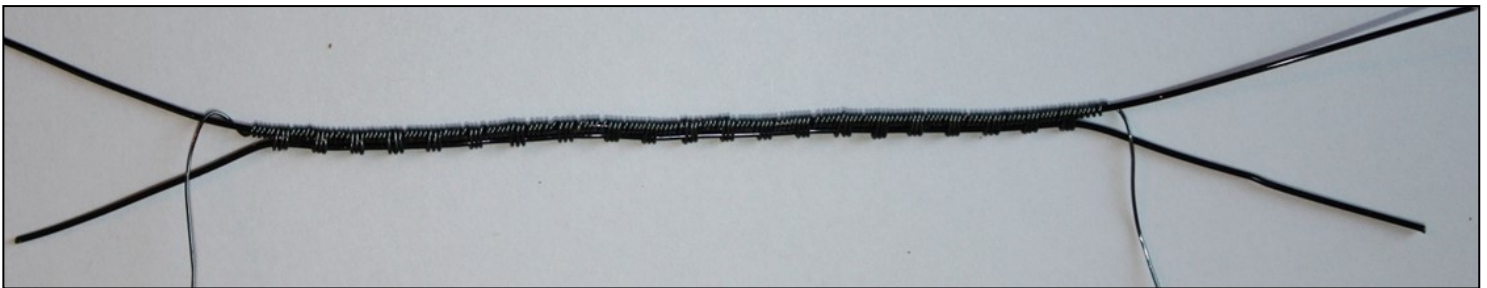


Wire weaving is becoming a very popular way to wrap cabochons or any desired object. Bubba Ward, long time member of the GMSVP club, teaches a wire wrapping course at the Tote shows as well as the club picnics. This is a great place to start learning this craft.

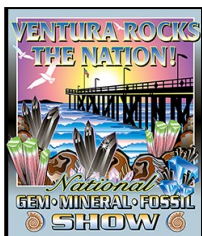
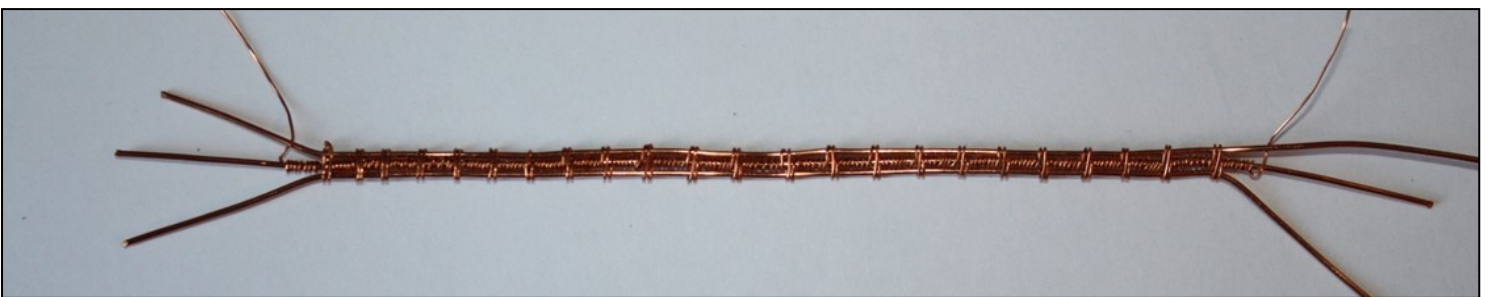
Wire weaving is where you take multiple gauge wires and weave different patterns to add additional dimension and design in a manner that keeps the stone secure. There are no glues or heating tools used in this method.

The width of your cabochon usually determines the width of your weave or multiple weaves secured together. You need to have your weaving or multiple weaves wide enough to secure the stone in place. The most common wire combination is a 20-gauge base wire and a 26-gauge weaving wire. A good rule of thumb is to have a 6-gauge difference in the two wire to get good contrast (but this is not cast in stone, pun intended). 😊

The thinnest weave is the basic 2 wire weave and you can do a variety of different combinations to come up with a variety of different weaves. In the picture below is a basic two wire weave. I wrapped the weaving wire around the bottom base wire in a coil fashion 5 times and then around both base wires 3 times. The combinations can be whatever you want them to be: 10 times around the bottom base wire and 5 times around both base wires, it is up to you.



The 3-wire weave in the picture below is the Picot weave. In this illustration, you start by coiling your weaving wire around your base wire on the middle wire. The number of times is up to up to you. The configuration below is 8 coils around the middle wire and 2 times around all 3 base wires. (Cont'd on the next page.)



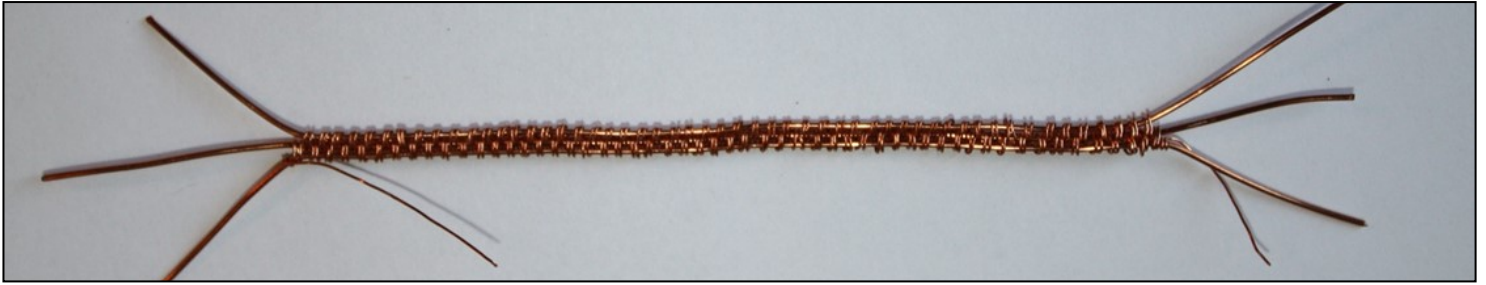
**THE 2017 CFMS-AFMS SHOW:** Please mark your calendar for June 9-11, 2017 for the nationwide CFMS-AFMS Show and Convention. The VGMS (Ventura Gem & Mineral Society) is a member of the CFMS (California Federation of Mineralogical Societies), which in turn is one of 7 regions of the AFMS (American Federation of Mineralogical Societies). Each year the CFMS holds a Show and Convention somewhere in California, and likewise, each year the AFMS joins with one of the 7 regions for its annual show. Hence, every 7 years it lands in California. It's a special event to host the CFMS show, and even more special to host for the joint CFMS-AFMS show.

## New GMSVP Members—Welcome New Rockhounds!

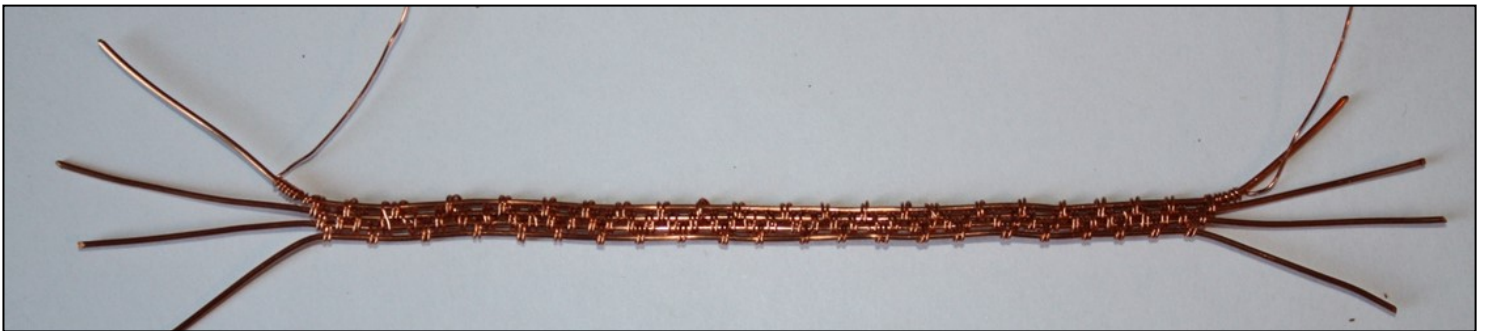
Steven Fox

Lenore Most

(Cont'd from prior page) The next illustration is a 3-wire Snake weave. Using 3 base wires you coil around the bottom two base wires twice and then then two top base wires in an alternating fashion. As with the other weaves you can create your own combination in the number of times you wrap around your base wires.



Below is the Aztec Wire weave, using 4 base wires. You begin by securing your wire to your bottom base wire with a single coil. Then you add your second base wire and wrap around twice, add a third base wire and wrap around the second and third base wire two times. Add your fourth base wire and wrap around the third and fourth base wire two times. (You can keep adding the number of base wires you need to fit your stone). Once you reach your last base wire you work your way back down wrapping two base wires at a time. Then repeat until you get the length you need to fit your stone.



To learn more about wire weaving here are some resources you can find on the internet.

Wire Wrap Tips & Tutorials Group on Facebook is a Closed group you can request to join. People from all over our planet post completed projects, ask and answer questions and the group has a FILE section located near the top of the page where you can get additional information that members have posted.

The following information is a helpful reference on copper wire. It is my understanding that David Rowland was the original poster of the list of American Wire Gauges (AWG) that can be used in wire weaving. You will need to strip off the insulation and un-strand the wire and then recoil on a spool. This is most economical way (if you have the time) of acquiring copper wire at a reasonable price. For example, I purchased 25 feet 26g wire off Amazon.com and paid \$6.00. I went to Lowes and purchases 20 feet of #14 THHN wire and got 19 strands of 26g wire for \$2.20 (it was on sale for 11 cents per foot). I used this wire in the example pictures above. You can also purchase bare copper wire on spools at Home Depot.com and have the order delivered free to the store for pick up. Gauge wires available were 18g, 22g, and 24g. The Wire Wrap Tips & Tutorials Facebook group also recommend Rio Grande online, but I have not checked them out yet. (Cont'd on the next page.)

### Gem Tree Workshop

Gary Bergtholdt is holding 2-3 hour gem tree workshops at his home.

If interested, contact Gary at: [gbergtholdt@gmail.com](mailto:gbergtholdt@gmail.com).



(Cont'd from prior page)

Source: Wire Wraps & Tutorials Facebook Group

Robin Judd, Thursday, June 30, 2016:

- Romex wire has three wires, gauges 10-14, one uncoated and two coated
- SJOOW 16/3 has 78 strands of 30g bare copper!
- THHN has two types - stranded and single wire (just one single strand inside). Stranded THHN wire has uncoated wires bundled inside an outer insulation. Much easier to strip, since you just have to do one. This is how the THHN breaks down:
  - o #14 THHN contains 19 bare strands of 26 gauge wire
  - o #12 THHN contains 6 bare strands of 26g wire and 13 bare strands 24g wire
  - o #10 THHN contains 6 of 24g and 13 of 22g.
  - o #8 THHN contains 19 strands of 20g \*(I bought 10 feet = 190 feet for around\$5. US)
  - o #6 THHN contains 6 strands of 20g and 13 strands of 18g
  - o #4 THHN contains 6 strands of 18g and 13 strands of 16g.
  - o #2 THHN contains 6 strands of 16g and 13 strands of 14g
  - o 100 Amp Grounds Wire 7 strands of 14g
  - o 200 Amp Ground Wire 7 strands of 12g
  - o \*0/1 ( called "aught one) gauge THHN contains 6 strands of 14g and 13 of 12g
  - o \*0/2 (aught two) gauge THHN contains 6 strands of 14g and 12 of 11g plus one of 10g
  - o \*0/3 (aught three) gauge THHN contains 6 strands of 12g and 13 of 10g.



When you go to Lowe's or such, you need to ask for someone to help you in the electrical department and they will know what you are talking about if you ask for the THHN #. They also need to cut whatever length you need. I usually buy it in 10 foot lengths and most cost much less than a dollar per foot.

Source: Wire Wraps & Tutorials Facebook Group: Nicole Hanna and Robin Judd have posted the above list in the Wire Wrapping & Metal Working Education section under Files located within the group.

You Tube has many wire artists posting educational tutorials some of my favorites so far are:

- CSLdesigns
- Go Art Yourself - Nicole Hanna
- OxanaCrafts

Some of my first pieces are shown here.



**Upcoming Events:**

- |                         |   |  |   |
|-------------------------|---|--|---|
| • TGMS Auction—Mar 20   | • GMSVP Picnics—May 13 & Sep 9                          | • EFMLS Wildacres Workshops—May 22-28 & 9/4-10 | • Fossil Hunt—June 9  |
| • GMSVP Auction—Apr 6   | • Tote Shows—Mar 24-26, Apr 21-23, Jul 14-16, & Oct 6-8 | • Aurora Fossil Festival—May 26-28             | • SFMS William Holland Workshop—6/11-17; Wildacres Workshop 7/23-29, 8/21-27, & 9/18-24 |
| • Turtles in Time—May 7 | • Scufflin Field Trip—Apr 30                            |  |   |