

# WireForm™ Figure Sculpture

presented by Amaco®

In this lesson for middle-school ages, students will select a character in motion, such as a dancer, athlete or fairy, then capture and describe its movements through pose, form and balance. Flexible, easy-to-cut new WireForm™ Rods and WireForm™ mesh sheets make it easy to translate line from a flat design into a three-dimensional space.

## Grade Levels 5-12

*Note: instructions and materials based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.*

### Process for a Basic Figure

1. Select character and motion to be formed and determine what additional features may help define it (football, tennis racquet, wings, tutu, etc.). Have students prepare a preliminary sketch so that they can simplify the figure and determine the proportions.

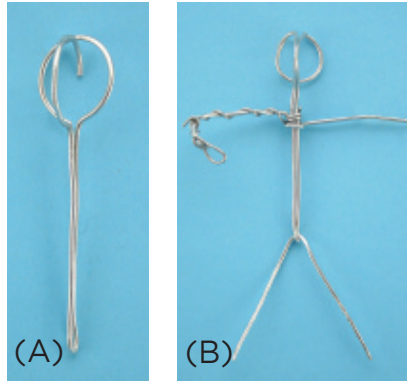
2. Create a basic “stick” figure:

**Head and Torso:** Bend one WireForm™ aluminum rod at the center and fold in half to form the torso. Determine the neck point and use pliers to bend each end of the rod into a 90° angle to create the two loops defining the shape of the head, see (A).

**Arms:** Cut one WireForm™ aluminum rod in half using wire cutting pliers. Wrap the center of one half around upper torso.

**Legs:** Bend the other half of the cut rod at center, then insert it into the loop at the lower end of the torso.

3. Begin wrapping the sculpture with the armature wire. Wrap from



## Materials

WireForm™ Soft Metal Rods, thin aluminum (33417-1110), package of six rods, need one package per student

Full-body reference photos of people in motion: athletes, dancers, children, fairies, etc.

Armature Wire for wrapping, 11.5-gauge (33400-1152), approximately 6'-8' per student

Round Nose Pliers (33055-1037), one per student

Cutting Pliers (33023-1020), may be shared

### Optional materials

WireForm™ Soft Metal Rods, brass (33417-9061), or copper (33417-8111)

WireForm™ Fine Mesh Sheets, brass (33408-8220) or copper (33408-8230)

Silver Plated Copper Wire, assorted colors (60687-1249)

FIMO® Polymer Clay, assorted colors (33228-)

Fun Fur Polyester Yarn, assorted colors (65200-)

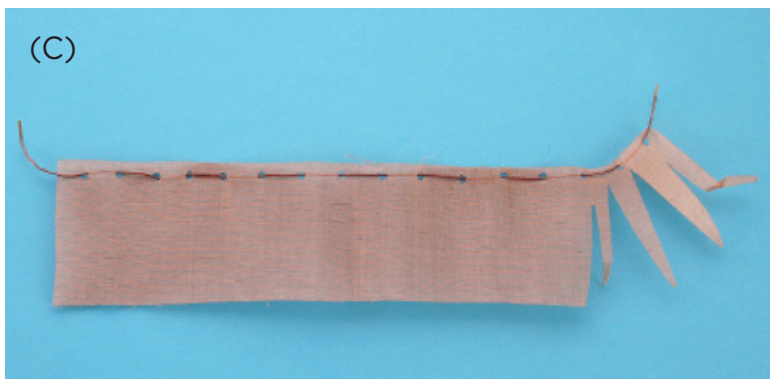
Paper Punch, 1/8" round hole (58986-5018)

Heavy Armature Wire for base, 6-gauge (33400-1610), approximately 20" length

## Process for a Basic Figure, continued

the torso outward for an arm, create a loop and repeat wrapping back to torso, see (B). Repeat for all limbs. Create a larger loop for feet at the base of each leg.

4. Continue wrapping the torso and limbs until the desired body mass has been achieved, then form into the desired pose. Features, such as the football in the Basic Figure Illustration, above, can be created with FIMO polymer clay, follow instructions on the package for curing clay in an oven.



## Process for an Art Doll/Fairy

1. Follow steps 1-4 to create a basic figure.
2. Cut a 2-1/2"W x 6"L strip of copper WireForm™ fine mesh for a skirt. Use the paper punch to create holes every 1/2" along the long side, about 1/8" from the edge, see (C). Thread 24-gauge silver-coated copper wire through the holes and bunch, leaving enough wire on either end for ties. Cut strips upward from the bottom toward the wire, see (C). Curl strips for a tutu. Wrap around doll's waist and secure by twisting 24-gauge wire. Repeat for a fuller dress.
3. Create wings by bending a WireForm™ brass rod in half and looping each end toward the center. Attach to body with a wire.
4. Position the doll as desired and embellish with additional wire, WireForm™ fine mesh and Fun Fur yarn.
5. Make a base for the doll with 6-gauge armature wire. Measure 6" from end, bend a 90° angle and begin coiling. Position figure onto the base and wrap with WireForm™ aluminum rod to secure.



## National Standards

Content Standard #1 — Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes

### 5-8

Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques and processes to enhance communication of their experience and ideas

### 9-12

Students apply media, techniques and processes with sufficient skill, confidence and sensitivity that their intentions are carried out in their artworks.

Content Standard #2 — Using knowledge of structures and functions

### 5-8

Students employ organizational structures and analyze what makes them effective or not effective in the communication of ideas.

### 9-12

Students create artworks that use organizational principles and functions to solve specific visual arts problems.