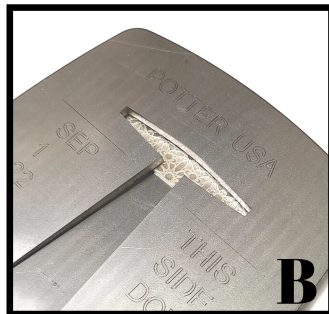
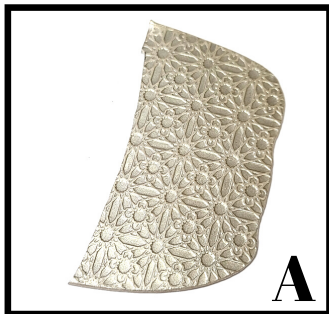


# Beyond the Hoop: Earrings 5 Ways

by Annie Pennington



Using the tools from the September 2022 subscription box, learn how to make five different styles of earrings! But, don't limit yourself to these designs...the options are endless. Experiment with different metals and techniques to create your own versions of these versatile and highly wearable earring styles!

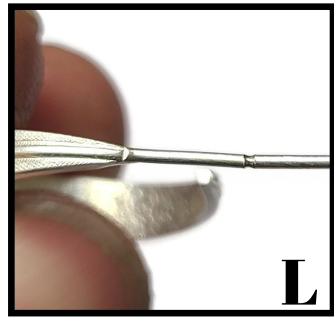
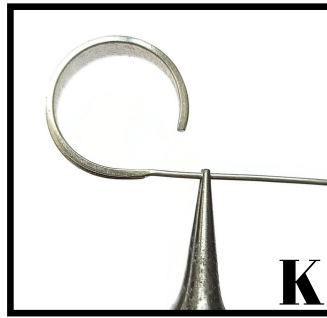
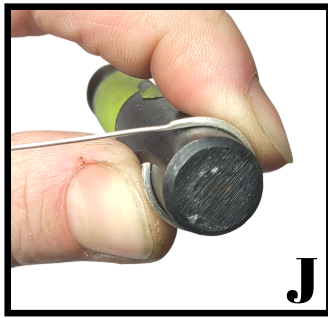
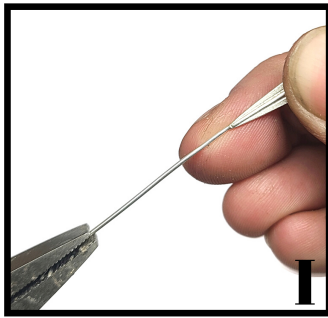
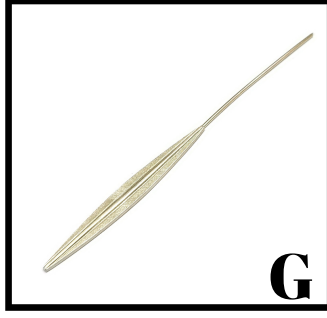
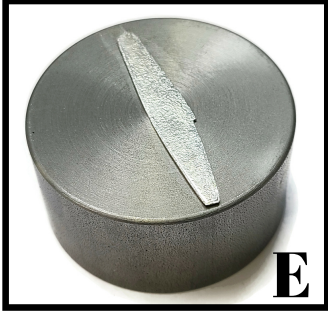
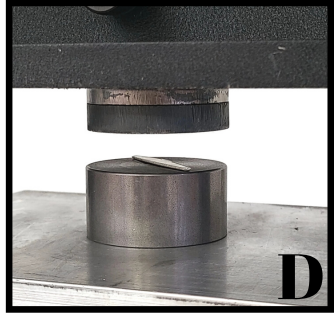
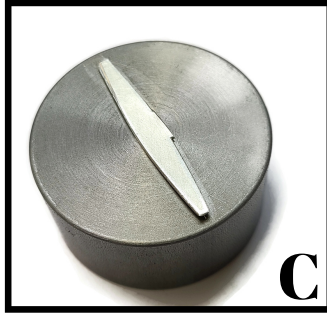
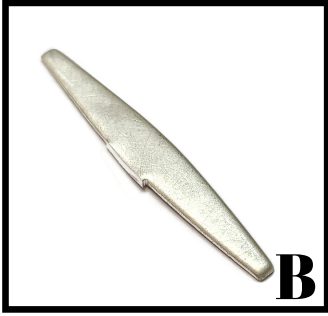


## Earring 1

1. Texture 18-gauge metal with the pattern plate [A]. Your final gauge after rolling the metal will be closer to 20 or 22 gauge. Do not anneal!
2. Place the metal in the pancake die with the texture visible through the opening in the die [B].
3. Cut a blank [C, D]. Use a jeweler's saw or hand shears to remove the tab from the blank (or place the blank back into the pancake die with the un-cut tab facing up and press again).
4. File, sand, and refine the edges of the blank as desired.
5. Use your fingers to form the blank around the outside circumference of the impression die puck [E]. This gives the blank a gentle arc.
6. Use roundnose pliers to form a plain loop at one end of the blank [F]. The loop should be formed away from the textured side of the metal and should touch the back of the blank when complete.
7. Add a jump ring through the loop [G] and attach an ear wire [H].
8. Repeat to make a second earring.



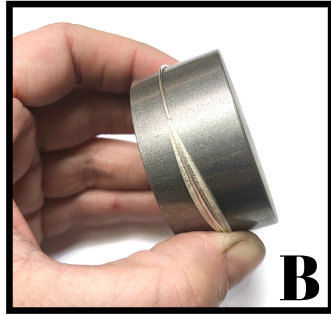
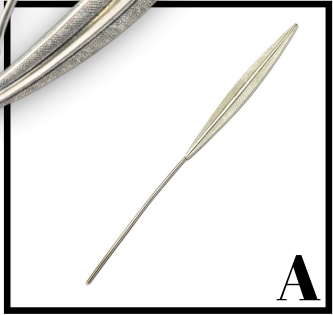
# Earring 2




1. Use the pancake die to cut a blank from full-hard, 18-gauge metal [A]. Anneal the blank. You can remove the tab if you'd like [B], but it's not necessary, since you'll trim it later.
2. Place the blank on the impression die and center it on the design [C]. Use a tool-steel pusher to press the metal directly into the impression [D, E]. Don't use urethane! Press, rotate, and press again as needed to pick up all the detail of the design.
3. Use a jeweler's saw or hand shears to trim the flange from around the impression [F]. File, sand, and refine the edges of the impression as desired. File one end of the impression perfectly flat.
4. Cut an approx. ¾" length of 20-gauge round wire. The wire is intentionally too long; you'll trim it later. File one end perfectly flat.
5. Place the flat end of the wire against the end of the impression. Make sure the join is flush [G].
6. Use hard solder to solder the wire to the impression [H]. Pickle and rinse the metal.
7. Grasp the end of the wire with flatnose pliers (ideally with textured jaws). Hold the impression with your fingers near the wire, apply slight tension, and twist the pliers 2-4 times to harden the ear wire [I]. This will not only work-harden the ear wire, but the gentle pulling motion while twisting the wire will also help keep it straight.
8. Use your fingers to form the impression around an ~14mm mandrel [J]. Don't form the wire.
9. Grasp the work-hardened ear wire approx. 5-7mm from where the wire is attached to the impression with a tiny pair of roundnose pliers [K]. Gently squeeze the pliers to make a pinch in the wire. Rotate the wire, pinch again, and repeat until you form an indentation all around the wire at that point [L].
10. Trim the wire approx. 2mm beyond the indentation and finish the ends so it's smooth. Refine and finish the hoop as desired.
11. Repeat to make a second earring.

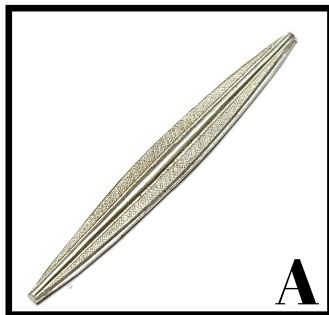



## Earring 3



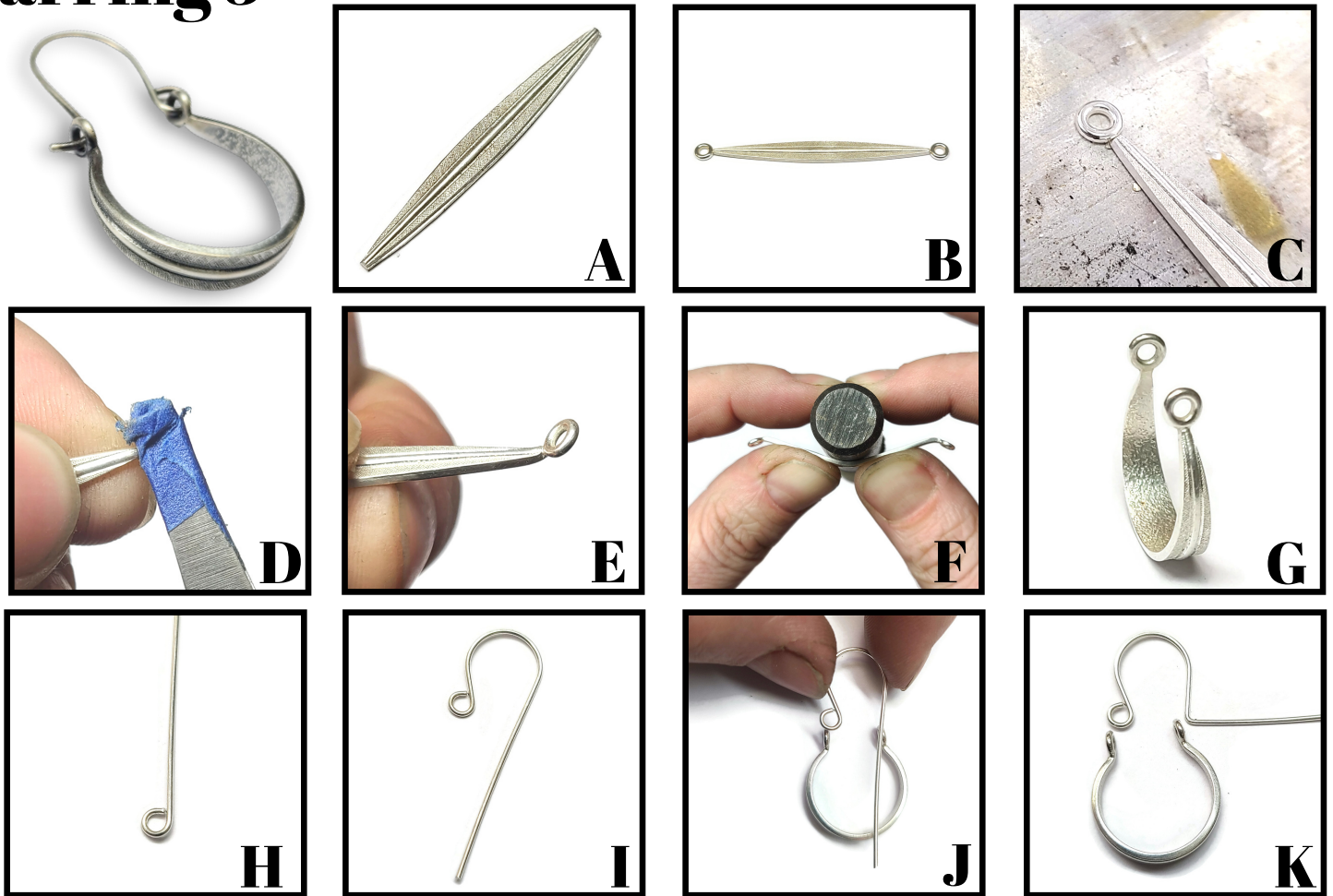
1. Cut an approx. 2in. length of 20-gauge round wire. Follow Steps 1-7 from Earring 2 to attach the wire to an impression and harden it [A].
2. After work-hardening the ear wire, use your fingers to form the impression and ear wire around the outside circumference of the impression die to create a gentle arc [B].
3. Grasp the ear wire approx. 2-3mm beyond where it's attached to the impression with roundnose pliers [C].
4. Make a downward bend in the ear wire. This will create a marquis shape with the impression and ear wire [D].
5. Trim the ear wire and finish the end so it's smooth. Refine and finish the earring as desired. Repeat to make a second earring. 

## Earring 4



1. Repeat Steps 1-3 for Earring 2 to make and refine an impression [A].
2. Use a mandrel and rawhide or plastic mallet to form the impression into a circle .
3. Make sure the ends of the impression meet flush [B]. If needed, saw through the join to create a tighter fit.
4. Use hard solder to solder the ends together. Pickle, rinse, and dry the ring.
5. Use abrasives to remove any excess solder from the hoop, and use the mandrel to round out the ring, if needed.
6. Add a jump ring through the ring and attach an ear wire [C].
7. Repeat to make a second earring. 

# Earring 5



1. Repeat Steps 1-3 for Earring 2 to make and refine an impression [A].
2. File both ends flush, and then use a half-round needle file to file an arc into each end. The arc should match the curve of the jump ring in the next step.
3. Align a jump ring at each end of the impression [B]; the jump rings should nestle into the arc created in the previous step.
4. Solder the jump rings to the impression [C]. Pickle, rinse, and dry the assembly.
5. Grasp across a jump ring where it meets the impression with a pair of flatnose pliers [D].
6. Bend the jump ring toward the patterned side of the impression to approx. 45° angle [E]. Repeat for the second jump ring.
7. Use your fingers to form the impression around an ~15.5mm mandrel [F]. If needed, adjust the angle of the jump rings to be parallel to each other [G].
8. Cut an approx. 2" length of half-hard sterling silver wire. Use roundnose pliers to form a plain loop on one end of the wire [H].
9. Form the wire above the plain loop around a mandrel to create a shepherd's hook shape [I].
10. Hold the ear wire up to the jump rings of the hoop to determine where to make an outward bend that will align with one of the jump rings [J].
11. Use flatnose pliers to make an outward bend at that point [K].
12. Trim the end of the wire 2-3mm beyond the bend and refine the cut end so that it's smooth.
13. Attach the ear wire loop to one jump ring and insert the end of the ear wire into the second. Adjust the curve of the ear wire and/or the bend to make sure it will hold securely.
14. Finish the hoop earring as desired.
15. Repeat to make a second earring.

