



Spiral earrings

Ancient style gets a modern look

By Kelli Peduzzi

While perusing Mascetti and Triossi's book, *Earrings, From Antiquity to the Present* (p. 168), I was inspired to do my own version of a pair that featured graduated spirals. The formal earrings I liked in the book were done in the spirit of Cartier and the great Art Deco jewelers, but mine

ended up having more of an ethnic flair similar to the overlapping spirals found in pre-Columbian jewelry.

stepbystep

Form the components, assemble the pieces, and adjust as needed. Practicing on some inexpensive craft

wire is a good idea if you haven't made spirals before.

getting started

- 1 Cut the wire into two 3-in. (7.6cm), 5-in. (12.9cm), 7-in. (18cm), and 9-in. (23cm) pieces. Cut the remaining wire into six 1-in. (2.5cm) pieces.
- 2 Make 6 S-links from the

1-in. wires. These connect the spirals, so the loops should be a uniform ¼ in. (6mm) each. Make a loop at one end using roundnose pliers. Make a loop at the other end facing the opposite direction (**photo a**). If you trim the excess wire and the wire cutters leave chiseled points as shown in the photo, it's best to file the ends so the wire is flush against itself. This forms a more secure connection.

making the spirals

- 1 Bend one 9-in. wire in half (at the 4½-in./11.5cm mark) and wrap it around the roundnose pliers so a loop is formed in the middle. Make a small loop on each end (**photo b**).
- 2 Begin the spiral by rolling each end loop in on itself using chainnose pliers (**photo c**). If you put painter's (blue masking) tape on your pliers, you won't leave marks on the wire and you won't leave sticky residue on your pliers. Grip the loop in the pliers, push the length of the wire around it, and roll it into a flat spiral. Continuously reposition the pliers to keep the spiral flat and tight. Continue until there is about ¼ in. between the center

loop and the spiral center. Repeat with the other half of the wire as shown in **photo d**.

- 3 Place roundnose pliers between the center loop and the spiral. Bend the spiral down around the pliers (**photo e**). Repeat with the other side and adjust the spirals as needed (**photo f**).
- 4 Make similar spirals with the remaining wires. The halfway mark for the 3-in. wire is 1½ in. (3.8cm). Halfway for the 5-in. wire is 2½ in. (6.3cm). Halfway for