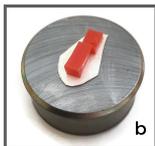


# Chevron Drop Earrings

by *Annie Pennington*

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## Tools & Supplies

- 22- or 20-gauge fine silver sheet
- 20-gauge sterling silver wire and 3mm ID closed jump rings
- Jeweler's saw with 4/0 or 6/0 blade
- Soldering/annealing station; hard and easy silver solder
- Chevron Drop impression die
- Tiny urethane pieces
- 20-ton hydraulic press
- Bench knife or chisel
- Hammers: plastic or rawhide mallet, planishing
- Fine-tip permanent marker
- Abrasive paper and polishing wheels: assorted grits and types
- Flat, steel surface
- Files: flat/half-round hand file and needle file, three-square (triangle) needle file, round needle file
- Liver of sulfur and other finishing and polishing supplies
- Small pot, baking soda (optional)

**1.** Cut four pieces of 22- or 20-gauge fine silver larger than the impression die design. Anneal the silver (a).

**2.** Place one piece of silver on top of the impression die. Place tiny pieces of 95 durometer urethane on the silver over the design of the impression die (b).

**3.** Center the die on the lower platen of your press, and use a 2" tool-steel pusher to press the silver into the die (c).

**4.** Anneal the silver, and repeat to press until you're satisfied with the impression. If your metal is stuck, use a bench knife or chisel along the edge to carefully pop the silver out of the die (d). Repeat to make a total of four impressions (e).

**5.** Use a fine-tip permanent marker to trace around the impression on the top of the silver to create a border (f).

**6.** Use a jeweler's saw and a 4/0 or 6/0 blade to cut out the impression, following the outside of the marked line as a guide (g).

**7.** Place a piece of 400-grit abrasive paper on a flat, steel bench block. Using a circular and figure-8 motion, sand the bottom of the impression until it's flat (h).

**8.** Place one impression on a soldering pad. Apply flux, and place pallions of hard silver solder along the edge (i).

**9.** Heat the silver until the solder flows (j). Let the silver cool until it's no longer glowing, then pickle, if needed.

**10.** Apply flux to a solder-free impression. Align these two impressions, and use cross-locking tweezers to hold the two together (k). Heat the assembly evenly until the solder re-flows and runs around the edge.

**11.** Use hand files and needle files to smooth the edges of the hollow form. Make sure to leave a small border/edge around the entire shape (l).

**12.** Use a triangle needle file to file a groove centered on the end. Once the groove is established, use a round needle file or cylinder bur to widen it into a rounded channel approx. 1mm wide. If your groove is deep enough, you should be able to press a scribe or awl at the center of the groove and create a pinhole opening into the hollow form.

**13.** Solder a closed ring into the groove, and pickle and rinse the assembly (m).

**14.** Make ear wires with 20-gauge sterling silver wire, attach them to the drops, and finish the earrings as desired.

