

How to make a wire poppy

By artist Flora Gare

Health & Safety note

The ends of the wire can be sharp, and handle the pliers carefully
As the blade is sharp. See image diagram of pliers.

STEP 1

Start by making the four petals using the four lengths of pre cut copper wire.

Take one piece of wire and place the end onto **Drawing 1** where it says start here.

Follow the arrows and bend it into shape **STICKING IT DOWN WITH SHORT PIECES OF MASKING TAPE** to the paper (this stops it moving) as you go along.

Use the pliers to help bend it if necessary.

NOW REMOVE THE TAPE and each petal from the paper.

Then twist the left over wire around the straight stem as illustrated.

Continue this process with the three other pieces of wire using **Drawings 2-4**

STEP 2

You need to fill in each petal with red copper wire using four lengths of red wire for each petal. The wire is simply looped around to make small circles, but leaving a few cm of straight wire at the beginning and end to attach to your petal outline.

Drawing 5 has a drawing you can trace your wire onto.

As you curl each piece of wire attach it onto the petal outline until you have no big holes left.

STEP 3

When you have completed the fill in you will need to bend each petal at a 45 degree angle to the stem. And then one at a time join all four petals together by twisting the stems around.

TIP The twist motion needs to go down toward the end of the stem, rather than round and round the same place. Otherwise it will create a knot.

Use **Drawing 6** as a guide to how the petals slightly overlap. If you twist each stem one at a time in the same direction it will give a smoother finish to the whole stem.

STEP 4

Add the black centre of the poppy (provided) by pushing the straight end into the middle of where the 4 petals meet and wrapping it around the stem.

STEP 5

This is optional.

You may want to add a leaf to your poppy.

Drawing 7 shows the outline drawing to trace using the length of copper wire. Place your wire at the start and use masking tape to stick it down as you follow the line.

TIP To get the pointed edges of the leaf you will need to use your pliers. Grip the wire in the end of the pliers with one hand, and with the other hand pull the wire around to make the angle you want.

To add the green fill in of leaf veins start by twisting it around the stem and bring a piece up through the middle to the top and twist it around an edge, and cut off the remaining wire.

Then use the wire to attach from this middle vein to outside edge tracing the angles on the drawing.

I hope you've enjoyed this and now have your very own poppy!

