

intermediate
wire



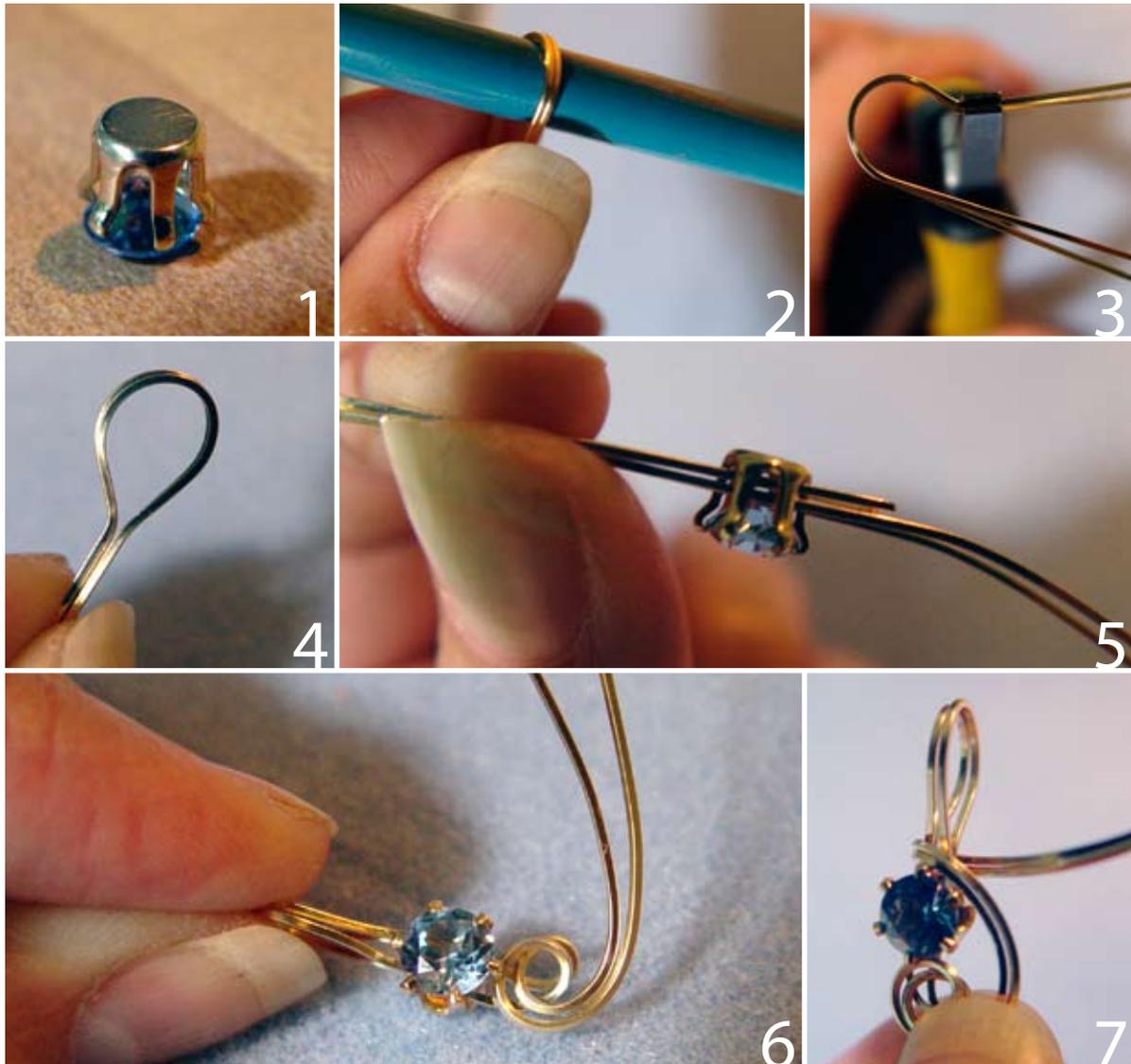
▶ The decorative bail is an integral part of this pendant. $\frac{9}{16} \times 1\frac{3}{16}$ in. (14 x 30mm).

Showcase a
faceted
gemstone
with
whorls
of
wire

snappy answer

by Anna Lemons

Snap a faceted gemstone into a ready-made setting, and add wirework for a quick project.



[1] Set the stone. Lay the table facet of a gemstone face down on an even surface. Place the prongs of a snap setting over the stone, and gently push. The prongs will open to accept the stone and then audibly snap closed to secure it.

Cut and straighten the wire. Cut two 9-in. (22.9cm) pieces of 22-gauge (0.6mm) 14k gold-filled wire. Straighten each wire by holding one end of the wire with flatnose pliers and pulling the wire through a polishing cloth.

[2–4] Make the bail. Hold the wires together. Make a U shape by

bending the wires around a pencil 1 in. (25.5mm) from the end of the wires **[2]**. Keeping the wires parallel, use flatnose pliers to make a 45° bend in the shorter wires at the top of the U **[3]**. Use flatnose pliers to form a loop by pressing the pair of shorter wires against the pair of longer wires on the opposite side of the U bend **[4]**.

[5] Thread the snap setting on the wire. Thread the wires through the snap setting so that one wire passes along one side of the top and bottom prongs and the other wire passes along the other side of the top and bottom prongs.

Cut the excess bail wire. Tuck the ends of the bail wire into the snap setting, leaving enough wire between the base of the bail and the stone to accept another wire wrap that will be made in step 7. Cut the excess bail wire.

[6–7] Make a coil and the first curve, and secure the bail. Using your thumb for leverage, make a counterclockwise coil below the stone **[6]**. Bring the two wires up, and curve them beside the stone toward the bail. Tightly wrap the wires around the base of the bail, making one full revolution to the front of the pendant **[7]**.



Process photos by Anna Lamons.

materials

- 6mm faceted gemstone
- 6mm 14k gold-filled snap setting
- 14k gold-filled wire: 22-gauge (0.6mm), square, dead-soft, 18 in. (45.7cm)

tools & supplies

- Wire cutters
- Flatnose pliers
- Polishing cloth

resources

- Faceted gemstone (Fire Mountain Gems, 800.355.2137, firemountaingems.com)
- Snap setting and wire (Rio Grande, 800.545.6566, riogrande.com)

► The back of the pendant is a tidy reverse image of the front.



back



front

[8] Make a coil at the top of the pendant. Using your thumb, make another counterclockwise coil with the wires, keeping the wires tight together. The wires will be pointing toward the bottom of the pendant.

[9–10] Make the second curve. Shape the second curve by bringing the wires toward the bottom of the pendant. Working from back to front, thread the wires through the center of the bottom loop [9], and pull the wires gently to maintain a graceful curve [10].

[11] Wrap, cut, and tuck the wires. Wrap the wires behind the bottom of the second curve. Cut the wires, leaving $\frac{1}{8}$ in. (3mm). Bend the ends flat against the wire in the back of the pendant. 

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