3 Essential Wire Weaves

The wires used in this style of weaving fall into two different categories. The frame wires give a piece of jewelry its form. After being shaped, the frame wires remain mostly stationary while the weaving wire wraps around them. The weaving wire is usually at least two gauges thinner than the frame wires. It holds the frame wires together and creates various textures.

To create the braided bracelet on page 34, you'll use 18-gauge (1.0 mm) wire for the frame wires and 26-gauge (0.4 mm) wire for the weaving wire. For these tutorials, I used copper wire for the frame wires and green craft wire for the weaving wire to increase visibility.

**NOTE:** If you're right-handed, hold the piece you are working on in your left hand and weave from left to right with your right hand (as shown in the photos). Work in the opposite direction if you are left-handed. The direction to wrap the weaving wire is always under the frame wires and away from you, or over the frame wires and toward you, regardless of which hand you use.

**Double-Weave Ribbon**

This ribbon is made with two frame wires. You’ll need approximately 24 in. (61 cm) of weaving wire for 1 in. (25.5 mm) of weave.

1. Place two frame wires side by side, leaving approximately 1/16 in. (1.5 mm) of space between them. Slip the end of the weaving wire between the two frame wires so that a short tail sticks up.

2. Hold the tail with the thumb of your nondominant hand and wrap the weaving wire around the top (farthest from you) frame wire twice. Next bring the weaving wire toward you over the top of both frame wires.

3. Wrap the weaving wire once completely around the lower (closest to you) frame wire, then run it away from you under both frame wires.

4. Wrap the weaving wire once completely around the top frame wire and then bring it toward you across the top of both frame wires.

5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 until you reach your desired length.
Double-Plus-One Ribbon
This ribbon is made with three frame wires. You’ll need approximately 24 in. (61 cm) of weaving wire for 1 in. (25.5 mm) of weave.

Start by weaving a double-weave ribbon (opposite page). Weave six times. When you get to step 4 (wrap once completely around the top frame wire) on the sixth weave, add the third frame wire at the top. The new frame wire should sit in front of the weaving wire. This new wire is now the top frame wire.

Wrap the weaving wire completely around the top frame wire.

Bring the weaving wire toward you and over the top of the middle wire, then around the middle wire.

Weave toward you over the middle and the bottom wire and then wrap completely around the bottom wire.

Repeat steps 1–4 until you reach your desired length.

Single-Plus-One Ribbon
This ribbon is made with two frame wires. You’ll need approximately 12 in. (30.5 cm) of weaving wire for 1 in. (25.5 mm) of weave.

Start with step 1 of the double-weave ribbon (opposite page).

Wrap the weaving wire 25 times around the top frame wire like a coil.

Bring the weaving wire toward you over the top of both frame wires, then once completely around the lower frame wire, then run it away from you under both frame wires, as if you were starting a double weave. Repeat step 2.

Repeat steps 2 and 3 until you reach your desired length.

NOTE: You can increase or decrease the number of weaves between the plus-one wrap for any of the ribbon styles, depending on the look you wish to achieve.
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