

March 2015

**BEAD ON A BUDGET  
GET THE LOOK FOR LESS!**

# beads **STYLE**

*Spring style*

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and wear!

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ONLINE  
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*Berry Breeze*  
design by Cynthia Kimura



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Visit [BeadStyleMag.com/bonus](http://BeadStyleMag.com/bonus) for an enhanced version of "Framed pearl bracelet" (see page 30). Watch a step-by-step video, learn how to oxidize wire, and see a gallery of inspiring jewelry designs.

## SUBSCRIBER PROJECT

### Piece-by-piece bracelet

Link leftover chain fragments for budget-friendly jewelry.



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## Dollars and sense

Should I save or should I spend? With a hobby, it's sometimes a tough choice to make.

But in this issue, we're here to help you save. Our budget-friendly issue covers it all: Smart shopping on tools and basics (p. 11), your best tips for saving (p. 12), making statement necklaces for less (pp. 37 & 64), using affordable gemstones (p. 42), and wearing one necklace multiple ways (p. 56).

save  
money!

So browse the issue or look at our price tag icons for a quick note on how these projects help you save money.

Because we know you're big fans of wirework, we're offering a special bonus. Subscribers can visit **BeadStyleMag.com/bonus** for an enhanced digital version of the "Framed pearl bracelet" (p. 30). You'll find a step-by-step video, exclusive tips, a gallery of wire designs, and info on how to oxidize wire.

Also be sure to check out our "What's Trending" section (pp. 52–54). You'll find our advertisers' most popular and best new products to inspire your spring stringing!

Happy beading!



I made these oversized hoops with vintage charms — an easy way to upcycle! See page 66 for more ideas on repurposing jewelry.

naomi

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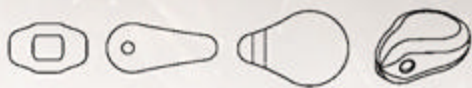


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# Bead Talk

INSPIRATION • TIPS • TRENDS • NEW PRODUCTS • COMMUNITY



Always in  
*bloom*

"Fresh flowers always make me smile," says *Bead Style* publisher Linda Kast. When we saw her blossoming necklace, the smiles were contagious. Linda started by collecting Lucite leaves, petals, and flowers in brilliant colors and whimsical shapes. "I envisioned a floral necklace I could wear any time of year," she says. "The best thing about this necklace is that it's a lot of look, but it weighs next to nothing." Contact Linda at [lkast@kalmbach.com](mailto:lkast@kalmbach.com).

Look  
what our  
readers  
made!

Our readers are pros at rocking the boho look! Here are some favorites to inspire your inner earthy girl.

See a  
project by  
Rachel  
on page  
18!



**Andria McKee • Covington, Wash.**  
[mckeejewelrydesigns.com](http://mckeejewelrydesigns.com)

Andria designed this bracelet so the style could be interpreted in many ways: boho, country western, or modern. The color contrast is a huge part of this design's success: turquoise and copper always bring out the best in each other.



**Rachel Frye • Milwaukee, Wisc.**  
[copper-shoppe.com](http://copper-shoppe.com)

Asymmetrical but beautifully balanced, Rachel's necklace mixes clear quartz, green aventurine, freshwater pearl, crystal, and antiqued brass. To wear, just slip it over your head — perfect for an easygoing free spirit.



**Francesca Bonfiglio • Rifle, Colo.**  
[francescabonfiglio.com](http://francescabonfiglio.com)

On natural leather, Francesca combined high-fire stoneware, recycled glass, and semi-precious stones for this wrap-style bracelet. Finished with a toggle clasp, the bracelet is easy to put on, and it can even double as a necklace!

## Colorful savings

Add color to your designs with wire blends hand-picked by jewelry designer Kristal Wick. [artbeads.com](http://artbeads.com)



These mini petal-shaped glass beads are called Pips. Try stringing six in a circle to form a flower. [shipwreckbeads.com](http://shipwreckbeads.com)



Tubes of seed beads in pretty palettes take the guesswork out of color mixing. [artbeads.com](http://artbeads.com)

## Naomi knows

# How to shop smart

Shopping for beading supplies can be a grey area: I want to buy the best quality I can find, but that's not always an option. So here's my take on where to save and where to spend. Do what feels right for your project!

| SAVE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | SPLURGE                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CHAINNOSE PLIERS                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| As long as the jaws grip securely, cheaper pliers are fine for opening jump rings and grasping wire loops.                                                                                                                          | If you do a lot of chain mail work, the ergonomic features of better pliers will make the added cost worth it.                                                                                                                    |
| CLASPS                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Plenty of base metal lobster claw clasps have decent plating and resilient springs, and they're much more affordable than their sterling silver or gold-filled counterparts.                                                        | When you string pricey beads, why cut corners on the finishing? Precious metal-filled clasps are more durable than plated ones, which is a plus if you'll wear the piece often.                                                   |
| EARRING WIRES                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| As long as you don't have any metal allergies, use what you like. But do wait for sales and buy in bulk.                                                                                                                            | Because you wear earring wires against your skin, it's worth it to buy quality.                                                                                                                                                   |
| FLEXIBLE BEADING WIRE                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| If the suppleness of the piece isn't critical (say, for example, in a bracelet for yourself), cheaper beading wire will suffice. Consider doubling up on the strands for added durability.                                          | For strength and kink-resistance, beading wire with a higher strand count is the hands-down winner. You'll also find it easier to crimp. Plus, it can be its own design element.                                                  |
| HEAD PINS & SPACERS                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Sterling silver and gold-filled head pins can drive up project costs, especially if you use lots of them. Spacers are typically sandwiched between beads (where they're not very visible). Does the design merit the extra expense? | Some base metal head pins can be brittle to work with, and precious metals have a nice feel to them. Many findings, like Bali or Hill Tribe silver spacers, are handmade, so they'll complement other handmade or high-end beads. |

## Trend to try

# Tropical heat wave

This season, capture paradise in your jewelry with an explosion of color and a punch of graphic elements in your designs.

**Angela Lee**  
Sewickley, Penn.  
[theturquoiseforest.com](http://theturquoiseforest.com)  
Give hot pink wood fan beads an exotic touch with hand-painted patterns.



**Jessica Plymate**  
Lincoln, Neb.  
[friendlygesture.etsy.com](http://friendlygesture.etsy.com)  
Add a painted pop of color to brass palm leaves.



**Linda Tenney**  
Palm Harbor, Fla.  
[heartofonecreations.etsy.com](http://heartofonecreations.etsy.com)  
Color block citrusy shell beads for a layered look.



Contact Hilary via  
[globalbeadfinds.etsy.com](http://globalbeadfinds.etsy.com).

## Inspiration corner

Hilary Whittaker of Laguna Woods, California, travels the world in search of beads. To her, unique art beads from different cultures reflect the people who made, wore, and treasured them. This statement collar is a celebration of many countries and people, featuring beads with inlaid Tibetan turquoise, carved Chinese jade, chased gold, inlaid brass, and Turkish vermeil. "I start by choosing one special bead," Hilary says. "I examine its color, texture, style, and ethnic context. Then I sort through drawers and drawers of large and small beads to find ones that complement or contrast with the main bead. There are always too many, but that allows for fascinating choices. Each piece must reflect a harmonious blend of materials and cultures. Sometimes the design works on the first try, but far more often it takes many tries. The process is joyous, unpredictable, frustrating, enchanting, and deeply satisfying when it all comes together in the end."

## Money-saving tips

We asked, you answered!  
 Here are some of our  
 favorite ways to bead smart.

"I rarely pay full price for anything. I subscribe to a multitude of online bead shop newsletters and always shop their sales and clearance sections. If I'm going to pay a premium for something, it will be from an individual artist."  
 – Cathleen Worthington

"When shopping online, I go in with several other beadsters and place a bulk order. It saves us all money!"  
 – Crystal Hamlin

"Ask friends and family for any old or broken jewelry to upcycle."  
 – Jennie Desmond

## Two beaders, two ways: Where to splurge

**“Good tools make life so much better!”** – Naomi Fujimoto



My first jewelry-making tools were low-priced pliers and diagonal wire cutters. Once I joined *Bead Style*, I bought Lindstrom roundnose pliers. Their jaws taper into fine points, so they're perfect for making tiny loops. Plus, after more than a decade, the jaws are in pristine condition. I was glad to splurge on Euro Tool cutters, too. Their safety clip keeps wire from flying when I cut it, and the blades don't dull as quickly as on cheap cutters. Best of all, they cut flexible beading wire with only one squeeze — no repeated attempts or frayed ends. Can't beat that!



**“Stock up when you're at a bead show!”** – Kelsey Lawler

If you ask me, there's no better time to splurge on beady goodies than at a bead show. Shows offer a chance to experience a vast selection of gemstones and specialty

components right at your fingertips — literally. And to me, nothing beats seeing and touching the supplies up close. I bought this strand of chrysoprase nuggets last year at the Bead&Button Show; I took one look and couldn't get them out of my mind. When that happens, take it as a sign: It's worth the splurge! Not to mention, show prices are some of the best in the biz.



“Work to build relationships with vendors at bead shows. When you frequent certain vendors, they get to know you and are more likely to give you a better price for being a loyal customer.”

– Suzann Sladczik Wilson

“Shop at thrift stores for beaded jewelry, break up the pieces, and design your own creations.”

– Beth Anne Drago

## next issue

THE COLOR ISSUE!

From brights to neutrals to unexpected palettes, *Bead Style* shows you how to string the rainbow!



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# Reuse, recycle & repurpose!

Looking for inventive and practical ways to stay organized when beading? Our Facebook friends shared loads of ideas. Try these creative options.

– Dana Meredith



## Space savvy

My beading space doubles as an office and guest room so I need to store my beads out of the way. I use a computer hutch with plastic boxes and hang miscellaneous items on the doors. The keyboard slide-out is my beading table. – Marsha Backels



## Carry out

I use black plastic restaurant takeout boxes! The size is perfect for seed bead tubes, strung beads, focal beads, findings, wire or thread, small tools, and a bead mat. They fit into a large purse or a tote bag. I also stack them without lids with projects to do at the ready.

– Sheryl Stephens



## Spice it up

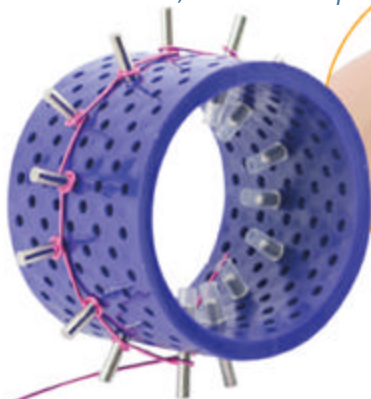
I buy spice racks from the thrift store. You can clean them up easily, and the rotating ones spin so you can find your beads quickly. Plus, you sure can't beat the price! – Patti Palmer-Rocha

Or try Meg Montross Harlow's tip:

“I stay organized by keeping all my beads on the floor, and it helps that much more when the cats bat them around!”

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# February Amethyst

This faceted-amethyst necklace requires only nine beads (about a quarter of a 16-inch strand), so pick your favorites and string the rest in another design or two. You'll also learn two wirework techniques: making your own head pins and wrapping center-drilled beads into pendant-style dangles. You can easily translate this design to other rough-cut or organically shaped beads. – *Rachel Frye*



**1** **necklace** • To make a head pin: Cut a 9-in. (23 cm) piece of wire. On one end of the wire, use your roundnose pliers to make a tiny loop. Use chainnose pliers to flatten and bend the loop perpendicular to the remaining wire. Make six head pins.



**2** To make a bead unit: On a head pin, string a faceted bead. Make a wrapped loop (see Basics, p. 72). Continue wrapping the wire loosely above the bead. Trim the excess wire. Make six bead units.



**3** To make a pendant unit: Cut a 10-in. (25 cm) piece of wire. String a bead, leaving a 3-in. (7.6 cm) tail. Bend each end upward, crossing the wires into an X. Bend the tail upward and the longer (working) wire horizontally.



**4** Wrap the working wire loosely around the tail and the top of the bead (to anchor it), overlapping the wraps as desired. Trim the excess working wire.



**5** With the remaining wire, make a wrapped loop. Make three pendant units.



**6** Cut a piece of round-link chain with 11 round links. Open a jump ring (Basics) and attach a pendant unit and the center link. Close the jump ring. On each side of the center link, use jump rings to attach a bead unit, a pendant unit, and two bead units to the next round links, respectively.



**7** Cut a 4½-in. (11.4 cm) piece of oval cable chain. Open an end link of chain as you would a jump ring, and attach an end link of round chain. Close the oval link. Attach the other end link of the oval chain to the remaining round end link.



**8** Cut two 7–8-in. (18–20 cm) pieces of oval chain. Attach an end link of each piece to an end link of round chain.



**9** Check the fit and trim chain if necessary. On each end, use a jump ring to attach half of a toggle clasp. \*

BeadStyleMag.com/videos  
Watch these handy videos:  
wrapped loop, opening a  
jump ring or loop



Contact Rachel via [copper-shoppe.com](http://copper-shoppe.com).

## What you'll need

### necklace 20 in. (51 cm)

- ◆ 3 20–23 mm faceted amethyst beads
- ◆ 6 11–14 mm faceted amethyst beads
- ◆ 6½ in. (16.5 cm) round-link chain, 12 mm links
- ◆ 19–21 in. (48–53 cm) oval cable chain, 7–8 mm links
- ◆ 7 ft. (2.13 m) 22-gauge wire
- ◆ 11 5 mm jump rings
- ◆ toggle clasp
- ◆ 2 pairs of pliers, including chainnose
- ◆ roundnose pliers
- ◆ diagonal wire cutters

Amethyst beads from Rings & Things, 800.366.2156, [rings-things.com](http://rings-things.com).  
Chain from Goody Beads, 952.938.2324, [goodybeads.com](http://goodybeads.com).  
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March

# Moss aquamarine



With its range of pale blues, greens, and yellows, a strand of moss aquamarine is perfect for a single-strand springtime necklace. Flat spacers add visual interest; string them to create big or small blocks of color. They'll also help stretch the length of your necklace. For a design alternative, string Czech glass rondelles interspersed with spacers. – Naomi Fujimoto



**1 necklace** • Cut a 23–25-in. (58–64 cm) piece of beading wire. String 17–19 in. (43–48 cm) of faceted rondelles, interspersing spacers where the colors change (see “Color notes,” below).



**2** On each end of the wire, string about 1 in. (2.5 cm) of flat spacers. Check the fit, allowing 1 in. (2.5 cm) for finishing, and add or remove beads if necessary.



**3** On each end, string a crimp bead, a Wire Guardian, and half of a toggle clasp. Go back through the beads just strung and tighten the wire. Crimp the crimp bead (see Basics, p. 72). Trim the excess wire. \*

## Color notes

- Be deliberate in your color-blocking choices. The strand I bought had a long section of blue-grey rondelles, so I removed five mid-strand and set them aside.
- Break up blocks of color by including shorter sections with only two or three rondelles.
- If you like the look of the grouped spacers, string sections of them throughout your necklace.

## What you'll need

### necklace 17 in. (43 cm)

- ♦ 16-in. (41 cm) strand 6–7 mm faceted rondelles
- ♦ 30–50 6–7 mm flat faceted spacers
- ♦ flexible beading wire, .014 or .015
- ♦ 2 crimp beads
- ♦ 2 Wire Guardians
- ♦ toggle clasp
- ♦ chainnose or crimping pliers
- ♦ diagonal wire cutters

Aquamarine beads from Beads Direct, [beadsdirectonline.com](http://beadsdirectonline.com). Check your local bead store for supplies. To find the nearest store, visit [beadshopfinder.com](http://beadshopfinder.com).

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# Regal wraps bracelet

There's something imperial about pairing gold accents with kingly purple and fiery red-orange. But even with its royal feel, this bracelet couldn't be easier to string; it's memory wire with a dash of majesty. – *Kelsey Lawler*



## Color note

I used four colors of pearls for this bracelet: red coral (color A), bright gold (color B), coral (color C), and blackberry (color D). The gemstone rounds are purple impression jasper.

## What you'll need

### bracelet

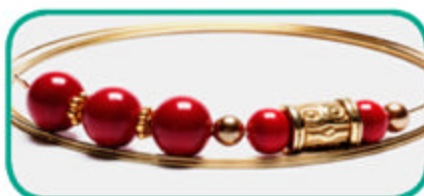
- ◆ 3 10 mm tube beads
- ◆ 17 8 mm round pearls:  
12 color A, 5 color C
- ◆ 40 6 mm round pearls:  
12 color A, 12 color B,  
4 color C, 12 color D
- ◆ 25 6 mm gemstone rounds
- ◆ 27 5 mm pearls, color B
- ◆ 6 4 mm pearls, color B
- ◆ 20 4 mm heishi beads

- ◆ memory wire, 2½ in. (6.4 cm) diameter
- ◆ roundnose pliers
- ◆ heavy-duty wire cutters

Kits for this project are available at [JewelryAndBeadStore.com](http://JewelryAndBeadStore.com) or your local bead store. To find the nearest store, visit [beadshopfinder.com](http://beadshopfinder.com).



**1** bracelet • Using heavy-duty wire cutters, cut a four-coil piece of memory wire. On one end, use roundnose pliers to make a loop.



**2** For the first coil, string: 8 mm color A pearl, heishi, 8 mm, heishi, 8 mm, 4 mm color B pearl, 6 mm color A pearl, tube bead, 6 mm, 4 mm. Repeat twice, then string: 8 mm, heishi, 8 mm, heishi, 8 mm.



**3** Note: In steps 3 to 5, the already-strung beads are faded so you'll be able to see the new pattern more easily. For the second coil, string three 5 mm color B pearls, a 6 mm color C pearl, three 5 mms, and a 6 mm gemstone round. Repeat the pattern three times, then string three 5 mms.



**4** For the third coil, string a 6 mm in color B, D, A, and B, then an 8 mm color C. Repeat four times, then string a 6 mm color B, D, A, and B.



**5** For the fourth coil, string three gemstone rounds, a heishi, a 6 mm color D, and a heishi. Repeat five times, then string three gemstone rounds.



**6** On the end of the memory wire, make a loop and trim the excess wire. \*

Contact Kelsey at [klawler@beadstylemag.com](mailto:klawler@beadstylemag.com).

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# Silver & stones

Sterling silver, turquoise, and white pearls are always a classic choice — so simple and versatile. Since all of the beads are very organic in shape and feel, they really connect with one another. I love working with imperfect gemstones — there just isn't as much character in a stone that is cut perfectly. — *Cynthia Sutcliffe*



**1** **S-hook** • Cut a 2-in. (5 cm) piece of 22-gauge wire. On one end, use the tip of your roundnose pliers to make a loop. Use the widest part of your roundnose pliers to make a bend in the opposite direction.



**2** Make a second large bend in the opposite direction of the first. Use the tip of your roundnose pliers to make a loop in the opposite direction. Trim the excess wire.



**3** On a bench block, gently hammer both sides of the S.



**4** Cut a 1½-in. (3.8 cm) piece of 24-gauge wire. Bend ½ in. (1.9 cm) of the wire into a hook. Hook it around the S about 3 mm from an end loop. With the longer end, make five or six wraps around the piece, toward the loop. Repeat on the other half of the S.



**5** To make a bead unit: Cut a 3-in. (7.6 cm) piece of 24-gauge wire and center a teardrop bead. Make a set of wraps above the bead (see Basics, p. 72). Make the first half of a wrapped loop (Basics).



**6** Attach the bead unit to one side of the S and complete the wraps.

## What you'll need

### bracelet 7 in. (18 cm)

- ◆ 10 mm teardrop bead, top drilled
- ◆ 7–10 8 mm rice pearls
- ◆ 13–19 6 mm round gemstone beads
- ◆ 2–4 4–8 mm assorted beads

- ◆ 12–18 2–3 mm spacers
- ◆ flexible beading wire, .014 or .015
- ◆ 2 in. (5 cm) 22-gauge wire
- ◆ 6 in. (15 cm) 24-gauge wire

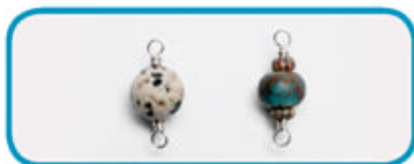
- ◆ 27–36 in. (69–91 cm) 26-gauge wire
- ◆ 5 4 mm jump rings
- ◆ 2 crimp beads
- ◆ lobster claw clasp
- ◆ 2 pairs of pliers, including chainnose

- ◆ roundnose pliers
- ◆ diagonal wire cutters

Check your local bead store for supplies. To find the nearest store, visit [beadshopfinder.com](http://beadshopfinder.com).



**1** bracelet • To make a pearl connector: Cut a 3-in. (7.6 cm) piece of 26-gauge wire. On one end, make the first half of a wrapped loop (see Basics, p. 72). String a pearl, and make the first half of a wrapped loop. Make seven to 10 pearl connectors.



**2** Make two connectors with 4–8 mm assorted beads. Complete the wraps.



**3** To make a pearl chain: Attach the loop of a pearl connector to the loop of a second pearl connector and complete the wraps. Repeat to attach the remaining pearl connectors, but do not complete the wraps on each end.



**4** Attach an end loop of the pearl chain to one side of the S-hook. Attach the other end to the loop of a lobster claw clasp. Complete the wraps.



**5** Open a jump ring (Basics). Attach the two bead connectors from step 2 and close the jump ring. Use a jump ring to attach an end loop to the other side of the S. Attach four jump rings to the remaining loop.



**6** Cut a 7–9-in. (18–23 cm) piece of beading wire. On one end, string a crimp bead and one side of the S. Go back through the crimp bead and crimp it (Basics).



Connect a single strand of beads for an easy alternative.



**7** On the wire, string 3½–5½ in. (8.9–14 cm) of round gemstone beads alternating with spacers until the strand is about the same length as the pearl chain. String a crimp bead and the lobster claw clasp. Go back through the crimp bead and tighten the wire. Crimp the crimp bead and trim the excess wire. \*

[BeadStyleMag.com/videos](http://BeadStyleMag.com/videos)

Watch these handy videos: wrapped loop, opening a jump ring or loop, flattened crimp or folded crimp



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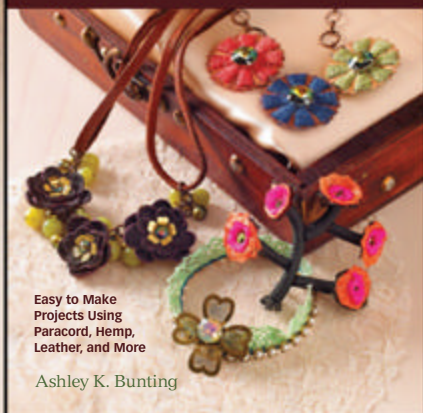
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Cover story

# Penny wise, color perfect

Use wood beads for an  
affordable necklace

by Krista Peel

economical  
beads



Warm up  
this design with  
tones of  
red, orange,  
and gold.

For my ombré necklaces, I start by pulling together analogous bead combinations, then see what flows well from one bead to another. Careful attention to the gradation of color, mix of shapes, sizes, and materials, and the strategic placement of spacer bars elevates easy stringing into dynamic, affordable design.



**1 necklace** • For the inner strand: Cut a 26–28-in. (66–71 cm) piece of beading wire. String an end hole of a three-strand spacer bar, two faceted nuggets, and an end hole of a three-strand spacer bar. Center the beads on the wire.



**2** On each end of the wire, string a rondelle, an end hole of a spacer bar, two oval beads, and an end hole of a spacer bar.



**3** On each end of the wire, string three color A wood beads, an end hole of a spacer bar, and four color B wood beads.



**4** For the outer strand: Cut a 28–30-in. (71–76 cm) piece of beading wire. String two faceted nuggets, centering them on the wire. On each end of the wire, string the end hole of the inner strand's center spacer bars.



**5** On each end of the wire, string three rondelles, the end hole of the inner strand's next spacer bar, two oval beads, and the end hole of the next spacer bar.



**6** On each end of the wire, string four color A wood beads, the end hole of the next spacer bar, and five color B wood beads.



**7** On each end of each wire, string a round spacer, a crimp bead, and the corresponding end hole of a spacer bar. Check the fit and add or remove beads from each end if necessary. Go back through the beads just strung and tighten the wire. Crimp the crimp bead (see Basics, p. 72) and trim the excess wire. If desired, close a crimp cover over each crimp.



**8** On one end, open a jump ring (Basics) and attach the center hole of the spacer bar and a lobster claw clasp. Close the jump ring.

## Comfort level

Round wood beads are a cost-effective way to gain length, and placing them at the back allows them to roll smoothly over the skin where they move most.



**9** Cut a 3-in. (7.6 cm) piece of chain. Open an end link as you would a jump ring and attach the center hole of the remaining spacer bar. Close the link.



**10** On an eye pin, string a color B wood bead. Make the first half of a wrapped loop (Basics). Attach the end link of chain and complete the wraps. \*

## What you'll need

### necklace 16–19 in. (41–48 cm)

- ◆ 4 18–21 mm faceted nuggets
- ◆ 8 18–20 mm oval beads
- ◆ 33–41 12 mm round wood beads: 14–18 color A, 19–23 color B
- ◆ 8 8–10 mm faceted rondelles
- ◆ 4 4–5 mm round spacers
- ◆ flexible beading wire, .014 or .015
- ◆ 10 19 mm three-strand spacer bars
- ◆ 1½-in. (3.8 cm) eye pin
- ◆ 7 mm jump ring
- ◆ 4 crimp beads
- ◆ lobster claw clasp
- ◆ 3 in. (7.6 cm) chain for extender, 10–12 mm links
- ◆ chainnose and roundnose pliers
- ◆ diagonal wire cutters
- ◆ 4 crimp covers (optional)
- ◆ crimping pliers (optional)

Black nuggets from Goody Beads, 952.938.2324, [goodybeads.com](http://goodybeads.com). Sea glass from ZnetShows, [znetshows.com](http://znetshows.com). Similar rondelles from Blackrock Beads, [blackrockbeads.etsy.com](http://blackrockbeads.etsy.com). Wood beads from Fire Mountain Gems and Beads, 800.355.2137, [firemountaingems.com](http://firemountaingems.com). Check your local bead store for supplies. To find the nearest store, visit [beadshopfinder.com](http://beadshopfinder.com).

### Krista Peel

*Krista combines her love of painting, color, miniatures, and stones in her jewelry. Contact Krista at [kristapeel@gmail.com](mailto:kristapeel@gmail.com), or visit [kristapeel.com](http://kristapeel.com) or [3starstudioarts.etsy.com](http://3starstudioarts.etsy.com).*



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Watch these handy videos: flattened crimp or folded crimp, opening a jump ring or loop, wrapped loop, crimp cover



# FRAMED PEARL BRACELET

Shape wire links around elegant coin pearls

by **Billie Hackett**

The links for this bracelet started out as earrings. I was making a batch of them, set them all down in a line, and had an “Aha!” moment. You never know when inspiration will hit. This bracelet is now one of my favorite pieces.



Make a chain extender with pairs of jump rings.

## *Size it up*

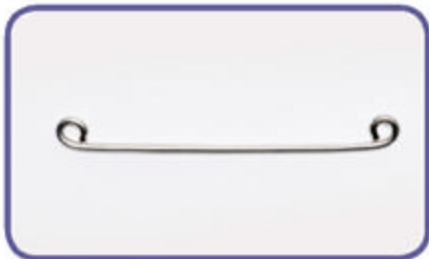
Not all coin pearls are uniform in shape. Also, the holes may not be perfectly centered. You'll need to cut  $2\frac{5}{8}$ -in. to  $2\frac{7}{8}$ -in. (6.7–7.3 cm) pieces of wire for the frames to accommodate these inconsistencies. If you're using sterling silver or gold-filled wire, experiment with craft wire first to determine which length works best. When making the frames, be sure there's enough space between the edge of the bead and the top of the frame to accommodate the jump rings.



Find out how to wire your own hook clasp (p. 32)!

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**1** **pearl unit** • For each wire frame:  
Cut a  $2\frac{5}{8}$ – $2\frac{7}{8}$ -in. (6.7–7.3 cm) piece of 16-gauge wire (see “Size it up,” p. 30). Using roundnose pliers or small looping pliers, roll each wire end toward the center, forming a loop on each end (see “Hit the mark,” below).



**2** Using a ring mandrel, the smallest jaw of large looping pliers, or a cylindrical object that is 2–3 mm larger than your coin pearl, bend the wire until the loops touch, forming a circle.



**3** On a bench block, gently hammer the frame on both sides. If the frame becomes misshapen, gently bend it into place with your fingers. Repeat steps 1 to 3 to make seven to nine wire frames.



**4** Cut seven to nine 6-in. (15 cm) pieces of 24-gauge wire (see “Rustic finish,” p. 32). On the end of one wire, make a small hook. Hook the wire just below the middle on one side of the frame. Wrap six or seven times around the frame. Using chainnose pliers, squeeze gently to snug the wraps together.



**5** String the coin pearl and wrap the wire around the opposite side of the frame. Snug the wraps together as in step 4. Trim and tuck the excess wrapping wire. Make seven to nine pearl units.



**6** Open two 4 mm jump rings (see Basics, p. 72) and use them to attach each loop of a pearl unit to the top of a second pearl unit. Close the jump rings.



**7** Use jump rings to attach pearl units until the section is within about 1 in. (2.5 cm) of the finished length. Attach a pair of jump rings to each loop of the last pearl unit.



**8** Use one pair of jump rings to attach both pairs of jump rings from step 7. Attach two consecutive pairs of jump rings to the previous pair. On the last pair of jump rings, attach a hook clasp (see “Extra!,” p. 32).



**9** On the other end, attach nine consecutive pairs of jump rings to the end pearl unit to make a chain extender. Attach a single jump ring. On a head pin, string a pearl and make the first half of a wrapped loop (Basics). Attach the pearl to the jump ring and complete the wraps.

## Hit the mark

If you're using roundnose pliers, mark the jaws with a permanent marker so all your loops will be a consistent size. You can remove the mark later with rubbing alcohol.

## extra! Make your own hook clasp



**1** **handmade hook clasp** • Cut a 2½-in. (6.4 cm) piece of wire. On one end, use roundnose pliers or small looping pliers to make a small loop.



**2** Place your roundnose pliers or looping pliers next to the loop and wrap the wire back toward the first loop.



**3** About ¼ in. (6 mm) past the first loop, using the largest part of your roundnose pliers or looping pliers, wrap the wire in the opposite direction.



**4** Across from the first loop, use chainnose or flatnose pliers to bend the wire slightly outward. Trim the excess wire if necessary. On a bench block, gently hammer the clasp. File the end if necessary.



**5** Cut a 3-in. (7.6 cm) piece of 24-gauge wire. Make a small hook on one end and hook it around the clasp across from the first loop. Wrap the wire five or six times around the clasp. Snug the wraps, then trim and tuck the excess wire. \*

## Rustic finish

If you're using copper or sterling silver wire, you can get an antique look by following the manufacturer's instructions for using liver of sulfur. Oxidize all your wire frames, pieces of 24-gauge wire, and jump rings first, then make the coin-pearl links (do not oxidize the pearls!).

## What you'll need

**bracelet 7½–8½ in. (19.1–21.6 cm)**

- ◆ 7–9 12 mm coin pearls
- ◆ 5–6 mm pearl
- ◆ 27–30 in. (69–76 cm) 16-gauge wire (allows 2½ in./6.4 cm wire for handmade hook, if desired)
- ◆ 45–57 in. (1.07–1.44 m) 24-gauge wire (allows 3 in./7.6 cm for handmade hook, if desired)
- ◆ 1½-in. (3.8 cm) decorative head pin
- ◆ 45 4 mm 20-gauge jump rings
- ◆ premade or handmade hook clasp
- ◆ 2 pairs of chainnose or flatnose pliers
- ◆ roundnose pliers
- ◆ diagonal wire cutters
- ◆ bench block and hammer
- ◆ ring mandrel or cylindrical object
- ◆ file or emery board
- ◆ small and large stepped looping pliers (optional)
- ◆ liver of sulfur (optional)

Pearls from TerraFinds, [terrafinds.etsy.com](http://terrafinds.etsy.com). Jump rings from Yadana Beads, [yadanabeads.etsy.com](http://yadanabeads.etsy.com). Check your local bead store for supplies. To find the nearest store, visit [beadshopfinder.com](http://beadshopfinder.com).

[BeadStyleMag.com/videos](http://BeadStyleMag.com/videos)

Watch this handy video: opening a jump ring or loop, wrapped loop



## Billie Hackett

A proud member of The Artisan Group ([theartisangroup.org](http://theartisangroup.org)), Billie's jewelry has been seen on *The Young and the Restless* and *The Vampire Diaries*. She loves creating jewelry with a rustic yet feminine side. Contact Billie via [amayeli.etsy.com](http://amayeli.etsy.com).



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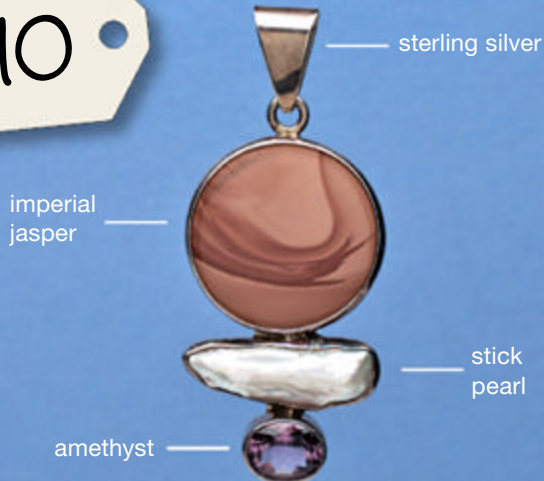
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# Pendants at 3 price

## Upscale

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## Mid range

Use less expensive findings to keep costs down.

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### mid-range pendant



**1** Cut a  $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. (1.9 cm) piece of 2 mm link chain and string the pendant. Open a 4 mm jump ring (see Basics, p. 72) and attach both end links of chain and the loop of a bail. Close the jump ring.



**2** On a head pin, string a pearl and make the first half of a wrapped loop (Basics). Repeat with a gemstone. Cut a  $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. (10.8 cm) piece of 5 mm link chain. Attach a bead unit to each end link and complete the wraps.



**3** About  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in. (6.4 cm) from one end of the 5 mm chain, use a jump ring to attach that link and the 2 mm chain at the back of the pendant.

### Jump bail

If you're using a thicker gemstone (or the pendant's hole is drilled far from the edge), use a small length of fine chain to connect to the bail (as shown) instead of a large jump ring for a more delicate look.

### What you'll need

#### mid-range pendant

- ◆ 42 mm gemstone pendant
- ◆ 22 mm pearl drop
- ◆ 15 mm oval gemstone bead
- ◆ 15 mm bail
- ◆  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. (10.8 cm) chain, 5 mm links
- ◆  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. (1.9 cm) chain, 2 mm links
- ◆ 2 2-in. (5 cm) head pins or ball pins
- ◆ 2 4 mm jump rings
- ◆ chainnose and roundnose pliers
- ◆ diagonal wire cutters

All supplies available from Eclectica, 262.641.0910, [eclecticabeads.com](http://eclecticabeads.com). Check your local bead store for supplies. To find the nearest store, visit [beadshopfinder.com](http://beadshopfinder.com).

### Budget friendly

Capture the look with smaller and less costly components.



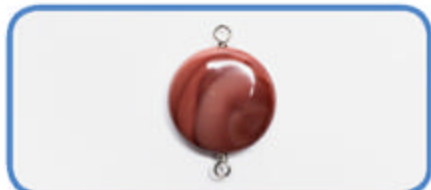
by Irina Miech

You don't need to compromise on design for the sake of your budget. Capture the look of upscale pieces by using smart substitutions that rate high on style but low in cost.



*Irina Miech is an artist, teacher, and author. She also oversees her two retail stores, Eclectica and The Bead Studio, in Brookfield, Wis. where she teaches classes in beading, wirework, and metal clay. Contact Irina at [info@eclecticabeads.com](mailto:info@eclecticabeads.com) or visit [eclecticabeads.com](http://eclecticabeads.com).*

### budget-friendly pendant



**1** Cut a 5-in. (13 cm) piece of wire. On one end, make a wrapped loop (see Basics, p. 72). String a disk bead and make a wrapped loop.



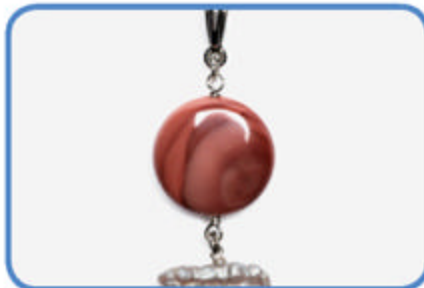
**2** Cut a 5-in. (13 cm) piece of wire. At 2 in. (5 cm), make a wrapped loop. String a stick pearl. Make a wrapped loop. Do not trim the excess wire.



**3** Bend each end of the wire down the back of the pearl and wrap it around the opposite loop. Trim and tuck the excess wire.



**4** Open a 5 mm jump ring (Basics) and attach a CZ pendant and a loop of the pearl unit. Close the jump ring.



**5** Use two 4 mm jump rings to attach the pearl unit to the disk. Use a 4 mm jump ring to attach the disk to the loop of a bail. \*

### What you'll need

#### budget-friendly pendant

- ◆ 20 mm gemstone disk bead
- ◆ 18–20 mm stick pearl
- ◆ 14 mm cubic zirconia (CZ) pendant
- ◆ 12 mm bail
- ◆ 10 in. (25 cm) 24-gauge wire
- ◆ 5 mm jump ring
- ◆ 3 4 mm jump rings
- ◆ chainnose and roundnose pliers
- ◆ diagonal wire cutters

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# Fancy & affordable

**String crystal  
teardrops in  
a statement  
necklace**

**by Jessica M. Walsh**

I often found myself looking at pricey necklaces when I was out shopping, but I never had the heart to spend all that money on just one. Instead, I examined those necklaces and discovered I could make my own with a trip to the craft store and supplies from my stash. The thing I love most about making jewelry is that you can constantly find new ways to use components!





**1 chain strand** • To make a bead unit: On a head pin, string a 10–12 mm (large) teardrop bead and a flat spacer. Make a plain loop (see Basics, p. 72). Make 15 large bead units and 15 8 mm (small) units. Set aside one small unit for necklace step 3.

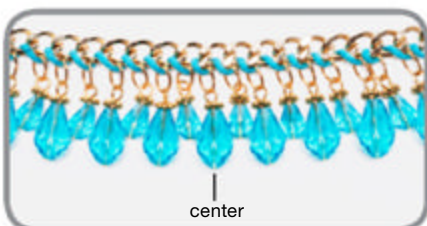


**2a** Cut an 18-in. (46 cm) piece of chain. Cut a 40-in. (1 m) piece of waxed cord.

**b** Leaving a 2-in. (5 cm) tail, tie overhand knots to attach one end of the cord to an end link of chain. Apply glue to the knots and allow to dry. Do not trim the excess cord.



**3** Make sure the chain links lie flat. Bring the cord through the end link of chain and wrap it around. Continue wrapping the cord through each link of chain (see “Capable cord,” p. 39). Repeat step 2b to finish the end.



**4a** Open an oval jump ring (Basics) and attach a large bead unit and the cord wrapped around the center link of chain. Close the jump ring (see “Getting attached,” below).

**b** On each side, on the next two links’ cords, use oval jump rings to attach a small bead unit and a large bead unit, respectively. Repeat until you’ve attached all the units.



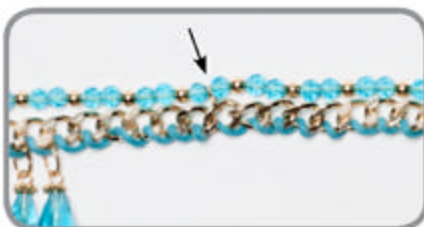
**1 beaded strand** • Cut a 24-in. (61 cm) piece of beading wire. String two 4 mm round crystals and a 3 mm round spacer. Repeat until the beaded section is 17 in. (43 cm).



**2** On one end of the wire, string a crimp bead, a Wire Guardian, and a 6 mm jump ring. Go back through the beads just strung and tighten the wire. Crimp the crimp bead (Basics) and trim the excess wire. Close a crimp cover over the crimp. Do not finish the other end.



**1 necklace** • On an end link of the chain strand, attach a pair of 8 mm jump rings. Use a 6 mm jump ring to attach the pair of 8 mm jump rings to the 6 mm jump ring on the beaded strand. Use a 6 mm jump ring to attach a lobster claw clasp and the end jump ring.



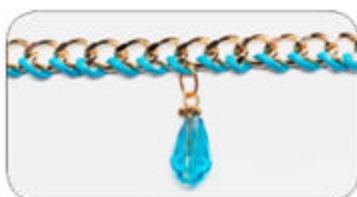
**2** Lay the beaded strand inside the chain strand, curving the strands as they would be when worn. On each side of the center, use an oval jump ring to attach the beaded strand to a link of chain at about 4, 6, and 8 in./10, 15, and 20 cm (see “Make connections,” p. 39).



**3** Check the drape, and add or remove beads from the beaded strand if necessary. To finish: Repeat step 2 of the beaded strand. Repeat necklace step 1, substituting a chain extender for the clasp. Attach the remaining small bead unit to the end link of chain.

## Getting attached

When you attach the bead units, they should dangle between two chain links, not directly under a link. Oval jump rings work well in this design because they don’t add bulk.



## Flat chain

Flat curb chain is a must so the necklace won’t twist. All the links must face the same direction when the chain is laid out. If the links twist, your chain isn’t flat enough.

## Make connections



To make the beaded strand sit nicely next to the chain strand, attach jump rings at symmetrical points on each side.

## Capable cord

Here are a few tips for wrapping the cord around each link of chain:

- Always bring the cord through the links from the same side (front or back) of the chain.
- If you make a few wraps and the cord runs straight through the chain instead of around each link, start over and bring the cord through from the opposite side of the chain.
- Don't wrap the cord too tightly around the links; it will be too stiff in the end and the chain will twist and buckle. To avoid this, gently curve the chain as you wrap the cord.
- Make sure to use waxed cord — it's easier to work with, holds its shape, and doesn't loosen as you're weaving. Its stiffness also makes the finished necklace more sturdy.

**earrings** • For each earring:  
On a head pin, string a teardrop bead. Make a plain loop (see Basics, p. 72). Open a link of chain as you would a jump ring (Basics). Attach the bead unit and the loop of an earring wire. Close the chain link. \*



## What you'll need

### necklace 19 in. (48 cm)

- ◆ 15 10–12 mm teardrop beads
- ◆ 15 8 mm teardrop beads
- ◆ 16-in. (41 cm) strand 4 mm round crystals
- ◆ 30 5 mm flat spacers
- ◆ 38–44 3 mm round spacers
- ◆ flexible beading wire, .014 or .015
- ◆ 40 in. (1 m) waxed cord, 1 mm diameter
- ◆ 18 in. (46 cm) flat curb chain, 10–12 mm links
- ◆ 30 1½-in. (3.8 cm) head pins
- ◆ 4 8 mm jump rings
- ◆ 6 6 mm jump rings
- ◆ 35 6 mm oval jump rings
- ◆ 2 crimp beads
- ◆ 2 crimp covers
- ◆ 2 Wire Guardians
- ◆ lobster claw clasp
- ◆ 2–3 in. (5–7.6 cm) chain for extender
- ◆ chainnose and roundnose pliers
- ◆ diagonal wire cutters
- ◆ crimping pliers (optional)
- ◆ glue, such as Super New Glue

### earrings

- ◆ 2 10–12 mm teardrop beads
- ◆ 2 10–12 mm chain links
- ◆ 2 1½-in. (3.8 cm) head pins
- ◆ pair of earring wires
- ◆ chainnose and roundnose pliers
- ◆ diagonal wire cutters

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plain loop, opening a jump ring or loop, flattened crimp or folded crimp, crimp cover



### Jessica M. Walsh

Jessica started making jewelry when she was 8 years old. "One year for Christmas my parents bought me a seed bead loom. Instead of using the loom, I took the beads and started stringing jewelry!" Contact Jessica at [jwalsh1105@yahoo.com](mailto:jwalsh1105@yahoo.com).



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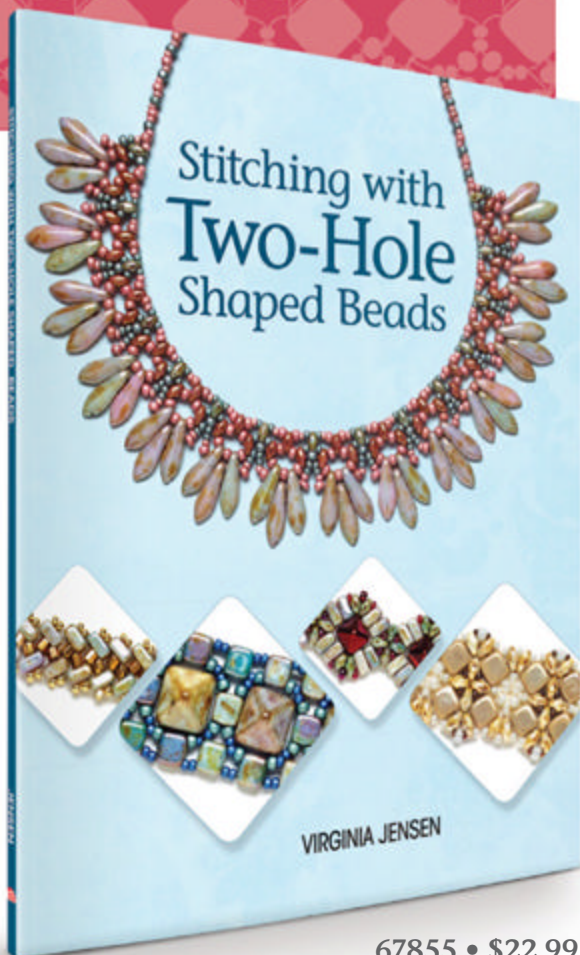
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# Bargaining chips

String budget-friendly gemstone designs with chips

by Jodie Belcher Damron

If you love gemstones but shy away from their costs, consider gemstone chips. You can buy many kinds for under \$10 per 36-inch (91 cm) strand. Also consider substituting with magnesite: It's a turquoise look-alike at a fraction of the cost. Play up your favorite colors with affordable glass bead strands, and you'll create wearable jewelry without breaking the bank.



**1** **strands** • Cut a 17-in. (43 cm) piece of beading wire. String a crimp bead and a 4 mm jump ring. Go back through the crimp bead and tighten the wire. Crimp the crimp bead (see Basics, p. 72).



**2** String 11 in. (28 cm) of oval beads alternating with 6° seed beads. End with an oval. String a crimp bead and a 4 mm jump ring. Go back through the beads just strung and tighten the wire. Crimp the crimp bead and trim the excess wire.



**3** Repeat steps 1 and 2, stringing 5 mm round beads interspersed with bead caps.



**4** Repeat steps 1 and 2, stringing bicones, chips, 10 mm faceted rounds, and metal tube beads on each wire.

## Chips off the old block

Chips come in many different shapes: thin shards, craggy pebbles, smooth nuggets — and all in one strand! Their lack of uniformity is ideal for giving these designs their organic-yet-polished feel.

**six-strand necklace •**

String the strands (p. 42). Open a 6 mm jump ring (Basics). Attach a jump ring on one end of each of the strands. Close the 6 mm jump ring.

4

On each end, attach a 4–5-in. (10–13 cm) piece of chain or 25 to 30 6 mm jump rings to make a chain. On one end, use a 4 mm jump ring to attach a lobster claw clasp.

1

3

Use a 4 mm jump ring to attach the 6 mm jump ring and a loop of a decorative component. Attach a 4 mm jump ring to the remaining loop of the component.

2

Loosely weave the strands and attach their jump rings to a 6 mm jump ring.

5

On a head pin, string a bead. Make a wrapped loop (Basics). Attach a 6 mm jump ring. Use a 4 mm jump ring to attach the 6 mm jump ring to the chain.



## Better braiding

The size of the chips and the tightness of the braid will affect the overall look of the centerpiece. Avoid braiding too tightly — the open space helps give the strands contrast and definition.



**1** **braided necklace** • Cut a 14-in. (36 cm) and a 28-in. (71 cm) piece of beading wire. On the long wire, center a 4 mm jump ring. String a crimp tube over both ends. On the short wire, string the crimp tube and jump ring. With all three ends, go back through the crimp tube and tighten the wires. Crimp the crimp bead (see Basics, p. 72).



**2** On each wire, string 7–8 in. (18–20 cm) of chips. Tape the wire ends.



**3** Use a T-pin to secure the jump ring to a foam board. Loosely braid the strands (see “Better braiding,” above).

## Crimp tip

Make sure to use crimp tubes (not smaller crimp beads) for the braided necklace. You'll need the three beading wires to pass through the crimp tube twice on the finishing.



**4** On each wire, add or remove beads if necessary. Over all three wires, string a crimp tube and a 4 mm jump ring. Go back through the crimp tube and tighten the wires. Crimp the crimp tube.



**5** Cut two 10–11-in. (25–28 cm) pieces of beading wire. On one end of each wire, string a crimp tube and one of the jump rings of the braided section. Go back through the crimp tube and crimp it. On each wire, string 4½–5½ in. (11.4–14 cm) of oval beads.



**6** On one end, string a crimp tube and a lobster claw clasp. Go back through the last few beads strung and tighten the wire. Crimp the crimp tube. Repeat on the other end, substituting a soldered jump ring for the clasp.



**1 earrings** • To make a bead unit: On a 1½-in. (3.8 cm) head pin, string a chip. Make a wrapped loop (see Basics, p. 72). Make 16 bead units.

**2** For each earring: On a 2-in. (5 cm) head pin, string an oval bead and eight bead units. Make a wrapped loop.

**3** Open the loop of an earring wire (Basics). Attach the dangle and close the loop. \*

## What you'll need

### six-strand necklace 19½ in. (49.5 cm)

- ◆ 25–30 mm decorative component, with two loops
- ◆ 16-in. (41 cm) strand 14–16 mm oval beads
- ◆ 26–30 10 mm round faceted beads
- ◆ 16-in. (41 cm) strand 7–10 mm chips
- ◆ 16-in. (41 cm) strand 5 mm round beads
- ◆ 60–65 4 mm bicone beads
- ◆ 12–16 6° seed beads
- ◆ 30–32 10 x 1 mm metal tube beads
- ◆ 10–16 5 mm bead caps
- ◆ flexible beading wire, .014 or .015
- ◆ 8–10 in. (20–25 cm) chain, 6 mm links, or 50–60 6 mm jump rings
- ◆ 6 mm jump ring

- ◆ 16 4 mm jump rings
- ◆ 12 crimp beads
- ◆ chainnose and roundnose pliers
- ◆ diagonal wire cutters
- ◆ crimping pliers (optional)

### braided necklace 17–18 in. (43–46 cm)

- ◆ 16-in. (41 cm) strand 14–16 mm oval beads
- ◆ 36-in. (91 cm) strand 4–12 mm gemstone chips
- ◆ flexible beading wire, .014 or .015
- ◆ 2 4 mm soldered jump rings
- ◆ 6 crimp tubes
- ◆ lobster claw clasp and soldered jump ring
- ◆ chainnose and roundnose pliers

- ◆ diagonal wire cutters
- ◆ foam board and T-pins
- ◆ crimping pliers (optional)

### earrings

- ◆ 16 4–12 mm chips
- ◆ 2 14–16 mm oval beads
- ◆ 2 2-in. (5 cm) head pins
- ◆ 16 1½-in. (3.8 cm) head pins
- ◆ pair of earring wires
- ◆ chainnose and roundnose pliers
- ◆ diagonal wire cutters

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Watch these handy videos:  
flattened crimp or folded crimp,  
plain loop, wrapped loop,  
opening a jump ring or loop



### Jodie Belcher Damron

*Jodie discovered jewelry design while away at a summer fashion design program in high school. She works in the apparel industry and spends time with her husband and cat in the evening. She says, "It can be hard to find time to create, but almost two decades later, I am still finding continuous inspiration and endless mediums for experimentation." Contact her at [beechandbirch@gmail.com](mailto:beechandbirch@gmail.com) or visit [beechandbirch.etsy.com](http://beechandbirch.etsy.com).*



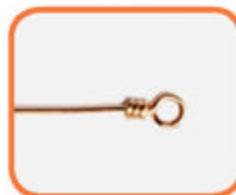


# Rainbow sherbet necklace

Fashion a fresh look  
with citrusy seed beads

by Dana Meredith

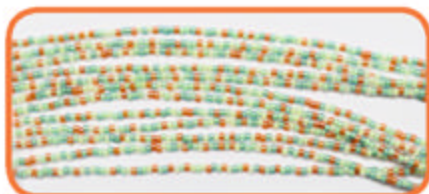
Scores of seed beads are an inexpensive way to make a sweet statement. Blend these tiny Delicas with shiny gold accents for a deliciously easy design!



**1** **necklace** • Cut two 3-in. (7.6 cm) pieces of 20-gauge wire. On one end of each wire, make a wrapped loop (see Basics, p. 72).



**2** Cut 12 14-in. (36 cm) pieces of beading wire. Over two wires, string a crimp bead and a wrapped loop. Go back through the crimp bead. Tighten the wires. Crimp the crimp bead (Basics) and trim the excess wire. Pair the 10 remaining wires and attach them to the loop the same way.



**3** On each wire, string 8 in. (20 cm) of seed beads, mixing the colors.



**4** Over each pair of wires, string a crimp bead and the second wrapped loop from step 1. Go back through the crimp bead. Curve the beaded section to check the drape, and add or remove beads if necessary. Tighten the wires. Crimp the crimp beads and trim the excess wire.



**5** On each 20-gauge wire, string a cone. Make a wrapped loop.

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flattened crimp or folded  
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**6** Cut two 5–6-in. (13–15 cm) pieces of chain. Open two jump rings (Basics). On each end, attach a wrapped loop and an end link of chain. Close the jump rings. Check the fit and trim links from each chain if necessary.



**7** Use a jump ring to attach an end link of chain and a lobster claw clasp. Repeat on the other side, substituting a chain extender for the clasp. \*

## What you'll need

### necklace 20–24 in. (51–61 cm)

- ◆ 10 g 11° Delica seed beads, Citrus Mix
- ◆ flexible beading wire, .014 or .015
- ◆ 6 in. (15 cm) 20-gauge wire
- ◆ 12 in. (30 cm) figure-8 chain, 4 mm links
- ◆ 4 5–6 mm jump rings
- ◆ 2 16 mm cones
- ◆ 12 2 mm crimp beads
- ◆ lobster claw clasp
- ◆ 3 in. (7.6 cm) chain for extender
- ◆ chainnose and roundnose pliers
- ◆ diagonal wire cutters
- ◆ crimping pliers (optional)

Kits for this project are available at [JewelryAndBeadStore.com](http://JewelryAndBeadStore.com) or your local bead store. To find the nearest store, visit [beadshopfinder.com](http://beadshopfinder.com).

### Dana Meredith

When Dana was young, her grandparents bought ice cream in 3-gallon tubs. She practices more restraint these days, but there's always room for a little sherbet! Contact Dana at [dmeredith@beadstylemag.com](mailto:dmeredith@beadstylemag.com).



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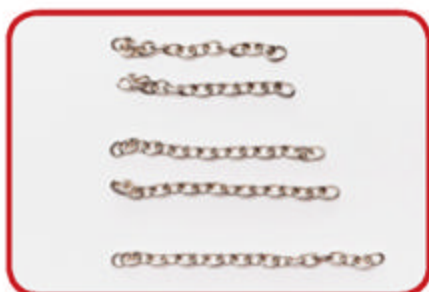


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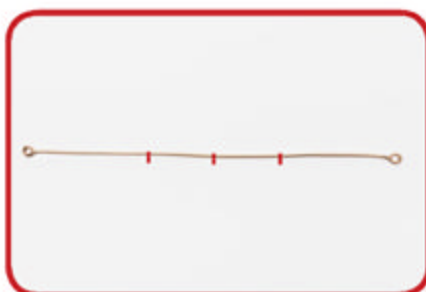
## Shape striking earrings with mixed metals

by Felicia Cantillo

I'm a fan of geometric shapes and love the look of mixed-metal jewelry. By bending my own wire frame and adding contrasting chain, I got the best of both worlds. If you feel like splurging, use gold-filled and sterling silver wire as I did, otherwise use craft wire as an economical alternative. Personalize the round hoops by substituting your favorite gemstone briolette in place of the pyrite.



**1** **diamond-shaped earrings** • For each earring: Cut two  $\frac{5}{8}$ -in. (1.6 cm) and two  $\frac{7}{8}$ -in. (2.2 cm) pieces of chain. Cut a  $1\frac{1}{8}$ -in. (2.9 cm) piece of chain.



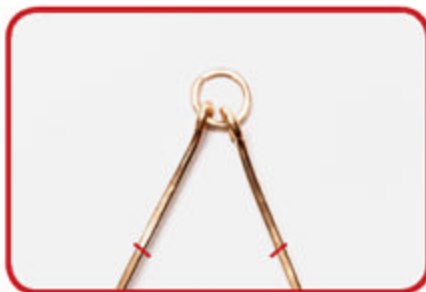
**2** To make a wire frame: Cut a  $6\frac{1}{4}$ -in. (15.9 cm) piece of 16-gauge wire. On each end, make a plain loop (see Basics, p. 72). With a marker, mark the center of the wire. Mark 1 in. (2.5 cm) on each side of the center mark.



**3** Holding the tip of your chainnose pliers at the center mark, bend each end of the wire up at a 45-degree angle. At the 1-in. (2.5 cm) mark, bend each end of the wire inward so the loops are parallel and about  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. (3 mm) apart.



**4** On a bench block, gently hammer the frame on both sides to flatten. Hammer a jump ring on both sides to flatten.



**5** Open the jump ring (Basics). Attach both loops of the frame and close the jump ring. Mark  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. (1.3 cm) below the loops on each side of the frame.



**6** Cut a 5-in. (13 cm) piece of 26-gauge wire. About 1 in. (2.5 cm) from one end, make a hook in the wire. Just below a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. (1.3 cm) mark, hook the wrapping wire around the frame. Wrap around and up the frame four or five times, covering the mark.

# RNI geometry



**7** On the wrapping wire, string six spacers alternating with the following:  $\frac{5}{8}$ -in. (1.6 cm) chain,  $\frac{7}{8}$ -in. (2.2 cm) chain,  $1\frac{1}{8}$ -in. (2.9 cm) chain,  $\frac{7}{8}$ -in. (2.2 cm) chain,  $\frac{5}{8}$ -in. (1.6 cm) chain. At the  $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. (1.3 cm) mark, wrap the wire around and down the opposite side of the frame four or five times. Trim and tuck the excess wrapping wire.



**8** Open the loop of an earring wire. Attach the dangle and close the loop.



*Tip*

Mix gold and silver like I did, or try a version with even more contrast — use bright-colored copper wire with spacers in complementary colors.



**1** **round hoops** • For each earring: Cut two  $\frac{5}{8}$ -in. (1.6 cm), two  $\frac{7}{8}$ -in. (2.5 cm), and two  $1\frac{1}{4}$ -in. (3.2 cm) pieces of chain. Cut a  $1\frac{5}{8}$ -in. (4.1 cm) piece of chain.



**2** To make a wire frame: Measure the circumference of a cylindrical object. Add  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. (1.9 cm) and cut a piece of 18–20-gauge wire to that length. On each end, make a plain loop (see Basics, p. 72). With a marker, mark the center of the wire. On each side of the center mark, make four marks, each  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. (3 mm) apart.



**3** Wrap the wire around the cylindrical object, overlapping the two loops.



**4** On a bench block, gently hammer the wire frame on both sides with the ball end of the hammer.



“Make sure you have a clean work space so your creativity is focused on what you’re making — not the mess around you!”



**5** Cut a 6-in. (15 cm) piece of 26-gauge wire in a matching color. About 1 in. (2.5 cm) from one end, make a hook in the wire. About 1/8 in. (3 mm) from one of the loops, hook the wrapping wire around the wire frame. Make five or six wraps until you reach the loops. Continue wrapping four to six times through the loops, keeping them aligned. Wrap five or six times on the other side of the loops. Trim and tuck the excess wrapping wire.



**6** Cut a 12-in. (30 cm) piece of 26-gauge wire in a second color. About 1 in. (2.5 cm) from one end, make a hook in the wire. Hook the bottom of the wire frame at the outermost mark. Wrap the wire around the frame until you reach the next 1/8-in. (3 mm) mark. String a 5/8-in. (1.6 cm) chain. Wrap to the next mark. String a 7/8-in. (2.2 cm), a 1 1/4-in. (3.2 cm), and the 1 5/8-in. (1.6 cm) chain, wrapping to each of the corresponding marks.



**7** Continue wrapping as in step 6, stringing the chains from longest to shortest. Wrap to the final mark. Trim and tuck the excess wrapping wire.



**8** Cut a 9-in. (23 cm) piece of 26-gauge wire in the second color. String a briolette or teardrop 2 in. (5 cm) from one end. Make a set of wraps above the bead (Basics). Make the first half of a large wrapped loop (Basics) perpendicular to the bead.



**9** Attach the loop of the briolette to both loops of the wire frame. Complete the wraps, wrapping the wire around the top of the briolette. Trim and tuck the excess wire.



**10** Open the loop of an earring wire (Basics) and attach both loops of the wire frame. Close the loop. \*

## What you'll need

### diamond-shaped earrings

- ♦ 12 3 mm faceted spacers
- ♦ 13 in. (33 cm) 16-gauge wire
- ♦ 10 in. (25 cm) 26-gauge wire in a second color
- ♦ 9 in. (23 cm) chain, 1 mm links
- ♦ 2 6 mm jump rings
- ♦ pair of earring wires

### round hoops

- ♦ 2 11 mm briolettes or top-drilled teardrop beads
- ♦ 10–11 in. (25–28 cm) 18–20-gauge wire
- ♦ 12 in. (30 cm) 26-gauge wire, color to match 18–20 gauge wire
- ♦ 42 in. (1.1 m) 26-gauge wire, in a second color
- ♦ 15 in. (38 cm) chain, 1 mm links
- ♦ pair of earring wires
- ♦ cylindrical object, about 1 3/8-in. (3.5 cm) diameter

### both pairs of earrings

- ♦ chainnose and roundnose pliers
- ♦ diagonal wire cutters
- ♦ ball-peen hammer and bench block
- ♦ permanent marker

Chain and wire from Rio Grande, 800.545.6566, riogrande.com. Check your local bead store for supplies. To find the nearest store, visit beadshopfinder.com.

[BeadStyleMag.com/videos](http://BeadStyleMag.com/videos)

Watch these handy videos: plain loop, wrapped loop, opening a jump ring or loop



### Felicia Cantillo

Felicia is a self-taught jewelry artist who has been creating since 2006. When she's not making jewelry, she helps her mom with Little Feet Productions, a live marionette theater for children. Contact Felicia at [thegemgypsy@gmail.com](mailto:thegemgypsy@gmail.com) or visit [thegemgypsy.etsy.com](http://thegemgypsy.etsy.com).



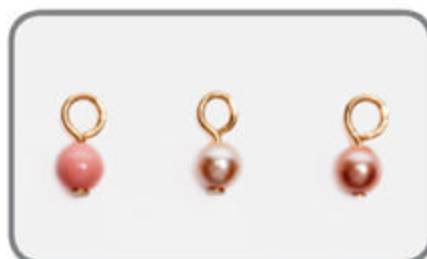
# Crystal blooms earrings



Accent a flower link with pearl blossoms

by Kelsey Lawler

Spring — the season to celebrate feminine touches, floral flourishes, and pastel palettes — is just around the corner. For these earrings, I gathered bouquets of tiny pearls to accent crystal flowers. Sweet, sparkling earrings are just a few plain loops away!



**1** earrings • To make a bead unit: On a head pin, string a pearl. Make a plain loop (see Basics, p. 72). Make six bead units in color A, six in color B, and six in color C.



**2** To make a connector: Trim the head from a head pin. On one end of the wire, make a large plain loop. String a color A pearl and make a smaller plain loop perpendicular to the first. Make a second connector.

## What you'll need

### earrings

- ◆ 2 10 mm crystal flower links
- ◆ 20 3 mm round pearls: 8 in color A, 6 in color B, 6 in color C
- ◆ 20 1½-in. (3.8 cm) head pins
- ◆ pair of earring wires
- ◆ chainnose and roundnose pliers
- ◆ diagonal wire cutters

Kits for this project are available at [JewelryAndBeadingStore.com](http://JewelryAndBeadingStore.com) and your local bead store.

To find the nearest store, visit [beadshopfinder.com](http://beadshopfinder.com).



**3** For each earring: Open a connector's large loop (Basics). Attach three bead units in each color and close the loop. Attach the connector's other loop to the loop of a flower connector.



**4** Attach the flower connector's other loop to the loop of an earring wire. \*



This kit is available in silver or gold at [JewelryAndBeadingStore.com](http://JewelryAndBeadingStore.com).

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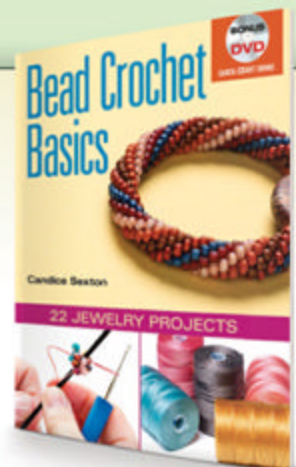


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# Circles of life necklace

Style options abound with multiple clasps

by Leeann Hargett

I'm captivated by nature, and used simple components and beads in this necklace to create a structure much like nature on a molecular level. Mix gold and antique brass to mirror new growth and the beauty of maturing and age. Repetitive circles, spheres, and links emphasize how everything in nature and life is connected. Plus you can wear it multiple ways!



## components



**1** **connector** • Cut a 3-in. (7.6 cm) piece of 22-gauge wire. On one end, using your roundnose pliers, make a loop. Reposition your pliers and make a second loop next to the first. Trim the excess wire.



**2** String a spacer, an oval bead, and a spacer. Make a double loop as in step 1. Make eight to 11 connectors.



**1 single loop** • Cut a 6-in. (15 cm) piece of beading wire. String a 3 mm metal bead. On each end, string four round beads alternating with three spacers.



**2** String each end of the wire in opposite directions through a crimp bead and a round and tighten the wire. Crimp the crimp bead (see Basics, p. 72). Trim the wire. Close a crimp cover over the crimp.



**3** Open two 9 mm chain links as you would a jump ring (Basics) and attach one to each end of the beaded loop. Close the links.



**double loop** • Make a single loop, omitting the chain links. Make a second single loop, attaching it through the first loop before adding the crimp bead. Attach 9 mm links to each end.



**1 twisted loop** • Cut an 8-in. (20 cm) piece of beading wire. String a 3 mm metal bead. On each end, string seven round beads alternating with six spacers.



**2** Follow step 2 of the single loop.



**3** Open an 8 mm color A jump ring (Basics). Close it around the crimp cover and metal bead, which will cause the large loop to twist into two smaller loops.



**4** Attach a pair of 8 mm color A jump rings on each side of the end beads.



**1 triple twisted loop** • Cut a 7-in. (18 cm) piece of beading wire. String a 3 mm metal bead. On each end, string six round beads alternating with five spacers. Follow step 2 of the single loop.



**2** Open an 8 mm color A jump ring. Close the jump ring around the crimp cover and metal bead.



**3** Repeat steps 1 and 2 twice, attaching each new strand through a loop of the previous twisted loop. Attach a 9 mm link to each end of the triple twisted loop.



**1 woven chain** • Cut a 3½-in. (8.9 cm) piece of 11 mm link chain and a 4-in. (10 cm) piece of 4 mm link chain. Cut a 3-in. (7.6 cm) piece of scrap wire and attach it to an end link of both chains. Weave the 4 mm chain through each 11 mm chain link.



**2** Remove the scrap wire. Use a color B 8 mm jump ring to attach an end link of both chains. Use a color A 8 mm jump ring to attach the end link of the 11 mm chain and the color B jump ring. Repeat on the other end.



**long chain section** • Cut a 5½-in. (14 cm) piece of 28 mm long-and-short chain. Attach a 9 mm chain link to each end link of the chain. Make two long chain sections.

## Wear it 3 ways!



Looped twice



Doubled in front



Long



**1** **necklace** • Make the components (pp. 56–57). Open a 5 mm jump ring (see Basics, p. 72) and attach a connector and the 9 mm end link of a long chain section. Close the jump ring.



**2** Use a 5 mm jump ring to attach the remaining 9 mm end link of chain to one of the 8 mm jump rings on one end of a twisted loop. Repeat with a second 5 mm jump ring, attaching the second 8 mm jump ring of the loop to the end link.



**3** Attach a 5 mm jump ring to each 8 mm jump ring on the opposite end of the twisted loop. Use a 9 mm chain link to attach the two 5 mm jump rings to a 22 mm oval link.



**4** Use a 5 mm jump ring to attach a connector to the oval link. Use 5 mm jump rings to attach three more connectors, consecutively. Attach a 5 mm jump ring on the last connector loop.



**5** Use 9 mm chain links to attach a 1 3/4-in. (4.4 cm) piece of long-and-short chain, a single loop, and the jump rings of the woven chain.



**6** Use a 5 mm jump ring to attach both remaining jump rings of the woven chain to a connector. Use a 5 mm jump ring to attach another connector. Attach a 5 mm jump ring to the last connector loop.



**7** Use a 9 mm link to attach the 5 mm jump ring and a large link of long-and-short chain. Use a 9 mm link to attach the large link and an end link of the triple twisted loop.



**8** Use a 9 mm link to attach the opposite end link of the triple twisted loop and an 18 mm oval link. Attach two consecutive 5 mm jump rings and a 22 mm oval link.



**9** Use a 5 mm jump ring to attach the 22 mm oval link and a connector. Attach the 9 mm link of a long chain section to the connector.



**10** Attach the opposite 9 mm link to an end link of a double loop. Attach the remaining end link to an 18 mm oval link.



**11** Cut a 2 1/2-in. (6.4 cm) piece of 9 mm link chain. Attach an end link to the 18 mm oval link.



**12** Check the fit. To shorten the necklace, remove chain links. To lengthen the necklace, use 5 mm jump rings to attach more connectors to the other end. Attach the 9 mm end link to a color A lobster claw clasp.



**13** On the other end, attach two 5 mm jump rings and a color B lobster claw clasp.

Leeann's  
money-saving tip:  
"Save your small  
pieces of leftover chain  
from other projects  
and combine them for  
an eclectic creation."

**1**  
earrings • For each earring: On a head pin, string a spacer, an oval bead, and a spacer. Make a plain loop (see Basics, p. 72).



**2**  
Open the loop of an earring wire (Basics) and attach the dangle. Close the loop. \*



## What you'll need

**necklace 44 1/2–47 1/2 in. (1.13–1.2 m)**

- ◆ 8–11 15 mm oval beads
- ◆ 74 6 mm round beads
- ◆ 7 3 mm metal beads
- ◆ 76–82 2.5 mm metal spacers
- ◆ flexible beading wire, .018 or .019
- ◆ 24–33 in. (6–84 cm) 22-gauge wire
- ◆ 3 in. (7.6 cm) scrap wire
- ◆ 20 in. (51 cm) long-and-short chain, 28 mm links
- ◆ 3 1/2 in. (8.9 cm) curb chain, 11 mm links
- ◆ 7 in. (18 cm) cable chain, 9 mm links
- ◆ 4 in. (10 cm) cable chain, 4 mm links
- ◆ 2 22 mm oval links
- ◆ 2 18 mm oval links
- ◆ 10 8 mm jump rings, color A
- ◆ 2 8 mm jump rings, color B
- ◆ 18 5 mm jump rings
- ◆ 7 crimp beads
- ◆ 7 crimp covers
- ◆ 2 lobster claw clasps, colors A and B
- ◆ chainnose and roundnose pliers
- ◆ diagonal wire cutters

### earrings

- ◆ 2 15 mm oval beads
- ◆ 74 6 mm round beads
- ◆ 4 2.5 mm spacers
- ◆ 6 in. (15 cm) 22-gauge wire
- ◆ pair of earring wires
- ◆ chainnose and roundnose pliers
- ◆ diagonal wire cutter

Check your local bead store for supplies. To find the nearest store, visit [beadshopfinder.com](http://beadshopfinder.com).

[BeadStyleMag.com/videos](http://BeadStyleMag.com/videos)  
Watch these handy videos:  
opening a jump ring or loop,  
crimp cover, plain loop



### Leeann Hargett

Leeann has studied clay, wood, fibers, and metals. She loves jewelry making because it doesn't require big equipment or a huge studio or garage space (hers is already full!). See more of Leeann's work at [productsof47.com](http://productsof47.com) and [productsof47.etsy.com](http://productsof47.etsy.com).



Style your stash

# Buckle up!

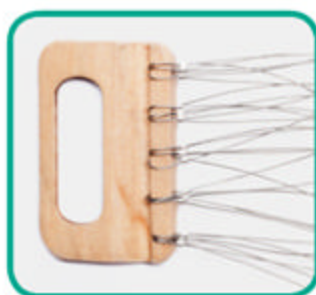
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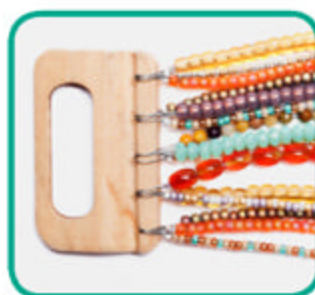
String a budget-friendly bracelet with scores of seed beads

by Andria McKee

This pre-drilled clasp was perfect for the loads of Czech glass seed beads scattered on my work table. I mixed sizes and shapes of beads to add texture and interest, plus a few contrasting colors for visual pop. String two strands of each bead type if you have enough.



**1** bracelet • Cut 15 12–13-in. (30–33 cm) pieces of beading wire. On one end of each wire, string a microcrimp bead. With groups of three wires, go through a hole in half of a clasp. Go back through the crimp beads and tighten the wires. Make a flattened crimp (see Basics, p. 72) on each wire.



**2** On each wire, string 6–7 in. (15–18 cm) of beads as desired. (Note: On most strands, I strung one size of bead per strand, but you can mix it up if you like.)



**3** On each end of each wire, string a microcrimp bead and the corresponding hole of the other half of the clasp. Check the fit (see “Clasp note,” p. 61), and add or remove beads if necessary. Go back through the beads just strung and tighten the wire. Crimp the microcrimp bead and trim the excess wire.

## Clasp note

This bracelet needs to be a bit longer than usual in order to accommodate fastening the clasp. Make sure you check the fit before crimping in step 3.

## What you'll need

### light bracelet 8-9 in. (20-23 cm)

- ◆ 28-34 6 mm oval beads
- ◆ 70-80 4 mm rondelles
- ◆ 63-73 3 mm rounds
- ◆ 11-12 g 6° seed beads, assorted colors (about 4 g per strand)
- ◆ 6-8 g 8° seed beads, assorted colors (about 2-3 g per strand)
- ◆ 4-5 g 11° seed beads, assorted colors (about 1 g per strand)
- ◆ 2 g 13° charlottes or 15° seed beads (about 1 g per strand)
- ◆ 30 microcrimp beads
- ◆ five-strand wood clasp, about 45 mm

### dark bracelet 8-9 in. (20-23 cm)

- ◆ 4 8-in. (20 cm) strands of 3-4 mm beads, assorted colors
- ◆ 10-12 g 8° seed beads, assorted colors (about 2-3 g per strand)
- ◆ 6-7 g 11° seed beads, assorted colors (about 1 g per strand)
- ◆ 30 microcrimp beads
- ◆ five-strand wood clasp, about 45 mm

### both bracelets

- ◆ flexible beading wire, .014 or .015
- ◆ chainnose pliers
- ◆ diagonal wire cutters

Supplies available from Beads and Babble, beadsandbabble.etsy.com. Check your local bead store for supplies. To find the nearest store, visit beadshopfinder.com.

### Andria McKee

Andria loves working with gemstone beads, metal, leather, and cording. Contact her at andria@mckeejewelrydesigns.com or visit mckeejewelrydesigns.com.



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## Strategic budget cuts

Maximize your profit potential by controlling costs ♦ by Lorelei Eurto

Keeping your jewelry business budget friendly doesn't have to mean sacrificing your designs by using cheap supplies. You can follow your heart and still create jewelry that is easy on the wallet — for both you and your customer. Supplies, production, promotion, and partnerships are all areas you can manage to keep your costs in line.

### Supply savvy

How many of us have shelves filled with beads, findings, and supplies that we haven't used in three years?

Spending on supplies is an area over which you have direct control. (I know, I know, the bead part is hard.)

While I do recommend purchasing items in bulk to get the best price, holding too much inventory drains your bottom line. When purchasing, be ruthless! If you're not going to use it in the next three to six months,

just say no. Go through your stash, donate languishing supplies, and use them as a tax write-off against your business.

Another cost-control option: repurposing items. Disassemble vintage jewelry and use those components (see "Goodwill hunting," p. 66). Or create jewelry using unconventional items you already have, such as vintage keys and old tins.

Save cash when packaging your jewelry by reusing gift boxes, or create

your own using inexpensive materials such as scrapbook paper. Always reuse bubble mailers, bubble wrap, and tissue paper as well.

**TIP** Keep shipping costs in line by getting a small scale. Weighing your packages will ensure you don't overpay for shipping fees.

What if you regularly work with expensive materials? Sterling silver artist Elisa Gomez of Committed Jewelry ([committedjewelry.etsy.com](http://committedjewelry.etsy.com)) manages her silver costs by recycling silver as much as she can. She says, "I think it's great that someone's new wedding ring used to be a knife or spoon in a fancy hotel 50+ years ago." (It also makes for a great story when gift giving!) She melts the silver at home in a crucible and then uses a rolling mill to make either sheet or wire in different gauges. "I also buy fine silver coins, add some copper, and make sterling silver the same way. I'm able to pass the savings on to my customers,

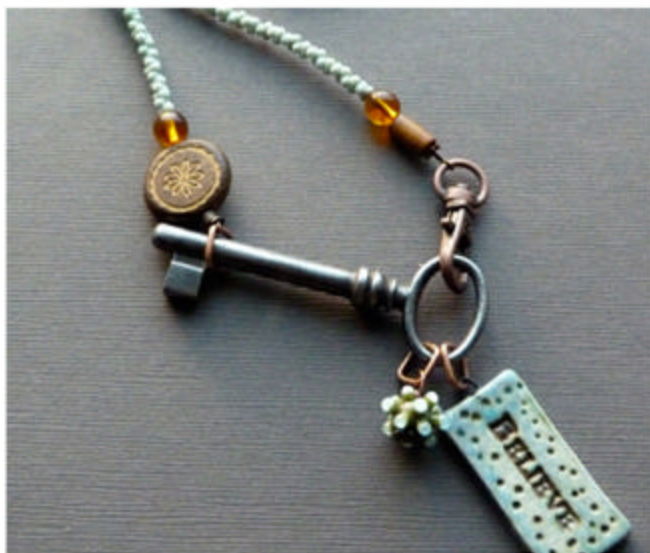
and they get a custom piece that won't break the bank," Elisa adds.

### Deliberate design

How do you choose between designing for high volume or creating one-of-a-kind (OOAK) pieces, and what will that mean for your business?

Volume designing makes it much easier to benefit from economies of scale. First, take advantage of bulk pricing; using multiples of the same component helps lower your costs. Making many copies of the same design is a great way to save time (once you've made a piece, it's much faster the second, third, or fourth time around). Also, minimizing the number of different components in your inventory will help streamline organization and storage.

Though volume sales may help pay the bills, creating one-of-a-kind items may provide you with more personal satisfaction, boost your creativity, and offer customers the cachet of purchasing an exclusive



design. You won't save time on the construction of an OOAQ item, but you could potentially gain more profit from each individual sale.

Using one-of-a-kind components will definitely bump up the price. Try to keep these to a minimum, using just one or two in a piece of jewelry. Focus on using less expensive beads for the rest of your design. This way you can still showcase quality pieces and maximize your profit while keeping the price affordable for the customer.

**TIP** I've created a piece thinking it would be OOAQ, but then found I had enough beads in my inventory to recreate it several times. If you find customer interest in an OOAQ piece is high, consider how you could alter it slightly to turn it into a high-volume seller.

Jewelry designer and silversmith Michelle Fernandez of MeSheDesigns LLC ([meshedesigntllc.etsy.com](http://meshedesigntllc.etsy.com)) models her successful business on the made-to-order concept. "I build a prototype, photograph it, and list it in my Etsy store. Buyers can choose their sizing, and I don't have to commit to building stock on a new design since all orders are made to order." She adds, "This also shows me what are best sellers or flops, and if wax carvings are needed for production work."

Michelle's approach also includes OOAQ work: "I design pieces that showcase my creativity and offer customers limited-edition collectables. The balance

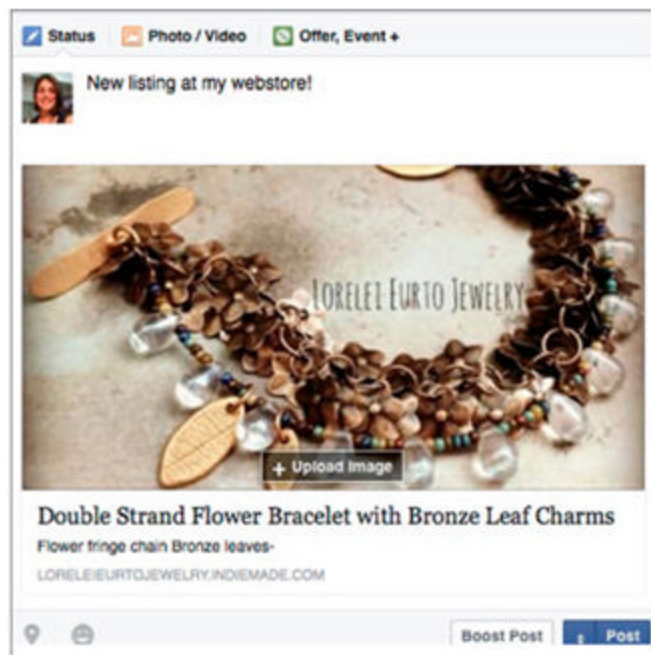
results in sales from two different buyers."

**TIP** Michelle suggests having jewelry giveaways using your Instagram account. Choose a popular item, pair it with a fantastic photograph, and ask viewers to share the post, tagging your business name. This allows a large audience to see the product, and you'll gain new followers and potential customers. Be sure to interact with participants throughout the contest, which will help form relationships and build rapport with potential customers.

## Profitable promotion

Social media is probably the most affordable way to advertise your handmade jewelry. You do not have to spend outrageous amounts to advertise within Etsy's software or on Facebook. Try these tactics:

- Showcase new designs by posting your finished work on your personal Facebook page as well as your business page. (If you're serious about selling your jewelry but haven't created a Facebook business page, do it now!) Send invitations to your Facebook friends asking them to like your business page — it's a proven way to amp up traffic. (Facebook is continually changing their rules about "promotional" posts. Be sure to review their current guidelines.)
- Sign up for Instagram and Tumblr accounts and post your new pieces there, including a link to your website on your profile page.



- Join Etsy teams and participate in forum discussions to share new listings there.
- Generate interest by starting a blog and sharing who you are as an artist.

As long as you stay consistent with your postings without overdoing it in any one social media outlet, this is an effective way to promote your work.

**TIP** Make sure your best friends are always outfitted with your jewelry and contact info. When people inquire about their jewelry, they can hand out your business card.

## Cost-effective collaboration

Developing strategic partnerships that allow you to cross promote is a great way to get your name out there. Try teaming up with other local designers who don't compete directly with you but are marketing their work to the same demographic. For

example, I put together a group of Etsy sellers, and we cross promoted during the holiday season by including business cards with coupon codes for each seller with all orders.

Go a step further and host an open-house sale with your selling partners. Each of you could invite your own family, friends, and customers, which exposes you to a new audience and could result in new sales for everyone. (And it's always easier planning a party with a few friends helping out.)

Keep the costs of participating in art and craft shows down by sharing a booth with a fellow non-competing designer. You can help each other set up, watch the booth during breaks, and avoid the cost of hiring help.

Partnering with other sellers to promote your jewelry not only saves you money but can also introduce you to potential customers that might not find you on their own. \*

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Affordable  
shell beads  
amp up  
an easy  
necklace

by Cathy  
Frangie-Hatch



# Sassy shells

Frustrated at not being able to find the chunky, bold designs I wanted, I started making my own jewelry 10 years ago. The ocean near my home in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, inspired me; I pictured the turquoise shells as swirling waves and the golden beads as sunlight on the sand. The necklace is perfect for resort wear — summer just can't come fast enough!



## What you'll need

### necklace 17 in. (43 cm)

- ◆ 36–40 35 mm shell teardrop beads, top drilled
- ◆ 66–72 10 mm shell nuggets
- ◆ 12–16 8° seed beads
- ◆ flexible beading wire, .018 or .019
- ◆ 4 2 mm crimp beads
- ◆ two-strand toggle clasp
- ◆ chainnose or crimping pliers
- ◆ diagonal wire cutters

Beads available from Fire Mountain Gems and Beads, 800.355.2137, [firemountaingems.com](http://firemountaingems.com). Check your local bead store for supplies. To find the nearest store, visit [beadshopfinder.com](http://beadshopfinder.com).

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Watch these handy videos:  
flattened crimp or  
folded crimp



### Cathy Frangie-Hatch

*Cathy has worked in the publishing industry for more than 30 years and is a part-time adjunct communications professor at a local college. Making her own jewelry soon became an obsession, and her favorite material to work with is natural gemstones. Contact Cathy at [boldbykattour@aol.com](mailto:boldbykattour@aol.com) or visit [boldbykattour.com](http://boldbykattour.com).*





**1 necklace** • For the inner strand:  
Cut a 23–25-in. (58–64 cm) piece of beading wire. String a teardrop and a nugget. Repeat the pattern, stringing 16 teardrop beads and 15 nuggets total. (String two nuggets in between if teardrops overlap too much.)



**2** On each end of the wire, string seven to nine nuggets and two 8's.



**3** For the outer strand: Repeat step 1 on a 25–27-in. (64–69 cm) piece of wire, stringing 20 teardrops and 19 nuggets. Repeat step 2.



**4** On each end of each wire, string a crimp bead, an 8°, a crimp bead, and the corresponding loop of half of a toggle clasp. Check the fit and add or remove beads if necessary. Go back through the beads just strung and tighten the wire. Curve the necklace as it would be worn and crimp the crimp beads (see Basics, p. 72). Trim the excess wire. \*

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with thrift store finds

by Dana Meredith

upcycling  
beads

# Vintage revamp



## The challenge

Upcycle thrift store jewelry into fresh, fashionable designs

## The catch

Use only the materials purchased (plus a few findings)

## The result

2 necklaces, 2 bracelets, and 3 pairs of earrings

## The cost

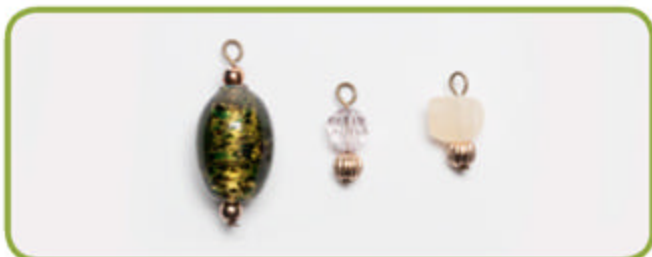
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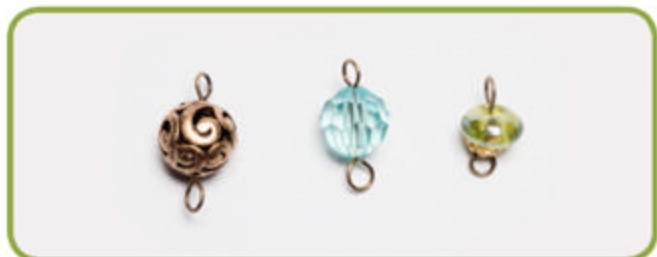
**1** **necklace** • Cut a 16–17-in. (41–43 cm) piece of 15 mm link chain with an odd number of links. Cut a 17–18-in. (43–46 cm) piece of 7 mm link chain. Cut two 3-in. (7.6 cm) pieces of scrap wire. Attach one wire through an end link of both chains. Weave the 7 mm chain through each 15 mm chain link. Attach the second scrap wire through the remaining end links.



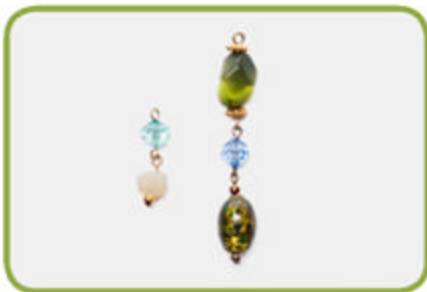
**2** Lay out your beads on a work surface in the desired design, arranging one to three beads per bead unit. (You'll connect the bead units with head pins and eye pins.) Snap a photo for reference.



**3** To make a bead unit: On a head pin, string one to three beads as laid out in your design. Make a plain loop (see Basics, p. 72). Make the total number of bead units required by your design.



**4** To make a bead connector: On an eye pin, string one to three beads as laid out in your design. Make a plain loop. Make the total number of bead connectors required by your design.



**5** To make a dangle: Open the loop of a bead unit (Basics) and attach a connector. Close the loop. For a three-bead dangle, attach a second connector. Make the total number of dangles required by your design.



**6** On the center link of 15 mm chain, attach the center dangle.

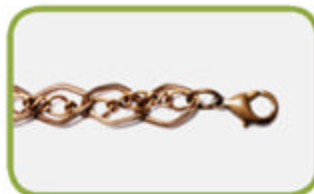
## Thrift smart

Remember these tips when searching for jewelry to repurpose:

- Look for pieces with interesting chain, clasps, or bead spacers. I hit the jackpot with a long mixed chain necklace. I simply removed all the beads and wove the chains together to make the base of a new design.
- It pays to purchase a strand with multicolored beads so you have numerous options for pops of color where you need them.



**7** Attach the remaining dangles on each side of the center dangle, referring to your photo if necessary.



**8** On one side, open a jump ring (Basics) and attach an end link of each chain and a lobster claw clasp. Close the jump ring. Remove the piece of scrap wire.



**9** On the other side, use a jump ring to attach an end link of each chain and a 2-in. (5 cm) chain extender. Remove the scrap wire. Attach a charm to the end link.

**bracelet** • Cut a 5-in. (13 cm) piece of wire. On one end, make a wrapped loop (see Basics, p. 72). String an 18–20 mm oval bead. Make a wrapped loop. Make a second connector.

Follow step 3 of the necklace to make 25 to 30 bead units. Attach one to four bead units to each link of chain.



**4** Open a jump ring and attach a lobster claw clasp and an end link of chain. Close the jump ring. On the other end, attach the end link of a 1-in. (2.5 cm) chain extender.

**2** Cut three three-link pieces of 15 mm link chain. Open an end link as you would a jump ring (Basics) and attach the loop of a connector. Close the link. Attach another chain to the remaining loop. Repeat with the remaining connector and chain.

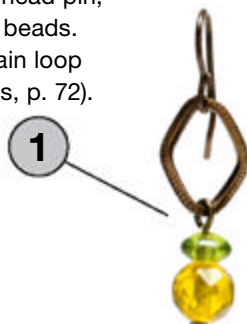
**5** On a head pin, string a bead. Make the first half of a wrapped loop. Attach the end link of chain and complete the wraps.



I combined beads from several pieces to make earrings and a simple wired necklace with an ombré feel for a casual weekend look.



**earrings** • For each earring, make a bead unit: On a head pin, string two beads. Make a plain loop (see Basics, p. 72).



Open a chain link as you would a jump ring (Basics). Attach the bead unit and the loop of an earring wire. Close the link. \*



The original pieces were a layered necklace (too flashy for work!) and a simple cat's-eye bracelet. By tripling the necklace's chain and clustering the beads to make a bracelet and earrings, I have sparkly pieces that are still work-friendly.

## What you'll need

### necklace 17–19 in. (43–48 cm)

- ◆ 6–8 18–20 mm assorted oval beads
- ◆ 10–14 7–8 mm assorted round beads
- ◆ 4–6 6–7 mm assorted beads
- ◆ 6 mm charm
- ◆ 20–24 3 mm assorted spacers
- ◆ 6 in. (15 cm) scrap wire
- ◆ 16–17 in. (41–43 cm) curb chain, 15 mm links
- ◆ 17–18 in. (43–46 cm) figure-8 chain, 7 mm links
- ◆ 17–21 1½-in. (3.8 cm) head pins
- ◆ 20–28 1½-in. (3.8 cm) eye pins
- ◆ 2 5 mm jump rings
- ◆ lobster claw clasp
- ◆ 2-in. (5 cm) chain for extender, 7 mm links
- ◆ chainnose and roundnose pliers
- ◆ diagonal wire cutters
- ◆ camera or smartphone

### bracelet 7–8 in. (18–20 cm)

- ◆ 2 18–20 mm oval beads
- ◆ 5–7 10–12 mm assorted round beads

- ◆ 11–14 7–8 mm assorted round beads
- ◆ 8–13 6–7 mm assorted beads
- ◆ 10 in. (25 cm) 22-gauge wire
- ◆ 4½ in. (11.4 cm) chain, 15 mm links
- ◆ 25–31 1½-in. (3.8 cm) head pins
- ◆ 7 mm jump ring
- ◆ lobster claw clasp
- ◆ 1 in. (2.5 cm) chain for extender, 7 mm links
- ◆ chainnose and roundnose pliers
- ◆ diagonal wire cutters

### earrings

- ◆ 2 7–8 mm round beads
- ◆ 2 6–7 mm rondelles
- ◆ 2 15 mm chain links
- ◆ 2 1½-in. (3.8 cm) head pins
- ◆ pair of earring wires
- ◆ chainnose and roundnose pliers
- ◆ diagonal wire cutters

Check your local thrift store or bead store for supplies. To find the nearest bead store, visit [beadshopfinder.com](http://beadshopfinder.com).

Share your vintage re-creations with Dana at [dmeredith@beadstylemag.com](mailto:dmeredith@beadstylemag.com).

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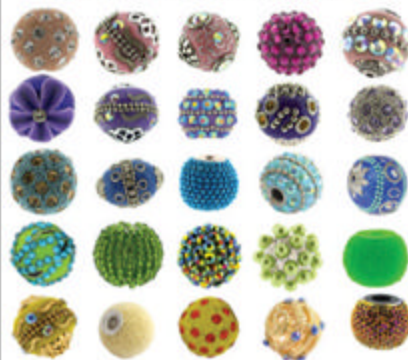
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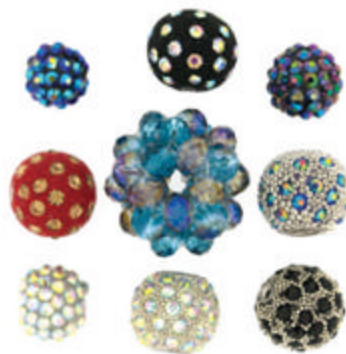
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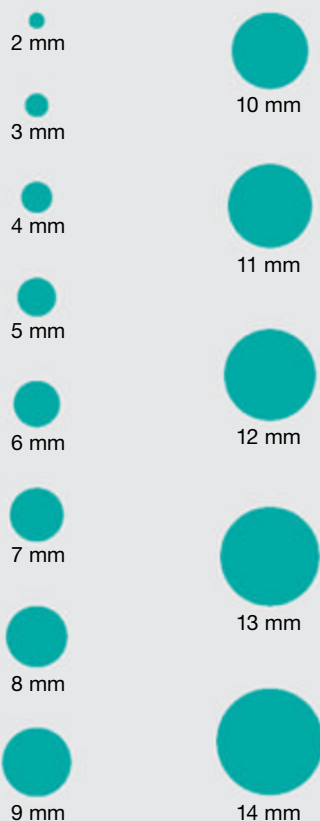
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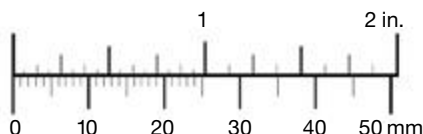
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### Bead diameter chart



### Measurement converter



cm x 0.39 = inch

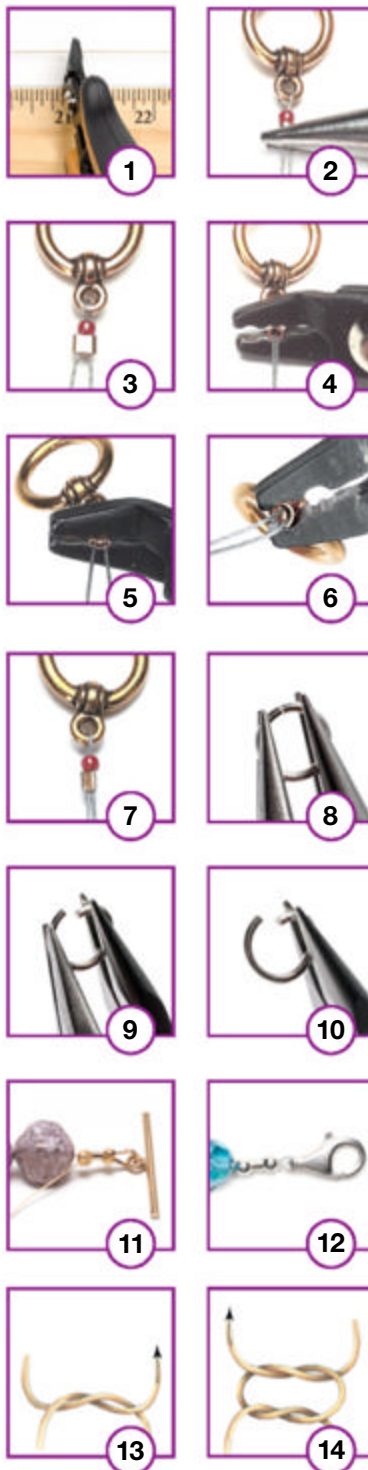
inch x 2.54 = cm

1 inch = 25.4 mm

### Necklace lengths

|                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| <b>Choker</b>   | 16 in. (41 cm)         |
| <b>Princess</b> | 18 in. (46 cm)         |
| <b>Matinee</b>  | 20–24 in. (51–61 cm)   |
| <b>Opera</b>    | 28–32 in. (71–81 cm)   |
| <b>Rope</b>     | 40 in. (1 m) or more   |
| <b>Lariat</b>   | 48 in. (1.2 m) or more |

A step-by-step reference to key jewelry-making techniques used in bead-stringing projects



### Cutting flexible beading wire

**1** Decide how long you want your necklace or bracelet to be. Add 6 in. (15 cm) and cut a piece of beading wire to that length.

### Flattened crimp

**2** Hold the crimp bead with the tip of your chainnose pliers. Separate the wires and squeeze the pliers firmly to flatten the crimp bead. Tug the clasp to make sure the crimp has a solid grip on the wire. If the wire slides, remove the crimp bead and repeat with a new crimp bead.

**3** The flattened crimp.

### Folded crimp

**4** Position the crimp bead in the notch closest to the crimping pliers' handle.

**5** Separate the wires and firmly squeeze the crimp bead.

**6** Move the crimp bead into the notch at the pliers' tip. Squeeze the pliers, folding the bead in half at the indentation.

**7** The folded crimp.

### Opening a jump ring or loop

**8** Hold the jump ring or loop with two pairs of chainnose or bentnose pliers.

**9** To open the jump ring or loop, bring one pair of pliers toward you.

**10** The open jump ring. Reverse the steps to close.

### Attaching a clasp

**11** For a two-piece clasp, on each end, string: spacer, crimp bead, spacer, Wire Guardian (optional), half of a clasp.

Check the fit, and add or remove beads if necessary. Go back through the beads just strung and tighten the wire. Crimp the crimp bead and trim the excess wire.

**12** Or, follow step 11 to attach a lobster claw clasp on one end and a soldered jump ring or chain extender on the other.

### Square knot

**13** Cross the left end over and under the right end.

**14** Cross the right end over and under the left end. Pull both ends to tighten the knot.

*Continued on page 74*

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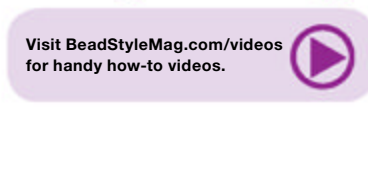
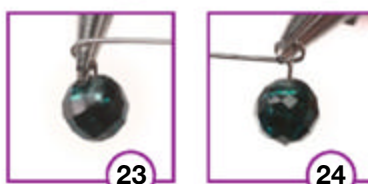
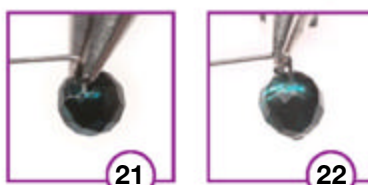
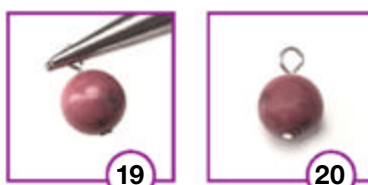
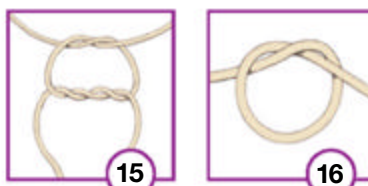
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## basics.reference



### Surgeon's knot

**15** Cross the right end over the left and go through the loop. Go through again. Cross the left end over the right and go through. Pull the ends to tighten the knot.

### Overhand knot

**16** Make a loop and pass the working end through it. Pull the ends to tighten the knot.

### Plain loop

**17** Trim the wire  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. (1 cm) above the bead. Make a right-angle bend close to the bead.

**18** Grasp the wire's tip with roundnose pliers. Roll the wire to form a half circle.

**19** Reposition the pliers in the loop and continue rolling, forming a centered circle above the bead.

**20** The finished loop.

### Wrapped loop

**21** Make sure there is at least  $1\frac{1}{4}$  in. (3.2 cm) of wire above the bead. With the tip of your chainnose pliers, grasp the wire directly above the bead. Bend the wire (above the pliers) into a right angle.

**22** Position the jaws of your roundnose pliers vertically in the bend.

**23** Bring the wire over the pliers' top jaw.

**24** Reposition the pliers' lower jaw snugly in the curved wire. Wrap the wire down and around the bottom of the pliers. This is the first half of a wrapped loop.

**25** Grasp the loop with chainnose pliers.

**26** Wrap the wire tail around the wire stem, covering the stem between the loop and the bead. Trim the excess wrapping wire, and press the end close to the stem with chainnose or crimping pliers.

### Making a set of wraps above a top-drilled bead

**27** Center a top-drilled bead on a 3-in. (7.6 cm) piece of wire. Bend each end upward, crossing the wires into an X.

**28** Using chainnose pliers, make a small bend in each wire to form a right angle.

**29** Wrap the horizontal wire around the vertical wire as in a wrapped loop. Trim the excess wrapping wire.

### Split ring

**30** Proper position of split-ring pliers. \*

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Rising star

# Springtime gems

by Carolyn Comtois



An artful mix of gemstones reflects a pretty pastel palette



Carolyn Comtois crafts gemstone jewelry that's a lot like candy: sweet and irresistible. While she says bold, vibrant colors are her favorite to play with, we were taken with Carolyn's talent for combining pastels and mixing a myriad of gems in one lovely design. — *Kelsey Lawler*

Contact Carolyn via [capgems2.etsy.com](http://capgems2.etsy.com).



## About me

I was born and raised in the Philippines and moved to the United States when I finished my education. I've been married to my husband for almost 25 years and became a stay-at-home mom when my daughter was born.

## My jewelry-making start

Around the time I got married, I worked as a merchandising assistant for a New York fashion showroom. I gained knowledge of the raw materials used to make garments and accessories. A few years after I "retired," my sister gave me a bunch of gorgeous freshwater pearls — nice to look at, but I had no clue what to do with them. The Web was just starting to catch fire; there was no YouTube then. I had to scour the Internet for information, instructions, and methods for stringing beads. The result: Another beadaholic was born.

## My inspiration

I love the sounds and colors of nature and all it has to offer. I find beauty in the bark of an old tree, the different shades of green in an oak's leaves, the vibrant hues of flowers in spring, and the iridescent shine of a dragonfly.

I'm also a big fan of vintage designers and how they incorporate nature into their work. The colors, designs (from abstract to whimsical), and materials inspire me to

create jewelry pieces that are vintage inspired with a contemporary twist.

## The draw of gemstones

I kept in touch with my friends in the fashion industry, and they introduced me to the wonderful world of raw materials and gemstone showrooms in New York City's Diamond District. The gemstones' color and bling drew me in — I was hooked. I also believe in the power of untreated gemstones to heal and attract good fortune.

## Creating a pastel palette

When it comes to pastel gems for spring stringing, here are some of my favorites: opal, pink and green amethyst, rose and rutilated quartz, prehnite, aqua chalcedony, baby blue topaz, light citrine, turquoise, rainbow and peach moonstone, and Afghan tourmaline. To keep costs down, mix in freshwater pearls and Czech crystals. Also, some raw gemstones or smooth stones with an inner glow (like agate, jasper, and rock crystal) are more affordable.

## Tips for beginners

Do research on trends. Choose a technique that you enjoy. And most important of all, design every piece of your jewelry like it was meant for you. If you love it, then others will love it, too. \*

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**Take the survey here.**

Thanks so much for your input!

Warmest regards,



Naomi Fujimoto  
Editor, *Bead Style*

Please complete this survey by March 15, 2015.



