

Making Pot Hangers From Wire

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Galvanized steel wire for use in making hangers for potted bromeliads				
Gauge	Inches	Mm	Characteristics	Buy At
10	0.102	2.59	Extremely stiff. The go to size if what you are trying to hang is really heavy. Great for hooks. Try something lighter first. Even with this wire it is difficult to hang an 8 inch pot that is filled with soil and a plant. Doing a wire integrated style with the pot may work.	Lowes
12	0.081	2.06	Truly stiff, but more workable than 10 gauge. Will handle a number one can (often referred to as a 1 gallon can) and plant with a Single Tang design. Difficult to install in smaller integrated pot designs.	Lowes or Home Depot
14	0.064	1.63	Good useful size for many purposes. Distinctly more bendable by hand than the larger sizes. Generally not great for hooks, although they will serve okay. Not generally suitable for use with Single Tang designs for 6 inch pots. Two tang designs probably needed for a 6 inch pot, depending on weight. Touch and go for a two tang design for a No 1 can if it is full. Generally a good choice for integrated pot hanger designs.	Lowes or Home Depot
16	0.052	1.29	Very flexible, not very strong. Easily bent by hand, Not generally suitable for single Tang designs. Good general use for 4" and 5 inch pot with double tang design. For an integrated pot hanger, not likely to work on 6 inch pots.	Lowes or Home Depot
18	0.04	1.02	Too flexible for most pot hanger applications. More useful with Tillandsias	Lowes or Home Depot

HOW TO DO IT

Step 1: Select a pot that you want to hang using a wire hanger. Use a piece of string to measure the circumference of the pot about one half the way from the bottom of the pot. Pots may be slightly cone-shaped and their bottoms may have less circumference than their upper portions.

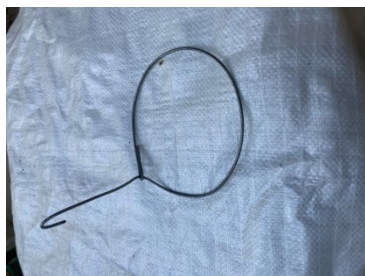
Step 2: Select the size of wire to be used and cut a piece about twice as long as the string.

Step 3 Select a piece of pipe or other hard cylindrical shape somewhat smaller than the inside diameter of the pot that you want to hang with the wire.

Step 4: Wrap the wire as tightly as you can around the cylinder. You should choose a cylinder smaller than the inside diameter of the pot, because removing the wire from the cylinder, you will find that it usually has sprung to a larger diameter circle, no matter how tightly you feel that you wrapped the wire. Then slightly stretch this reasonably round circle to a diameter that will be able to tightly fit the pot. It is far easier to stretch the circle while maintaining a decent circular-form than it is to try to bend it to a circle the exact size of the pot.

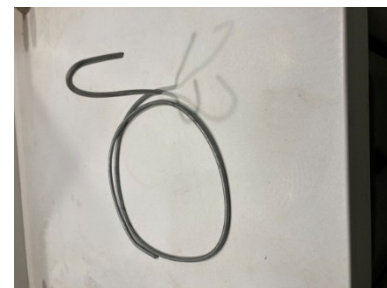
Step 5: With the wire circle formed, you must now form the vertical part of the hanger, which will be different depending on the style you select.

5 A. The Single Hook Simplicity Hanger. Form a small loop on one end of the wire. Pull the other end of the wire through the loop until you have a circle that fits the pot it is designed to hold. While maintaining the size of the circle you desire, and deciding how high you want the hanger hook to be above the top of the pot, bend the wire 90 degrees perpendicular to the circle at the point where the wire exits the loop. Use a pair of pliers to crimp the loop closed. This may be challenging with 12 or 10 gauge wire. Allow room to form a hook and cut off any excess wire. Bend the wire end to form a hook.



Single Hook Simplicity Hanger

Figure 5 A



Single Hook Expandable Hanger

Figure 5 B

5 B. The Single Hook Expandable. Select a length of wire about twice the circumference length of the pot for which you are making the hanger. You can wrap the full length of the wire tightly around a piece of pipe or other hard cylindrical shape that is somewhat smaller than the inside diameter of the selected pot. Unbend a half circle length of the wire to be a straight piece of wire that is tangent to the circle. Then bend the straightened part of the wire at the point where it is tangent to the circle of wire, 90 degrees to be perpendicular to the circle. You should now have a circle of wire that can rest securely on a surface with the straightened part of the wire vertical and perpendicular to the wire circle (as in Figure 5 B). Now form the hook at the end of the vertical piece. This model allows significant flexibility for use in different diameter pots.

5 C. The Double Hook Holder. (Before trying this with rigid wire, it may help to try it with a piece of quite flexible wire.) Measure a piece of wire at least twice the circumference of the pot that you expect to use. Step1. Bend the full length of the wire around a hard cylindrical shape so that the wire forms a loop with two strands of wire forming the loop. With the wire resting flat on a work surface arrange the free ends such that both free ends are facing away from you and both free ends are above the plane of the circle. This will cause a twist of the wire on the side nearest you. (This is intentional and if desired an additional twist can be added for strength). Step 2. Gradually raise the free ends placing your thumbs between each of the free ends and the base circle. Keep moving your thumbs toward each other raising the free ends. At some point it will become difficult to move your thumbs any closer. (This happens when your thumbs are close to one half the diameter of the circle.) You can now bend the free ends of the wire at the point where they cross the circle to make them vertical to the plane of the circle. Then form a hook on each of the free ends.

You should not expect this to work perfectly the first time. Experience with a given size pot and wire size will help you create hangers that are useful and attractive.



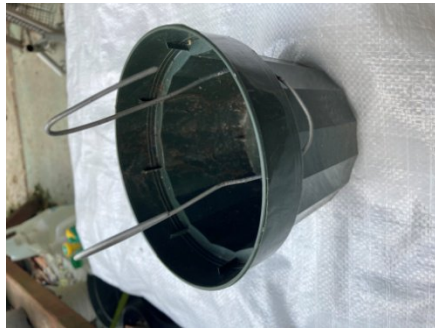
Double Hook Holder

Figure 5 C

5 D. Hanger Integrated Into the Pot or Cylinder. Form a piece of wire into the shape of a flat bottom U. Drill two holes between one and two inches down from the top of the pot. The heavier the pot, the

further down you place the holes, which should be apart about 25% or 30% of the *diameter* of the *pot or cylinder (emphasis intended)*.

5 D.1 If you want the hanger to have two hooks at the top (Figure A or B) take the free ends of the wires and work the wires into the holes from the outside of the pot or cylinder. Gradually bending the free ends of the wires until you can grasp the ends with pliers and pull them out the top. Trim the wire to the length desired. Then form free ends into hooks.



Hanger Integrated Into Pot

Figure A

Hanger Integrated Into Cylinder

Figure B

5 D.2 If you want the hanger to have a loop at the top. Put a slight bend in the two free ends of the wire and work them through the two holes from inside the pot or cylinder until about 1 inch to 1.5 inches of each of the free ends comes out of the hole. Bend the free ends of the wire upward tightly against the outer wall of the pot or cylinder with pliers. You may also need something to connect the pot or cylinder to whatever surface is supporting it. If the connection is at a point location (e.g a nail in the wall), the loop will be just fine. If the hanging location is on a horizontal fixture (e.g wire mesh) you will need a hook to make the connection or bend the loop into its own hook (Figure C).

6 D. Wire can be used to suspend cylinders to hold small plants or bare rooted plants for sale in a display, as demonstrated in Figures B, C and D.

Experience note: These steps are quite difficult if using small pieces of substantially heavier gauge wire than is generally necessary, as illustrated in the last three images. It is much less challenging in larger pots.



Figure C

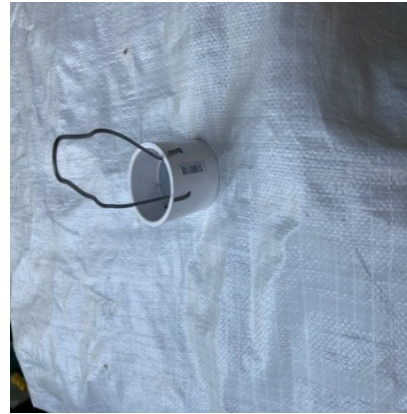


Figure D

I hope that you have fun Making Pot Hangers From Wire.

Don DeBok