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The Tornado Bead

It's easy to step up the design of a messy bead with the addition of some glimmery glass seed beads. This variation is called a tornado bead because it looks like the seed beads were swept up in a cyclone as the wire bead was being created. It's a pretty look and a great way to use up some of the thousands of seed beads you may have in your stash.

1. Cut a 16" piece of wire with the wire snips. Messy beads require a lot of wire, so it's nice to use a lighter gauge so they're not too heavy.

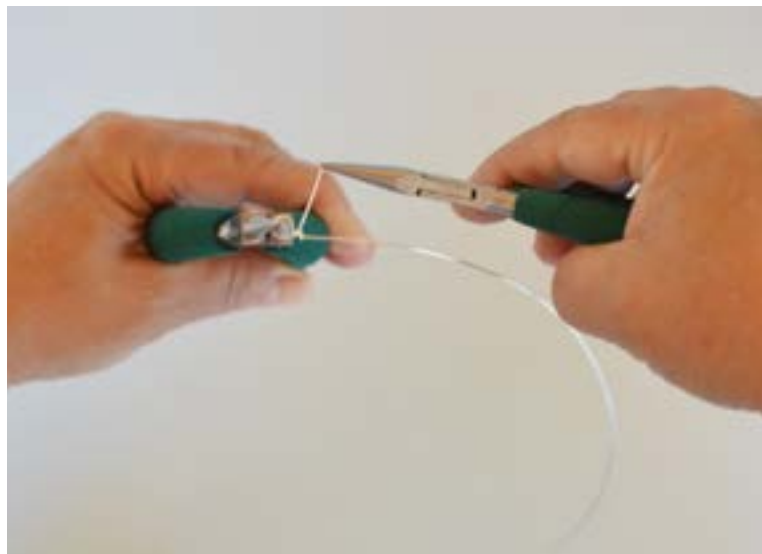


Figure 1



Figure 2

2. Starting about 1½" from the end of the wire, make a loop and use the round-nose pliers to roll the end away from you until the shorter end of the wire touches the longer piece of wire and crosses it. Switch your round-nose pliers to your non-dominant hand. Using your fingers (if the wire is soft) or the chain-nose pliers, wrap the shorter end of the wire around the long piece to form a wrapped loop. (*Figure 1*) Use the tip of the chain-nose pliers to tuck the end of the wire under the wrap, and firmly pinch the wrap to keep it tight.
3. Place the round-nose pliers about 2" up from the wrapped loop on the longer end of the wire. Form a second loop around the pliers, and then wrap the end of the wire firmly around the loop 2–3 times. (*Figure 2*)
4. Loosely wrap the long wire piece around the center wire, randomly adding seed beads as you wrap. You can use all the same size seed beads, or mix it up with various sizes, types, and colors.



The Wrapped Fabric Bead

1. Follow steps 1–3 for the tornado bead.
2. Wrap a 2"–3" scrap of ribbon, sari silk, organza, silk, or other fiber onto the center of the wire.
3. Be sure the ends of the fabric are secure, and then organically wrap the wire around it to create the bead.

Both of these additions are a beautiful way to add color and texture to your handmade wire bead links. Use them to make your own necklace chain, bracelets, and earrings, or even as fun beads for your journal and assemblage projects.