

The Danish Knot.

I first saw this knot in the early 1990's, I wanted to buy it from the man who was wearing it on a chain. Naturally he wouldn't part with it, but he did take it off and leave it with me for the rest of the day so I could make sketches of it. This silver knot bead had been his Father's in Denmark, so when I worked out how to make one I called it a 'Danish Knot'.

I was told the silver knot, made from approximately 1.60 mm (14gauge) wire, and 200mm (3/4 inch) across, had been a family possession from at least, sometime in the 18th century, maybe it was in existence from the time of the Vikings.

To make Danish Knots you will need a mandrel and half hard round wire when using 1mm & .80mm wire, if you use soft wire for these sizes the coils will distort and loose their shape as you weave the coils together.

These are the wire and mandrel combinations I prefer.....

1.20mm (16 gauge) soft round wire coiled onto a 8.5mm mandrel.

1mm (18 gauge) half hard round wire coiled onto a 6.5mm mandrel.

.80mm (20 gauge) half hard round wire coiled onto a 5mm mandrel.

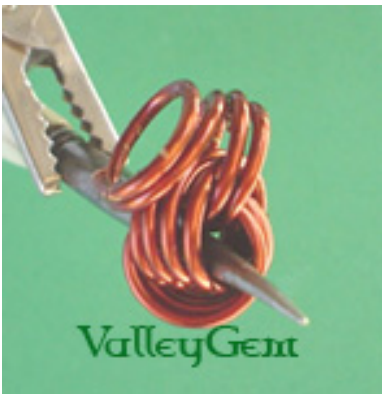
To make a Danish knot.....



1. Make a wire coil in your chosen size, to make one Danish Knot you will need 12 complete winds of wire around the mandrel. Cut the coil of wire into sections, each section is 4 complete rings of wire.



2. Take one coil and interlock it with a second coil by sliding the first coil around and around the second coil, like putting a key on a key ring. With your pliers tuck in the ends of each of these coils so the coils are neat and have no ends sticking out.



3. Hold the first 2 coils as shown in the picture, the awl shows the path through which the third coil is wound. You will need to lever one end away from the third coil to make it easier to start winding this last coil through the centers of the first two linked coils. Wind this coil around and around through the center of the first two coils until it is completely enclosed.



4. Turn each coil until the two ends are hidden inside of the knot. Using a knife or your fingernails spread the rings of the coils apart, making sure that the ends of each coil remain hidden inside the Danish Knot.

Spreading the outside rings of the coil apart locks each coil into place, stopping them from moving around and exposing the cut ends.



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