Champagne Cage Chairs

Tools and supplies:

Champagne Cages -- from a bottle of sparkling wine, or get them from http://www.northernbrewer.com/ Look for "hooded wires."

Jewelry making pliers – flat nosed, curved flat nosed, round nosed, wire cutters

Assembly:

The bottom wire of the cage is a loop, with ends at the back. In order to preserve the maximum amount of wire, it's best not to cut this wire, but rather unwrap it. So, at the back, just take your flat nosed pliers, and unwrap those twists, by grabbing in the center of the twists, and untwist.

Slide the wire out of the twisted 'legs.' You'll have to smooth out the bumps with your pliers in order to make the wire fit through the loops. If you get too frustrated, you can cut off one bumpy end, then pull the wire out.

Squeeze the legs together to hold the seat in place. If it falls out during construction, don't worry -- you can put it back in place last. Just squeeze those legs together. Bend the bottoms of the legs out to form the feet of the chair.

Next, take the base wire, and fashion it into the back of the chair. Take the end of the back wire and wrap securely onto one of the legs of your chair. Repeat with the other end of the wire. It can be a bit tricky to get the first wire secured, so take your time.

Once the ends are secured, form the back. This is the fun part! Bend the top of that 'back' wire into a skinny "U" shape, twist 4 or 5 times near the top of the wire, and then fold down the twisted loop. Using pliers, adjust the back wire until you like what you see.

Variations/Problem solving: If your wire is a bit too short, just make the back a curved back, eliminating the twisted loop. Or, you can square off the edges, add an extra twist, or even flip it up. Use two cages for more elaborate designs. Add beads, colored wire… use your imagination and have fun!

Bonus Content:

Here's my favorite way to open a bottle of sparkling wine. I get a bit nervous around champagne bottles, so here's my Chicken Technique. After removing the foil and the cage, take a bar or kitchen towel, and put it over the cork. Hold the bottle firmly on the counter. Put one hand on the bottle, the other over the towel, and very slowly rotate the cork. It might take a bit of persuasion, but as you turn, the pressure from inside the bottle will begin to push out the cork. It only takes a couple of turns, and before you know it, you've opened the bottle! If you've done it right and applied gentle force, there will be no spillover. Don't waste the precious bubbly!