends to 90° at either side of the bead (fig 5) - note they are going to opposite sides of the shank.



Use a pen or similar circular former to bend the wire around the edge of the bead (fig 6). Secure the wire ends with two or three neat wraps around the shank to either side of the bead (fig 7).

**Options** - try threading seed beads onto the frame wire around the bead or decorate the frame with a smooth binding of fine wire or add tiny beads in clusters on fine wire stems.

## Binding the Shanks

Take your time to make the bindings neat - it will take about 50cm of wire to cover the shank and give you enough length remaining to finish off the ends neatly. Start with the middle of the soft wire at the centre back of the ring and wrap towards the front of the ring. Tuck the ends into the beads or the thicker bindings at the front or stick the end down with tiny drop of superglue.



## Using Fancy Ring Shank Findings

You can buy ready-made ring shanks that give you a firm base for your decorations - some just have a flat pad onto which you can glue a button or flat bead - others are more exciting to use with holes and loops for weaving with thread or wire or adding dangles.

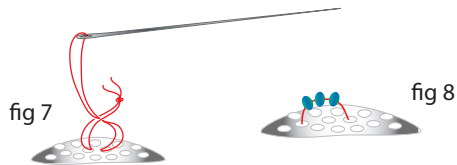


### Sieve Rings

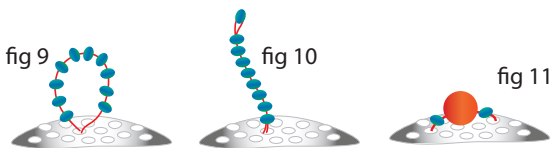
These can be decorated using a thread or a fine wire.

If you want to use seed beads or slightly larger beads to get a smooth, elegant finish use a Nymo beading thread or similar. If you want more texture use a 0.3mm or 0.4mm soft wire.

**Using A Beading Thread** - Prepare the needle with a double thread. Tie a knot 5cm from the ends. Pass the needle through a hole on the front of the ring and back up through an adjacent hole - do not pull the knot through. Pass the needle between the two thicknesses of the thread just below the knot (fig 7) and pull - this will bring the knot up tightly to the front of the sieve and you are ready to start beading.



Add the beads for your design - add seed beads in twos, threes and more per stitch to build up straps (fig 8), loops (fig 9) and tassel strands (fig 10). Add larger beads one at a time perhaps with a seed bead to either side so the thread does not show (fig 11).



Finish off the thread by tying it off securely to one of the stitches within the design. Pass the needle through a few beads and repeat the knot. Pass through two or three more beads before trimming. Seal the knots with a little nail polish or glue to make everything durable.

for full instructions for all of these ring designs see the [Project Downloads](#) on the website



beads wired onto a sieve



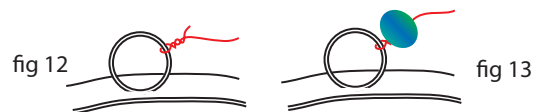
larger beads added onto a sieve ring with thread

### Rings With Loops

Ring shanks are available with loops that stand proud of the design. The loops can be arranged in a variety of patterns.

You can use the loops to weave in-between with wire and beads; or to add beaded dangles on headpins and jump rings; or to do a combination of both.

**Weaving With Wire** - use a 0.3 or a 0.4mm soft wire. Thread the end of the wire through the first loop and twist to secure (fig 12). Trim away any tail of wire and thread on the first bead - push the bead down to cover the twist (fig 13).



Weave up your design. Once you have a flat weave of beads between the loops you can add more beads on short twists of wire anchoring the wire around the beads already in situ. If you are using lots of different shades or colours of beads think about making a final weave of small seed beads in and out of the entire design to bring the theme together.

To finish off the wire wrap it around an adjacent wire or loop once to secure, trim to a few millimeters and tuck inside an adjacent bead to neaten and conceal.



left - a neat line of beads slots into the gaps between the four loops at the front of this ring shank



right - large beads fitted into the gaps between the loops on the shank then smaller beads are added on wire twists to make a really dazzling dress ring

### Dangling Beads & Pendants from Ring Shanks

Any bead can be made into a dangle by threading it onto a headpin or wire and making a loop. Rings need to be durable so the loops you make need to be very tough.

You will need to make wrapped loops or double loops - you can get full instructions on wrapped loops on the technique download **'Loops & Linking'**. Once you have made the loops you can link the beads onto the ring shanks with jump rings - use 4mm round jump rings or 5x4mm oval jump rings.

Add the one or two pendants or beaded pins onto each jump ring and add more than one jump ring to each loop on the ring shank to make up clusters.

