

Multisized Wrap 'N' Tap Pliers

The latest variation on standard forming pliers — the Wrap 'N' Tap pliers — is noteworthy. These stainless steel pliers have cylinders of three different sizes on a single pair, and the pliers themselves are available in two sizes. The smaller size has 5mm, 7mm, and 10mm ($\frac{3}{16}$, $\frac{9}{32}$, and $\frac{3}{8}$ -in.) cylinders; the larger size has 13mm, 16mm, and 20mm ($\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{5}{8}$, and $\frac{3}{4}$ -in.) cylinders.

As with many jewelry tools, the Wrap 'N' Tap gets its name from how the tool is used. It's intended to be used along with a ring mandrel and rawhide mallet to make rings or ring shanks. To make a ring, use the forming pliers to wrap wire into a curl. Then, tap the curled wire to the correct ring size on a ring mandrel.

Another new, useful feature is the clear PVC tube that provides padding on the straight bar jaw. This padding lets you curve patterned and twisted wire without marring the wire's design. The pliers will work on wire or sheet stock up to 2.6mm ($\frac{3}{32}$ in.) thick, and the working area of each cylinder is wide enough to keep square and half-round wire from deforming.

Of the two sizes, I found the larger pliers more useful for making standard ring shanks and also for making an open-top, stirrup-style ring shank. I formed the base of the ring shank on the 20mm cylinder, and then, without having to switch tools, I used the 13mm cylinder to slightly curve the wire back at each end.

While these Wrap 'N' Tap pliers will not replace your ring mandrel, they are a helpful addition to any toolbox. Both sizes are available from Euro Tool for \$28.95. To order, call 800.552.3131 or visit eurotool.com. —NA



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