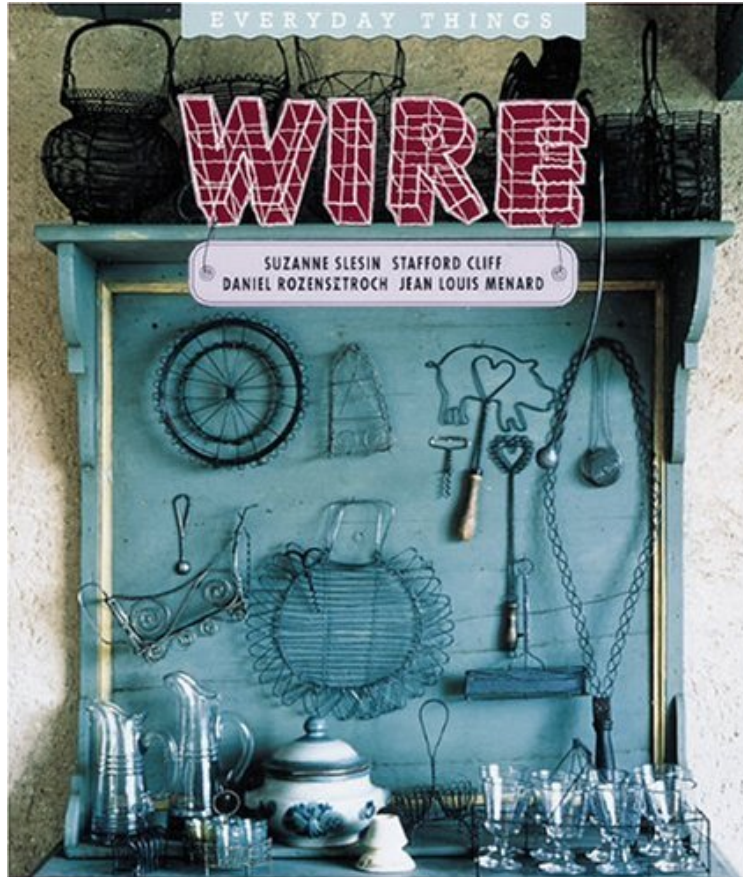


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Wire objects have worked their way into virtually every human activity. Since the eighteenth century, such occupations as housekeeping, cooking, gardening, fishing, and hunting were unthinkable without them. Shopkeepers

fashioned wire into display racks, and children played with wire toys. Many pieces, such as fruit bowls, platters, and baskets of all kinds served both practical and decorative functions. With its vintage photographs, pages from early catalogs, old advertisements, and more than 300 evocative full-color photographs, *Wire* reveals why there is such a strong revival of interest in these pieces and demonstrates how they can be integrated into our homes today.

.com To take something as ordinary as wire and present it as a true art form is an amazing achievement, and this book does exactly that. According to Suzanne Slesin, the story of wire as a component of useful and decorative household objects began in Slovakia in the 17th century, where tinkers used thin strands of iron to repair household pottery. The art of wirework flourished and traveled throughout the Austro-Hungarian Empire during the next century, becoming highly developed and quite popular by the end of the 1800s; utilitarian objects such as baskets, bottle racks, serving dishes, plant stands, trivets, and birdcages were both made of and embellished with wire. Sadly, wire ornamentation as a decorative art is mainly a thing of the past, but because these objects are so sturdy, they can often be purchased as antiques. The book has a long directory of European and American sources for wirework. From the Back Cover Wire objects have worked their way into virtually every human activity. Since the eighteenth century, such occupations as housekeeping, cooking, gardening, fishing, and hunting were unthinkable without them. Shopkeepers fashioned wire into display racks, and children played with wire toys. Many pieces, such as fruit bowls, platters, and baskets of all kinds served both practical and decorative functions. With its vintage photographs, pages from early catalogs, old advertisements, and more than 300 evocative full-color photographs, *Wire* reveals why there is such a strong revival of interest in these pieces and demonstrates how they can be integrated into our homes today.