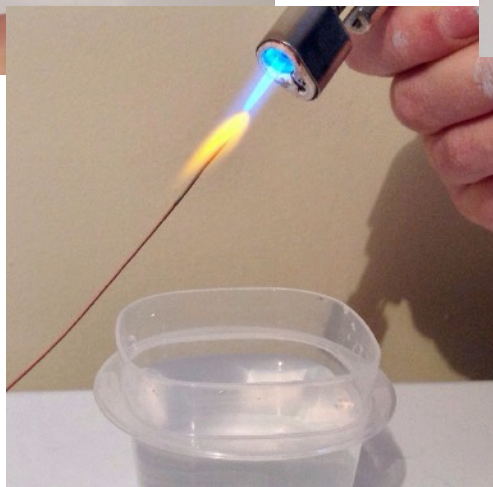
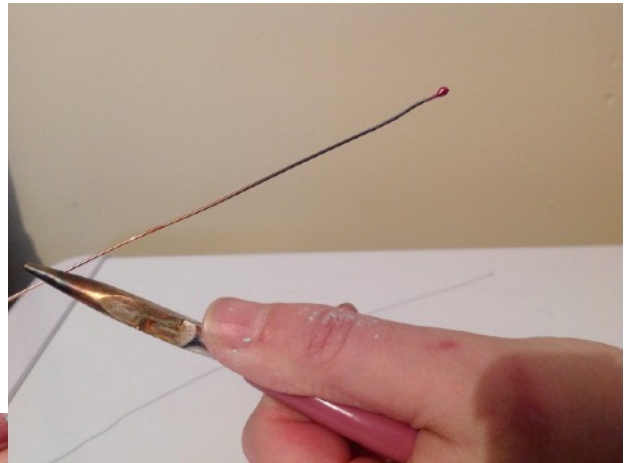
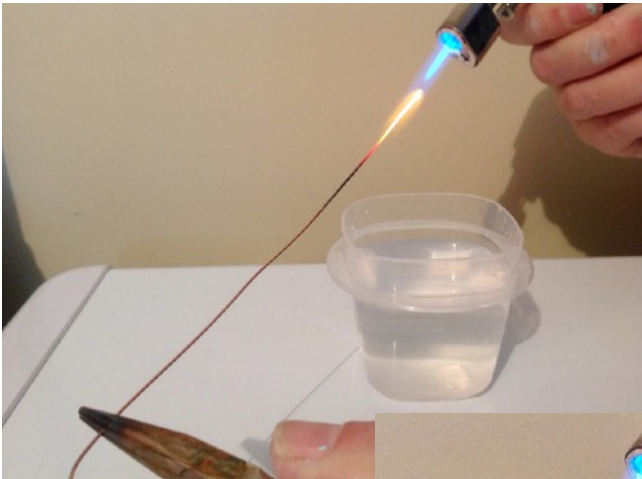


How to Ball the end of a wire

BALLING COPPER WIRE

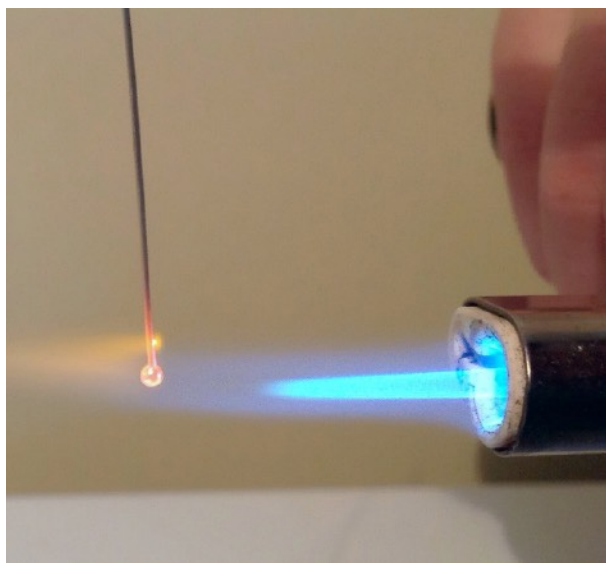
Start with a 6" piece of PURE Copper Wire. (ONLY PURE METALS WILL BALL, EXCEPT FOR BRASS) Copper wire has a much higher melting point than Sterling Silver. Pick up your wire in an old pair of pliers, horizontally. You'll be using a Creme Brûlée torch, or any other hand held torch, over a sink of water roughly 2" deep. You'll be pointing the flame straight down the wire, so make sure your pliers and hands are at a safe distance. Your wire will turn black, it's called Fire Scale. Direct the flame toward the length of the wire, concentrating the hottest part of the flame on the tip. It will take a bit to get the wire to melt. Your first glimmer of it melting is a green flash at the tip of the wire. The second it starts to melt, move the flame in and out to control the heat on the ball. Your wire wants to form a ball shape when melted. Once you've made a ball, quench it in your sink to shock it. (It also helps knock off some of the Fire Scale). If you get a tiny point left on the end of your ball, just file it off, don't try to melt it off. A perfect ball comes with practice, so keep at it. To remove the Fire Scale use a pickle pot or sandpaper.



Balling Sterling or 999 Sliver

For Sterling silver, you'll hold the wire vertically. It has a low melting point so you want to add heat to the tip of the wire. The ball wire crawl up it as it melts. Fine silver (999) won't leave Fire Scale as there's no copper content in it to tarnish.

Really keep an eye on this as you can burn through 2" before you know it!



Questions? Need Help?

Please note this is a guide, I.D. Jewelry is not responsible for injury to self or others. Please use at own risk.

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