

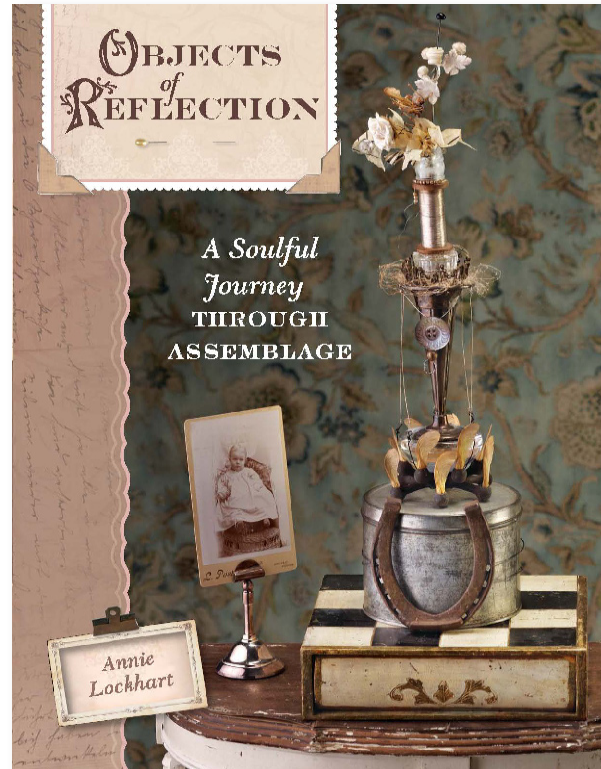
Attaching with Wire

Working with wire can be very rewarding—you won't believe all the cool and amazing things you can make. But before you get started, you might benefit from learning just a few valuable wrapping techniques for attaching items to your artwork.

Annie Lockhart, wire artist and author of *Objects of Reflection*, shows you step by step how to use wire to secure items together, how to create garlands, how to make hooks and more. And best of all, your work doesn't have to be perfect! In fact, it almost can't be perfect! It's the pure happenstance, the individual uniqueness that makes working with wire so rewarding!

To learn more about or purchase *Objects of Reflection* by Annie Lockhart, [click here](#).

www.CreateMixedMedia.com



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WIRE

As you may or may not have already noticed, wire is my best friend! I'd be safe to say that, it's the most versatile product that I use. It's very forgiving and makes it so easy to add countless layers. I don't have to be very precise with it, and I like the pure happenstance way it ties everything together. Get yourself a little stockpile of assorted varieties and sizes, and then you're good to go.

★ SECURING TWO LARGER OBJECTS TOGETHER



1. PREPARE FOR A HOLE

To wire two objects together, sometimes it's necessary to drill a hole in one or both objects. Here, I want to drill a hole into this metal box, but before I actually drill, I make a small dent in the metal, using a hammer and a nail. This will keep the drill from "walking."



2. DRILL THE HOLE

Now it's a snap to drill the hole. Just place the drill bit in the indentation and drill.



3. USE PLIERS FOR STIFF WIRE

I like to work with a piece of wire that is not only long enough to twist several times but will be also be available for me to attach elements to later if I want. Here, I've threaded the wire through the two holes that I drilled into the side and the top of the metal box. I then brought it up and around to attach it to the brass "crown." Be sure to use pliers to work with the wire—it will save your fingers!



4. TWIST TO SECURE

Hold pieces in place as you twist the wires together, creating a secure hold.



5. USE FINER WIRE ON SMALL ELEMENTS

Finer-gauge wire can be used to secure smaller items that just need to be tacked in place but don't need to be overly stable. Basic wire wrapping, such as a rosary wrap, can be applied here.



6. SECURE WITH TIGHT WRAP

With the excess wire, continue wrapping around the piece to add texture and to save a place to add other elements later. At the end of the piece of wire, secure it in whatever way feels secure enough to you.



★ TYING ON SMALLER ELEMENTS



1. ADD WIRE TO ELEMENT

You can add an element such as an antique brooch by first adding wire to the back of it.



2. SECURE ELEMENT TO MAIN PIECE

Then secure the wire on the brooch to the main piece by wrapping the wire around wherever it makes sense.

★ CREATING A GARLAND OF ELEMENTS



1. STRING EMBELLISHMENTS ONTO WIRE

Fine wire can be used to make a sort of garland to hang small elements such as buttons around a piece.



2. SECURE GARLAND TO MAIN PIECE

Secure the garland to the main piece in however many places you feel are appropriate.



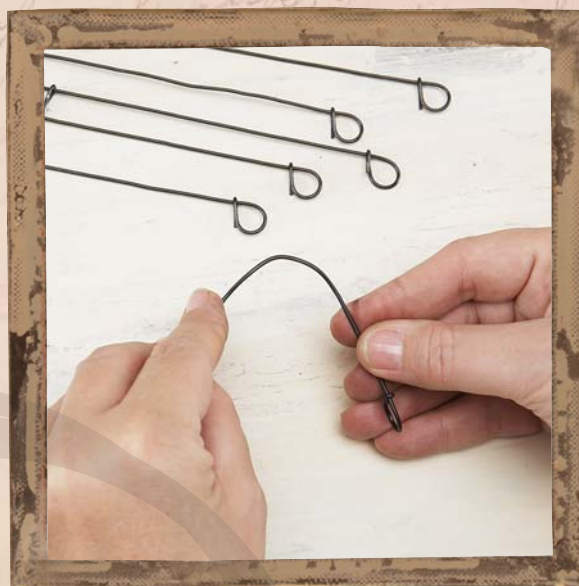
★ USING AN ELEMENT'S OWN WIRE



MAKE USE OF EXISTING WIRE

Many elements come with their own wire so you can attach them to something all on their own—no additional wire needed.

★ MAKING A WIRE HANGER



1. BEND FENCING TIE IN HALF

Wire is great for creating your own hangers. These fencing ties (found in your local lumber yard's fencing department) are great. Simply bend one in half, or wire several together and add embellishments in between, for a longer hanger. Sometimes these are known as rebar wire ties and are found in the masonry department.



2. LINK ON A SECOND WIRE

A rosary wrap can be used to add a second, vertical wire that will attach to a horizontal object or dowel. Start with a loop at one end of a small length of wire and link it through the loop on one end of the tie.



3. WRAP AROUND LOOP

Wrap the wire several times around the base to secure it.



4. SECURE TO ELEMENT

String on beads or other decorative elements at the same time if you like, then you can attach it to a horizontal element, wrapping the wire around it a couple of times.





5. VARIATION, DECORATIVE

You can be as decorative as you like, such as the hanger I made here for this mobile.



6. VARIATION, SIMPLE

Wire can also be extremely simple for a hanger.

