

Wire Gauge and Hardness Chart

Wire Gauge Chart

Gauge	Inches	Millimetres
10	0.102	2.6
12	0.081	2.1
14	0.064	1.6
16	0.052	1.3
18	0.040	1.0
20	0.032	0.8
22	0.025	0.6
24	0.020	0.5
26	0.016	0.4
28	0.013	0.3

Wire Hardness Chart

Wire Temper

Three tempers or hardnesses of wire are available as below.

Dead-soft wire

This is easy to bend and manipulate. It is therefore good when you need to do a lot of coiling or wrapping. However, it is not hard enough to form sharp angles or structures that need to hold their shape.

Half-hard wire

This is less easy to manipulate but is still malleable enough to be shaped fairly easily and it retains its shape well. It is good when you don't need to do too much shaping and strength is important.

Full-hard wire

This is very difficult to bend but will hold a shape very well. However, it can be brittle and will not form shapes such as spirals.