Supplies Needed

To make one wire rosary you need:

> Rosary Pliers
> 8 ft. of wire (we suggest wire no larger than 18 gauge and no smaller than 22 gauge)
> 60 Beads
> 1 Crucifix
> 1 Center Piece

For the first time rosary maker these supplies will not be enough to make an acceptable rosary. Wire rosary making is a skilled craft that takes practice and repetition to perfect.

For the beginner we suggest a Wire Rosary Beginner's Kit. This kit contains:

> Rosary Pliers
> 80 ft. of 20 gauge aluminum wire
> 600 - 6x9mm plastic oval beads
> 10 plastic center pieces
> 10 plastic crucifixes

This allows the beginner to purchase the most inexpensive parts [enough parts for 10 rosaries plus the pliers (a $19 value) for $20] while they are perfecting their craft. While there are enough parts in the kit for 10 completed wire rosaries, beginners should not expect to get 10 acceptable rosaries out of this kit. This kit should be used as a practice kit, to allow you to perfect each of the individual aspects of rosary making before attempting to make a complete rosary.
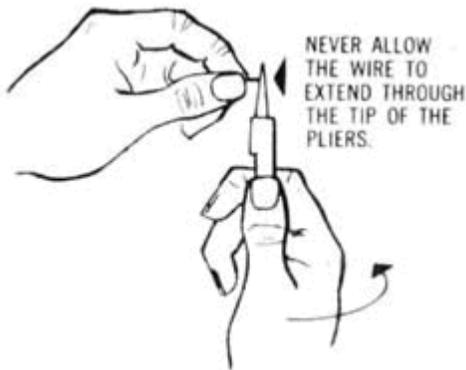
General Instructions

1) If possible find an experienced rosary maker to help you with the steps, teach you tricks and critique your work. Ask around at your parish or find a rosary making guild in your area through our guild list or the rosary makers discussion forum.

2) Don't expect perfection from the start. Wire rosary making is a skilled craft learned after much practice.

3) If you are using a Wire Rosary Beginner's Kit don't expect to get 10 acceptable rosaries out of the kit. The kit is designed to help you perfect the three aspects of rosary making (beading, chain, and bows) before making a completed rosary.

4) Read and study the steps and illustrations first to get an overall picture of the project. Then come back and commence practice.

5) Develop good practice habits from the start. 15 minutes of practice evryday is more valuable than several hours at one time, once a week.

6) Patience is a virtue - Go slow and learn one step at a time. Perfect each step before moving on to the next.

7) If right handed, the pliers are always held in the right hand and the wire in the left. If left handed then vice versa.

8) Always hold the pliers with the cutter facing up.

9) Start with short pieces of wire, about 18 inches, or the distance from your elbow to you finger tips..

8) String no more than 10 beads onto the wire at a time.

9) Beginners often scar the wire by gripping the pliers too tightly. Grip the pliers just firm enough to do the job.

10) Do not try to rework old mistakes. Start with a new piece of wire.

11) Use finger and wrist movements only. Waving elbows and arms around becomes awkward and tiring, making a simple task difficult.

12) Mark a spot on the the needle nose of you pliers with a magic marker. This will allow you to make all loops and links uniform in size.

13) Always remember the "3 Ps": Patience, Practice and Perseverance.

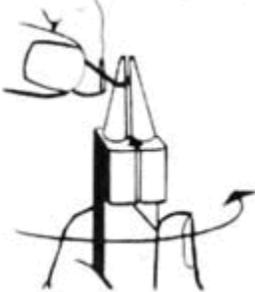## Beading: Making a Loop - PART ONE

1) Hold the wire in your left hand so that the natural curve is with the hand. The plier lies in the palm of your hand, cutting edge facing up. Your first inclination will be to put your index finger inside the pliers, as if using a scissors. Instead, use your little finger to separate the pliers, as pictured:
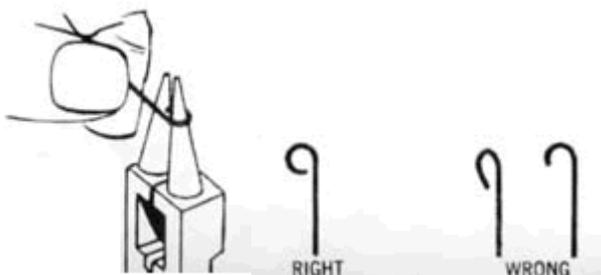
2) With pliers in the right hand, let the cutting edge face the left hand. Now grip the wire at right angle with the pliers a short distance from the tip of the pliers. NEVER ALLOW THE WIRE TO EXTEND THROUGH THE TIP OF THE PLIERS. THIS WILL MAKE OBLONG LOOPS. the more the wire is concealed within the pliers the more perfect the loop.

NEVER ALLOW THE WIRE TO EXTEND THROUGH THE TIP OF THE PLIERS.

3) In all three steps, beading, chaining and making the bows, be sure to turn the wrists from left to right, after the manner of winding a clock. While turning the right wrist, push the wire with the left thumb so that each will do half the work, each making a quarter turn. Neither make the right wrist nor the left thumb do all the work. Use both wrists for ease and comfort.
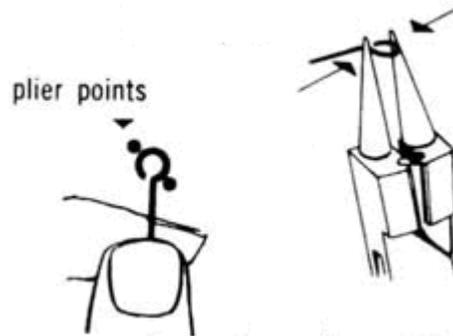
4) Continue turning the wrists until the wire has made an almost complete circle around the pliers, leaving an opening just about the thickness of the wire itself. The failure here is stopping too soon, leaving the loop half complete.

RIGHT   WRONG

5) Without pulling the pliers out of the loop, loosen the grip on the wire and turn the pliers back to this position to give it a back bend, Then you get this:

6) Since this is your first loop, you simply close it in this manner:
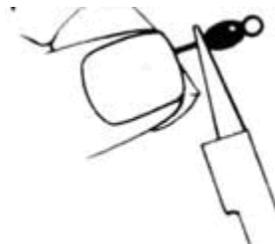
plier points

7) Before advancing, practice by making three perfect loops:
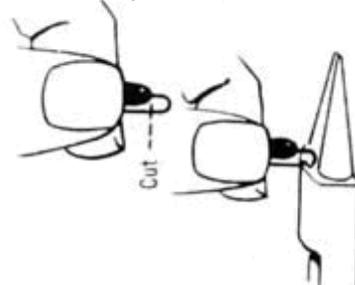
Beading: Making a Loop - PART TWO

8) Having threaded some 10 beads on your wire, now move one bead up to the loop just completed. Place pliers snug against the bead, a little back from the pliers points. Hold so as to be able to look through the eye of the loop.
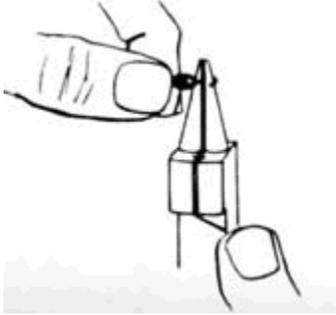
9) Push down with your thumb, while turning the pliers as shown by arrow until the wire is along side of the bead.

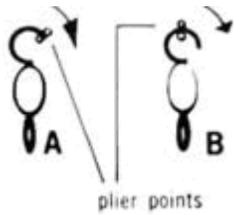10) Hold the wire that is to be cut toward you and cut at the place indicated. Cut just one wire.

Cut

11) Again grip the wire, snug against the bead. Push down with the thumb, to bend the wire like a questions mark. The snug grip will force the bead on the 1st loop.

Now you have this:

12) Take car to close your loop in this order. Grip the wire at the top with the pliers to bend the tip on sharply (A). Take another grip a bit higher (B) and tuck the wire in the bead. This may take a bit of practice. Try again. If difficult, make a larger loop by placing your wire more into your pliers (No. 10 above), or give a more sharp back bend.

plier points

13) Before advancing, practice by making three separate beads. Top and bottom loops will face opposite direction. A plastic bead should be tight.

14) With question mark facing you, thread the wire from left to right. Threading each bead the same way makes the chain between decades fall in a matching pattern.

15) Move the bead back on the wire, leaving you free to repeat steps from No. 2 to No. 8. Now move the 1st bead forward to get this:
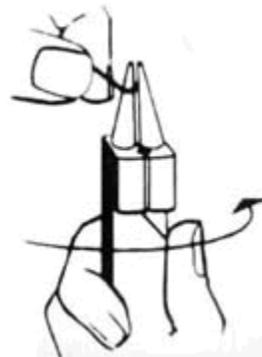
16) Before advancing make five decades. Hang them on a wire to discover which will be matching decades for the rosary.

Chain: Making a Link

17) Grasp the wire in the same manner as in No. 2. Again, use both wrists. NEVER ALLOW THE WIRE TO EXTEND THROUGH THE TIP OF THE PLIERS. This will make oblong loops. The more the wire is concealed within the pliers the more perfect the loop.

18) Turn wrist as before, from left to right after the manner of winding a clock.
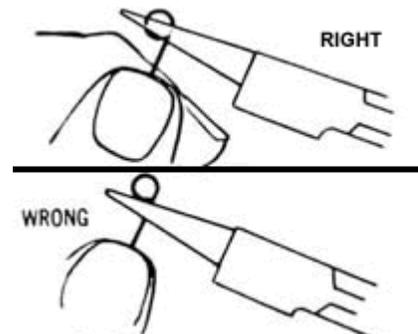
To Get This :

19) With pliers in this position close the loop. (You do not make a back bend as you did before in making the bead.)
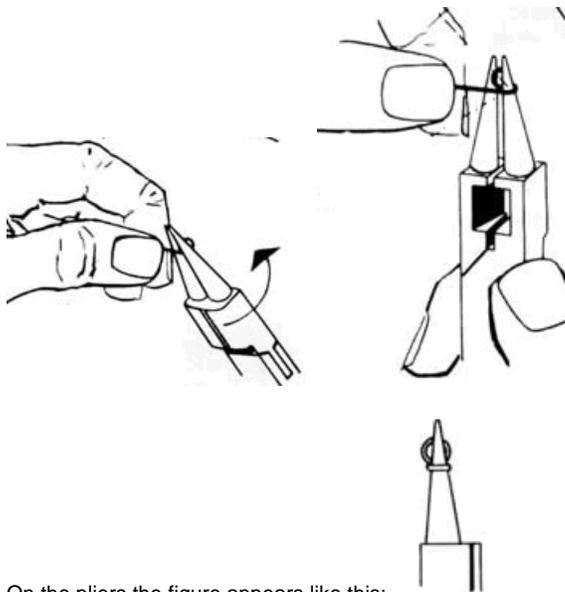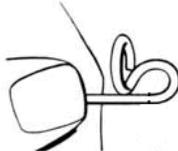
plier points

20) Place pliers in this exacts position, across the loop itself, with the loop facing away from you. Placing the pliers in the wrong position will make oblong links in your chain. This is the difference between good and poor chain.

RIGHT

WRONG

21) While pushing down with the thumb, turn the pliers in direction of arrow, until wire is flush against the pliers on the other side.
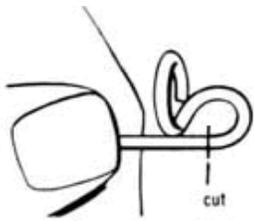
On the pliers the figure appears like this:

With the pliers removed:

23) The extended wire which must now be cut is held facing you. Cut at the place indicated below.
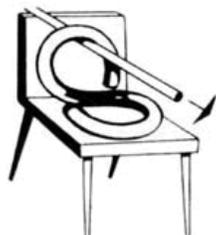
cut

24) Close the link in this manner. :

Plier points

25) Practice by making three good links before advancing to the next step.

Chain: Connecting the Links into Chain

26) The links should sit upright, as if placed in a chair. Thread the wire from the back of the "chair," never from the front.

27) Slide the completed link up the wire, leaving you room to repeat steps 18 and 19.

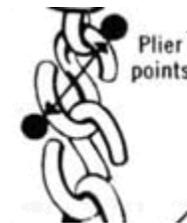28) Slide the completed link down into the new loop to get this: Proceed in repeating steps 20-24.

29) Practice by making 6 inches of chain.

30) The best of rosary makers will find their chain somewhat rough and will need to go back over their work to close each link as shown below.

31) The chain, at first quite broad and uneven, is made neat by this closing process. Mission rosaries use three links between the decade and the "Our Father" bead. Hold the chain tight between your fingers so that the open part of the "chair" is looking up to you.

32) Now place the plier points as pictured to get the greatest tension for closing. You best grip is found by placing the plier points at the highest point of each loop.
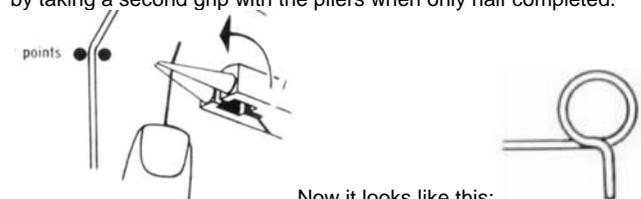
Plier points

The Bows: Making a Loop

33) Grip the wire in this position and bend only slightly, in the direction of the arrow.
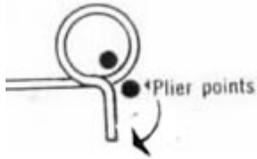
Right.   Wrong.

34) Grip the wire just beyond the completed bend. Bend it backwards in the exact opposite direction of the previous bend, as directed by the arrow, from left to right. Continue all the way around until you have bypassed the pervious wire. This complete twist may be made easier by taking a second grip with the pliers when only half completed.

points

Now it looks like this:

35) Without removing the pliers, swing it around loosely and give a back bend in the direction of the arrow
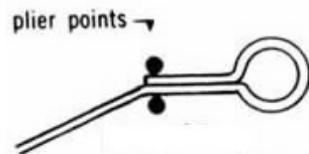

Now it looks like this:

36) Before advancing practice making three loops.

The Bows: Making a Bow

37) Grip the figure in this manner. It matters little if you are able to keep the one wire sitting on top of the other.

38) With your pliers in this position make the same bend are in No. 33.

39) Grip the wire in the position beyond the bend just completed, snug against the figure (Fig 1). Turn wrist from left to right in the manner of winding a clock, continuing all the way around, placing the wire snug against the pliers again (Fig 2).
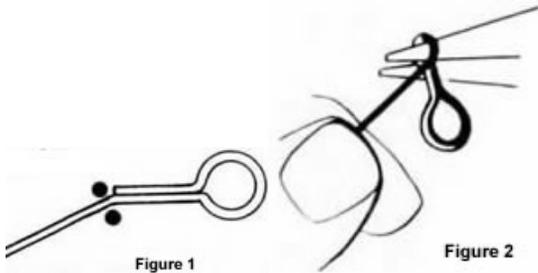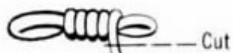

Now it looks like this:

40) Take out your pliers and place them across the loop just finished. Push down with the thumb. You may continue to wrap, guiding it around with the thumb, changing grips with the pliers as you go, or else keep the same grip and just wrap the wire around with the left hand.

41) Wrap as needed leaving the wire protruding at right angles to the eyes of the bow. Once covered, cut as snug as possible.

42) Just enough end will be left in the center of the bow, making the bow smooth enough to wear around the neck. Now you have this:
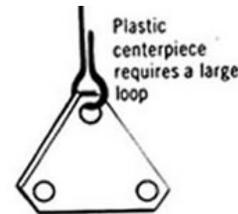

43) Practice by making three or more bows before continuing.

Part 5: Assembling - Adding the Crucifix and Center Piece

44) Now that you have perfected making the three parts of a wire rosary it is time to assemble the parts into a finished product. Start by repeating No. 33-35 and sliding a center piece or crucifix onto the loop. Plastic parts (Crucifixes and Center Pieces) require large bows. Grip the wire farther back on the pliers. Complete steps 36-43 to complete the bow. Repeat for the other 2 holes in the center piece and once more for the crucifix.

45) Now that you have learned to add crucifixes and centers to the bows you can work on making a completed wire rosary from the beginning.
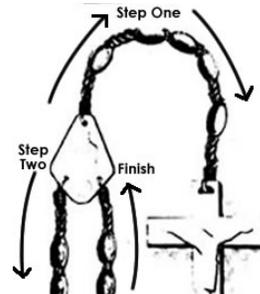
46) The easiest order:

Make 4 bows.

Attach 3 to the center piece and one to the crucifix.

(Step One) From the center piece make 3 links of chain -1 Our Father bead - 3 links - 3 Hail Mary's - 3 links - 1 Our Father - 3 links -working out toward the crucifix.

Then proceed around the rosary, making chain and beads as you go in the following pattern: 3 links of chain - 10 beads for a decade - 3 links of chain - 1 Our Father bead.

47) After a few rosaries the decades will match perfectly without being specially matched. Now go over the rosary and tighten the chain.

You are now ready to make good strong rosaries for the missions. Remember that a poorly made rosary is a cause of distractions, and one well made is a source of devotion, and an instrument of salivation. May God bless you in your work for the Queen of Heaven.