Wire Jewelry–Making Basics

5 Wire Jewelry Projects Using 4 Easy Techniques

CLICK HERE

Make wire-wrapped loops

Make wire coils

Make wire spirals

Texture wire

From the designers featured on *Beads, Baubles, and Jewels*
THE #1 PUBLIC TELEVISION BEADING AND JEWELRY-MAKING SHOW

Wire Jewelry—Making Basics

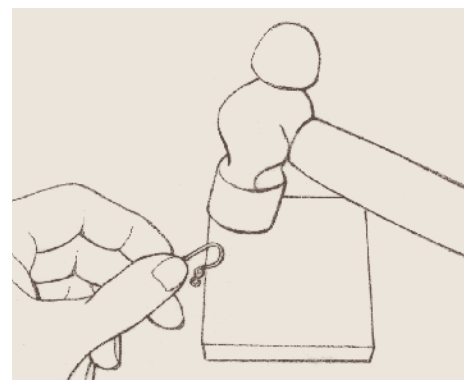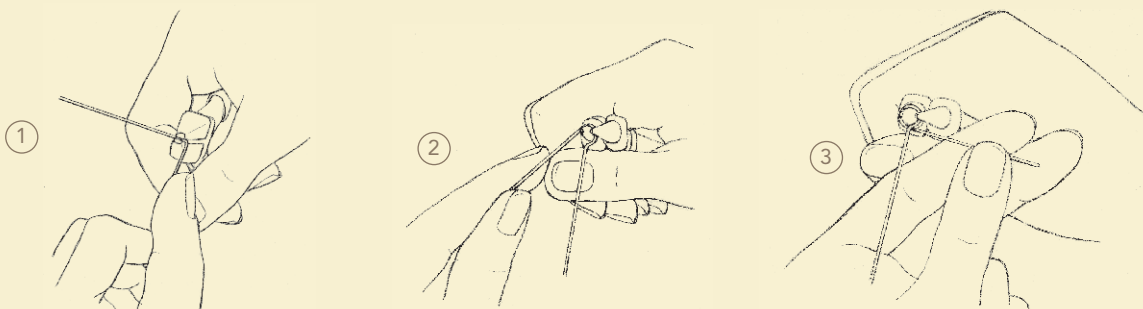## 5 Wire Jewelry Projects Using 4 Easy Techniques

wrapped loops

WRAPPED LOOPS

1. **To form a wrapped loop,** make a 90° bend at least 2" from the end of the wire.

2, 3. **Holding the wire** so that the bent piece is pointing toward you, grasp the wire after the bend with round-nose pliers and form a simple loop with a tail that overlaps the bend.

4. **Hold the loop** with flat- or chain-nose pliers and use another pair of pliers or your fingers to wrap the tail tightly down the neck of the wire to create a couple of coils.

5. **Trim the wire** as closely to the neck of the wire as possible.

6. **Use flat- or chain-nose pliers** or the front notch of crimping pliers to softly press the remaining wire tail against the neck of the wire.
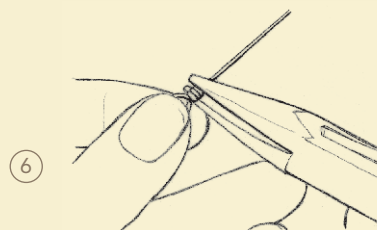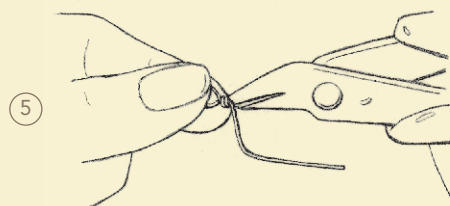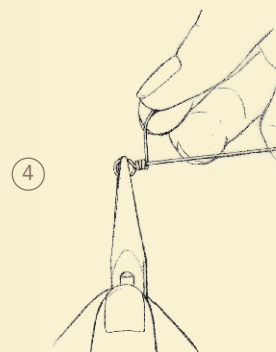
DOUBLE WRAPPED LOOPS

To make a double wrapped loop, simply create a wrapped loop as usual, then use the tail wire to coil back up over the first coils, toward the loop; trim.
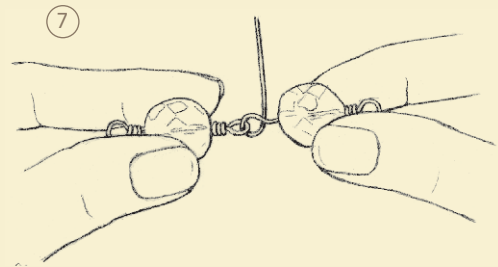
WRAPPED-LOOP LINKS

7. **To make a wrapped-loop link,** form a wrapped loop on each end of a bead. Repeat with another bead, attaching one of the loops to a loop of the first link before coiling the tail down the neck of the wire.
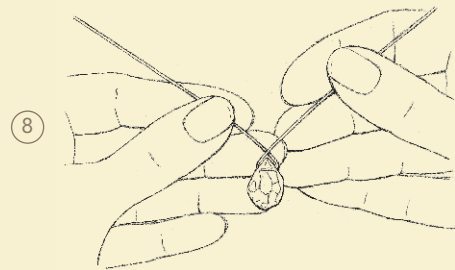
WRAPPED-LOOP BAILS

8. **Center the bead** on a 3" or longer piece of wire. Bend both ends of the wire up the sides of the bead.

9, 10. **Bend one end straight up** at the center of the bead and the other horizontally, so that it is perpendicular to the first wire. Wrap the horizontal wire around the straight-up wire to form a couple of coils.

11, 12. **Form a wrapped loop** with the straight-up wire, wrapping it back down over the already formed coils.
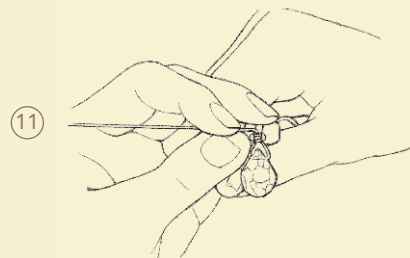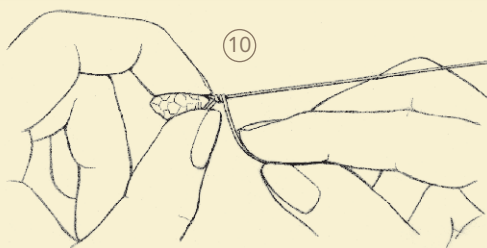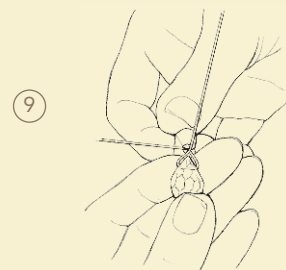
[tips]

• Use round- or flat-nose pliers to squeeze together the coils if you made them too far apart.
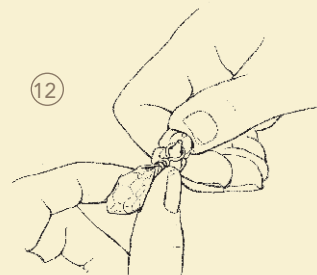
LUCITE BLUES NECKLACE

MELINDA BARTA

Flirty vintage Lucite flowers, classy glass and stone beads, and patinated chain evoke the sentiments of bygone times.

MATERIALS

4 clear/white 3mm fire-polished rounds
24 aqua 3mm fire-polished rounds
7 aquamarine 5×3mm faceted rondelles
3 amazonite 9mm faceted rounds
6 marbled gray 12mm vintage Lucite rounds
14 white matte 15×5mm vintage Lucite flowers
9 white matte 13×7mm vintage Lucite flowers
1 sterling silver 15×25mm 2-strand box clasp with aqua flower inlay
10 gunmetal 2" head pins
4 gunmetal 5mm jump rings
18" of sterling silver 24-gauge half-hard wire
7½" of silver 6×11mm textured oval chain
8" of silver 4–5×4–6mm textured long-and-short chain

TOOLS

Wire cutters
Chain-nose pliers
Round-nose pliers

FINISHED SIZE: 18½"

Strand

1: Cut the oval chain into six 1" pieces and one 1½" piece. Cut the long-and-short chain into six 1" pieces and one 2" piece.

2: Use 1 jump ring to attach 1 piece of 1" oval chain to one loop of one half of the clasp. Repeat using 1 piece of 1" long-and-short chain and the other loop of the same half of the clasp.

3: Use 3" of wire to form a wrapped loop that attaches to the free ends of both chains from the previous step; string 1 aqua round, one 15×5mm flower, 1 gray round, one 15×5mm flower, and 1 aqua round. Form a wrapped loop that attaches to the end of 1 piece of 1" oval chain and 1 piece of 1" long-and-short chain.

4: Repeat Step 3.

5: Repeat Step 3 using the 1½" piece of oval chain and the 2" piece of long-and-short chain.

6: Repeat Step 3 three times.

7: Repeat Step 2 to attach the free ends of the last chains used to the clasp.

Dangles

8: Use a head pin to string the following bead sequences, then form a simple loop:

Dangle A: one 13x7mm flower. Repeat.

Dangle B: one 13x7mm flower and 1 aqua round. Repeat.

Dangle C: one 13x7mm flower, 1 aquamarine rondelle, and 1 aqua round.

Dangle D: 1 amazonite round, one 13x7mm flower, and 1 aqua round.

Dangle E: one 13x7mm flower, 1 aquamarine rondelle, 1 clear/white round, and 1 aqua round.

Dangle F: 1 amazonite round, one 15×5mm flower, 1 aquamarine rondelle, and 1 aqua round.

Dangle G: 1 amazonite round, one 15×5mm flower, one 13x7mm flower, 1 aquamarine rondelle, 1 clear/white round, and 1 aqua round.

Dangle H: 1 aqua round, 1 aquamarine rondelle, one 13x7mm flower, 1 aqua round, 1 aquamarine rondelle, 1 aqua round, 1 clear/white round, 1 aqua round, 1 aquamarine rondelle, 1 aqua round, and 1 clear/white round.

9: Attach dangles to the 2" piece of long-and-short chain in the center of the necklace by opening and closing the simple loops as you would jump rings and placing the longest dangles at the center and the shortest at the ends of the chain.

TECHNIQUE:
coils

1. **To make a coil,** use one hand to hold the end of your wire against a mandrel (or whatever object you want to coil around). With the other hand, wrap the wire around the mandrel.
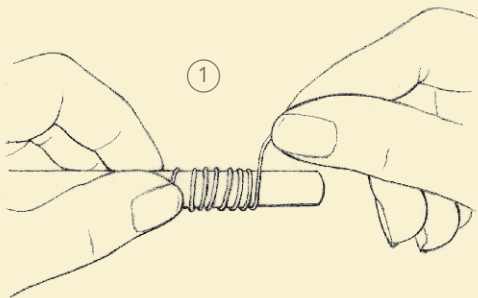
2. **To remove the coil,** slide it off the mandrel. Add a simple loop on either end to use the coil as is or cut the coil to make jump rings or split rings.
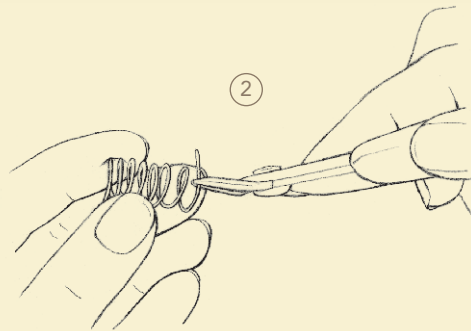
[tips]

COILING GIZMO

For fast, easy coils, use a Coiling Gizmo, a tool with which you make coils on a coiling rod by turning a hand crank. (If using this tool, see the manufacturer's manual for detailed instructions.)

FLOWER BOUQUET NECKLACE

DERYA AKSOY

Derya turns beaded head pins into a cute bouquet pendant that's easy to make and fun to wear.

MATERIALS
11 light Siam AB 4mm crystal bicones
1 brass 5×7mm lobster clasp
13 brass 1½" 22-gauge head pins
1 brass 1½" 22-gauge eye pin
1 brass 5mm jump ring
1 brass 6mm jump ring
16½" of brass 2mm chain

TOOLS
Round-nose pliers
Flat-nose pliers

FINISHED SIZE: 17"

Flowers
1: Use a head pin to string 1 crystal. Use flat-nose pliers to fold the last ⅛" of the head pin onto itself. Repeat ten times for a total of 11 flowers.

Bouquet
2: Hold the flowers together in a bunch, pushing the crystals to the head ends of the pins and staggering the "stems" to give the bouquet a more natural look. Use flat-nose pliers to coil a head pin around the middle of the bouquet; repeat with another head pin. Hold the eye pin behind the center coils of the bouquet with the eye end about ¼" above the coils; use flat-nose pliers to coil the other end of the eye pin around the head-pin coils. Gently curve the flower ends of the head pins with your fingers to open up the bouquet.

Necklace
3: Attach the eye pin to the center link of the chain as you would a jump ring. Use the 5mm jump ring to attach the lobster clasp to one end of the chain. Attach the 6mm jump ring to the other end of the chain.

RESOURCES: Check your local bead shop or contact: Crystals and similar brass findings: Fusionbeads.com, (888) 781-3559.

TECHNIQUE:
spirals

OXIDIZING

1. **To start a spiral** (or scroll), make a small loop at the end of a wire with round-nose pliers.

2. **Enlarge the piece** by holding onto the spiral with chain-nose pliers and pushing the wire over the previous spiral with your fingers for as many revolutions as desired.

3. **If desired, bend the tail wire 90°** at the top of the spiral. Use as a head pin or form a simple loop to attach to other items.

S-SHAPED DOUBLE SPIRALS

4. **To create double spirals** in the form of an S, scroll one to the center of the wire.

5. **Repeat on the other end** of the wire, spiraling the wire in the opposite direction.
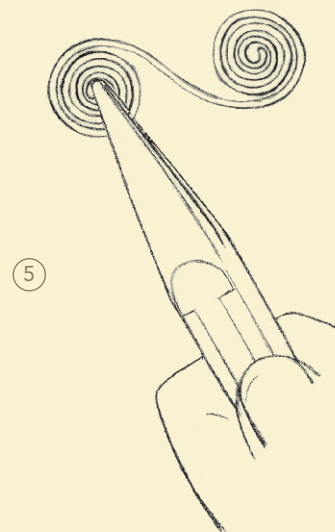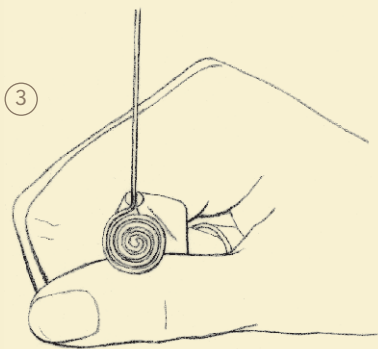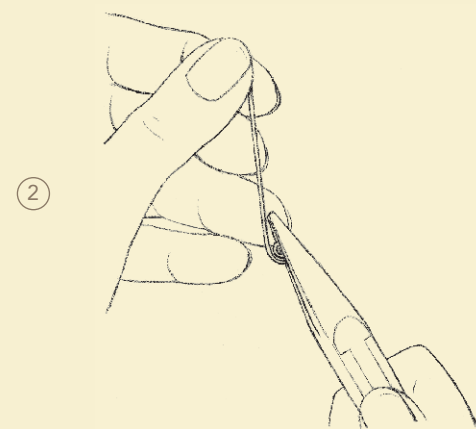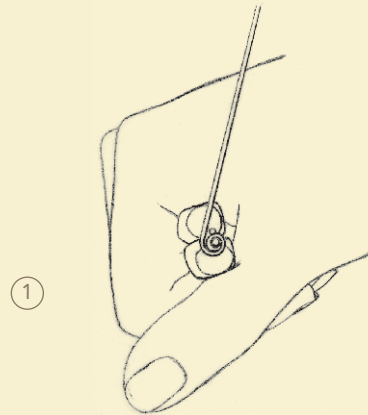
ROSE GLOW NECKLACE

JAMIE HOGSETT

Spiral drops dress up foil-lined coins in this chunky wrapped-loop necklace.

MATERIALS
1 g eggplant matte size 11° seed beads
5 purple 18mm faceted glass rounds
4 purple foil-lined 28mm glass coins
2 sterling silver 6×16mm cones
1 sterling silver 12mm toggle clasp
6 sterling silver 2mm crimp tubes
24" of .019 beading wire
45" of silver 22-gauge wire

TOOLS
Wire cutters
Flat-nose pliers
Round-nose pliers
Crimping pliers

FINISHED SIZE: 19½"

1: Use 3" of silver wire to form a double-wrapped loop; string 1 purple round and form a double-wrapped loop.

2: Use 6" of silver wire to form a wrapped loop that attaches to the previous double-wrapped loop, leaving a 2" tail after wrapping; string 1 coin and form a wrapped loop, leaving another 2" tail. Use the 2" tails to form spirals that rest on top of each side of the coin.

3: Use 3" of silver wire to form a double-wrapped loop that attaches to the previous wrapped loop; string 1 purple round and form a double-wrapped loop.

4: Repeat Steps 2 and 3 three times, attaching the last purple round to the ring half of the clasp before forming a double-wrapped loop.

5: Use 3" of silver wire to form a wrapped loop; repeat.

6: Attach 8" of beading wire to one of the wrapped loops formed in Step 5 using a crimp tube. String 6½" of seed beads, 1 crimp tube, and the other wrapped loop formed in Step 5; pass back through the tube and crimp. Repeat entire step twice.

7: Use one of the wrapped-loop wires to string the wide end of 1 cone and form a double-wrapped loop that attaches to the bar half of the clasp. Repeat, attaching the double-wrapped loop to the first double-wrapped loop formed in Step 1.

RESOURCES: Check your local bead shop or contact: Seed beads: Beyond Beadery, (800) 840-5548, www.beyondbeadery .com. Coins and rounds: Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores, (888) 739-4120, www .joann.com. Cones and clasp: Bead Cache, (970) 224-4322, www.bead-cache.com.

texture

How to:

OXIDIZING

To create the appearance of texture by patinating metal (usually fine or sterling silver) with liver of sulfur in either liquid or chunk form, follow these instructions adapted from Kate McKinnon's "Hot Wire" article in *Beadwork* magazine (June/July 2006).

Clean your metal piece with soap and warm water if it is dirty or oily.

Find four glass, stainless steel, or ceramic bowls. Fill the first with enough liver-of-sulfur solution to cover the piece of metal: Liver of sulfur in liquid form is ready to use, but can be diluted; dissolve the chunk form in water following the manufacturer's instructions. Fill a second bowl with very hot water (which speeds up the patination process) and a third with cold water (which slows down the process). Fill the fourth bowl with cold water mixed with about a tablespoon of baking soda (which acts as a neutralizing agent).

Use stainless steel tweezers or plastic or wood tongs to dip the metal into the liver-of-sulfur solution. Rinse in the hot or cold water. Continue to dip and rinse often to gradually build a patina.

Lightly sand or brush the piece with a brass or wire brush, sandpaper, very fine steel wool, or other abrasive between dips to give more depth to the patina—a textured surface picks up more patina than a smooth surface.

When you are pleased with the color, dip the metal into the cold water with baking soda to stop the reaction, then rinse and dry. Brush, sand, or polish the surface for interesting results. If you don't like the patina, you can easily remove it by sanding or brushing it. If desired, seal your piece with any spray fixative meant for metal; unsealed pieces will age, develop more patina, or become shiny with wear.

HAMMERING

Pounding wire not only creates great texture, but also strengthens metal. To hammer, place your wire on a steel bench block. Use the flat end of a chasing hammer to flatten the wire, then use the ball end of the hammer to add texture.
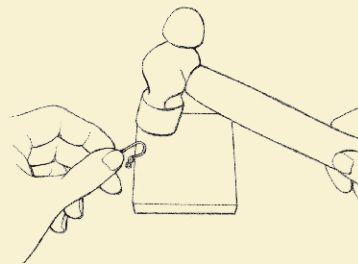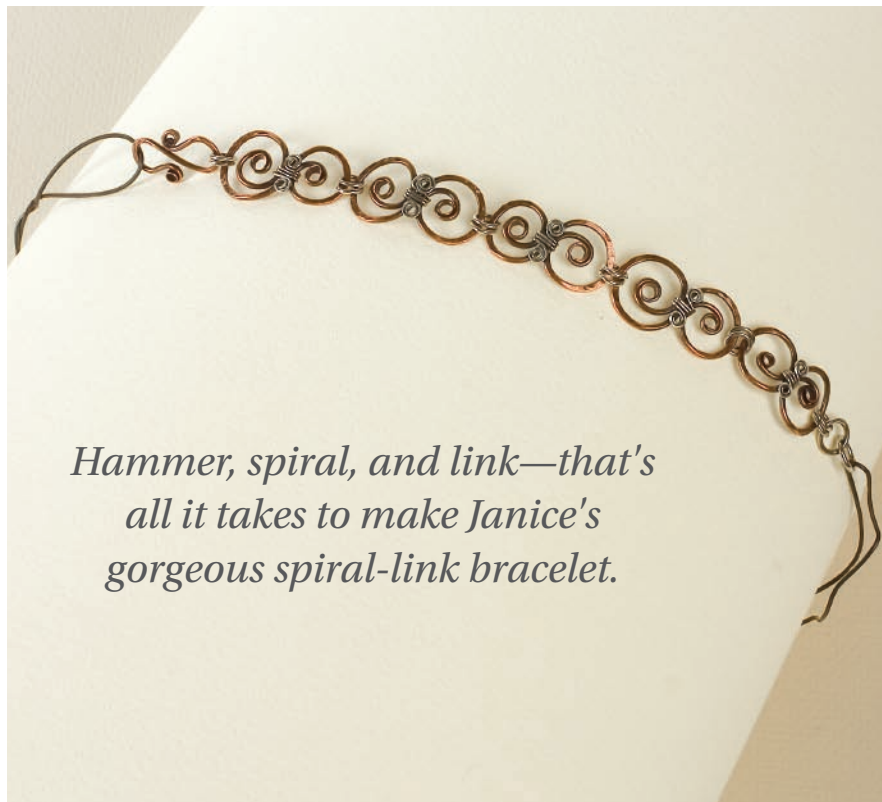

[tips]

WORKING WITH LIVER OF SULFUR

• Take the following precautions when using liver of sulfur: keep it away from acids, wear gloves to avoid contact with the skin, and work in a well-ventilated area since the fumes are toxic.

• Store both liquid and chunk forms of liver of sulfur in tightly sealed light- and air-proof containers.

FILIGREE LINK BRACELET

JANICE BERKEBILE

Hammer, spiral, and link—that's all it takes to make Janice's gorgeous spiral-link bracelet.
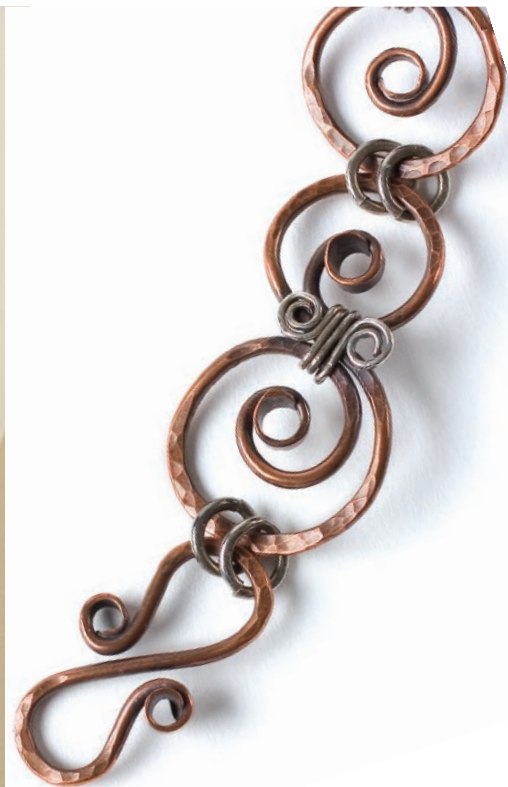
MATERIALS
12 sterling silver 6mm jump rings
2 sterling silver 8mm jump rings
15" of sterling silver 22-gauge wire
28" of copper 16-gauge wire

TOOLS
Flush cutters
Round-nose pliers
Chain-nose pliers
Long round-nose pliers
Chasing hammer
Bench block
Pounding pad

FINISHED SIZE: 7¼"

Filigree links
1: Cut five 5" pieces of copper wire, one 3" piece of copper wire, and five 3" pieces of silver wire.
2: Use the flat end of the hammer to flatten ¼" on both ends of each piece of copper wire, creating a paddle on each end.
3: Use each piece of copper wire to make a loosely wrapped S-shaped double-spiral link. Hammer the outside edges of each link with the flat end of the hammer, then with the ball end.

Coiling
4: Using 1 piece of silver wire and, leaving a ½" tail, form three coils around the center of 1 link. If necessary, use chain-nose pliers to bunch the coils together tightly. Trim each end to ½" and use the ends to form tight spirals that roll toward the center of the link. Repeat entire step with the remaining links. Gently curve each link with your fingers to wrap gently around the wrist.

Clasp
5: Repeat Step 2 with the 3" copper wire. Use round-nose pliers to form a small spiral at each end of the wire, rolling each spiral toward the center, but in opposite directions from each other. Grasp the wire with the widest (back) end of the long round-nose pliers about ¼" from one spiral, with the spiral facing up. Press the wire around the nose of the pliers to form a hook shape. Repeat in the opposite direction at the other end of the wire to form an S. Hammer the rounded ends of the clasp with the flat end of the hammer, then with the ball end.

Bracelet assembly
6: Use two 6mm jump rings to attach one end of 1 link to one end of another link. Repeat three times. Use two 6mm jump rings to attach one of the end links to the clasp. Connect the two 8mm jump rings and use two 6mm jump rings to attach one of them to the other end link.
7: If desired, patinate the bracelet using liver of sulfur.

RESOURCES: Check your local bead shop or contact: Jump rings and wire: Quiltworks Northwest, (425) 453-6005, www.quiltworksnw.com.

RINGS OF SATURN

MARLENE BLESSING

The planetary look of these borosilicate rondelles, coupled with the glass pendant, make this a truly galactic necklace. All it takes is a little stringing, a couple of jump rings, and some twists of wire!

MATERIALS

8 assorted 14×8mm borosilicate (boro) rondelles
1 purple 22mm lampworked glass disc
1 red-and-orange 38mm lampworked glass disc
12 Thai silver 9×6mm spacers
6 Thai silver 6×55mm hammered noodles
1 sterling silver 15mm toggle clasp
2 sterling silver 10mm jump rings
28" of dark red 2mm leather cord
12" of sterling silver 22-gauge half-hard wire
10" of sterling silver 20-gauge half-hard wire

TOOLS

Round-nose pliers
Chain-nose pliers
Wire cutters

FINISHED SIZE: 24" PLUS 1⅞" PENDANT

Pendant

1: Use 5" of 20-gauge wire to form a wrapped loop. Use the other end of the wire to string the 38mm and 22mm discs, then make a 90° bend ¾" from the base of the wrapped loop. Use the end of the wire to form a spiral that rests on top of the 22mm disc.

2: Form a spiral on one end of 5" of 20-gauge wire, then string the two discs, front side first. Press the spiral flat on top of the 22mm disc. Use the other end of the wire at the back of the discs to wrap around the neck of the wrapped-loop wire, then bring the wire to the front of the discs, wrap it around one of the spirals formed previously, and form a small spiral at the end of the wire.

Necklace strand

3: Use the cord to string 1 boro, 1 spacer, 1 noodle, and 1 spacer three times. String 1 boro.

4: String the wrapped loop formed in Step 1.

5: Repeat Step 3, reversing the stringing sequence.

6: Center all the beads on the cord. Fold one of the cord ends in half, then use 6" of 22-gauge wire to make about 17 coils around the cord end to secure the cord loop; repeat with the other cord end.

7: Use 1 jump ring to attach one half of the clasp to one of the cord loops; repeat with the other half of the clasp and cord loop.

RESOURCES: Contact your local bead shop or contact: Borosilicate rondelles and glass discs: Bokamo Designs, (913) 648-4296, www.bokamodesigns.com. Thai silver noodles and spacers: Somerset Silver (wholesale only), (425) 641-3666, www.somerset-silver.com. Jump rings: Via Murano, (877) 842-6872, www.viamurano.com. Leather cord: Leather Cord USA, (877) 700-2673, www.leathercordusa.com.
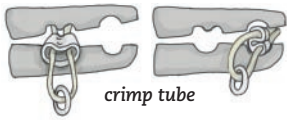
Techniques

To explore stringing further, consult *Getting Started Stringing Beads* and *Stringing Style* (both from Interweave).

flush/wire cutters

Crimping

crimp tube

CRIMP TUBES are seamless metal tubes used to secure the end of a beading wire. To use, string a crimp tube and the connection finding (i.e., the loop of the clasp). Pass back through the tube, leaving a short tail. Use the back notch of the crimping pliers to press the length of the tube down between the wires, enclosing them in separate chambers of the crescent shape. Rotate the tube 90° and use the front notch of the pliers to fold the two chambers onto themselves, forming a clean cylinder. Trim the excess wire.

CRIMP BEADS are serrated metal beads. Twisted crimp tubes and crimp beads can be secured by squeezing them flat with chain- or flat-nose pliers.

CRIMP COVERS hide crimp tubes and give a professional finish. To attach, gently hold a crimp cover in the front notch of the crimping pliers. Insert the crimped tube and gently squeeze the pliers, encasing the tube inside the cover.

placing a crimp cover

CRIMP/CORD ENDS consist of a loop attached to a tube. Dab the leather, plastic, ribbon, or other cord with jewelry glue, then place it in the crimp/cord end. If you're using a crimp end, crimp it as you would a crimp tube.


crimp/cord end

WIREGUARDS provide a smooth metal channel to protect the stringing material from chaffing against a connector. String a crimp tube, then pass up through one half of the guard and down the other half. Pass the guard and wire through the loop of the connector, pass the wire back through the crimp tube, snug the tube up to the guard, then crimp.

wireguard

Wireworking

METAL WIRE comes in many finishes and gauges. The lower the gauge number, the thicker the wire. The hardness or softness of wire is called "temper." Most wire comes in dead-soft, half-hard, and hard tempers. *Unless otherwise noted, wire used in this issue is half-hard*—the best temper for making strong loops and other shapes.
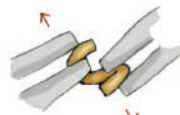

opening a jump ring

JUMP RINGS connect holes and loops. Open a jump ring by grasping each side of its opening with a pair of pliers; don't pull apart. Instead, twist in opposite directions so that you can open and close without distorting the shape.


head pins   *eye pins*

HEAD PINS are straight wires with a flat disc, ball, or other shape at one end. **EYE PINS** are straight wires that end in a loop.
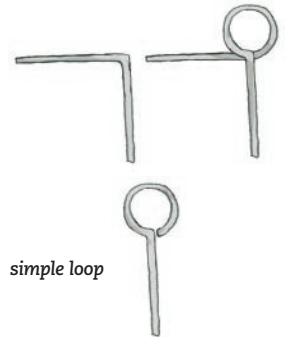
simple loop

To form a **SIMPLE LOOP,** use flat-nose pliers to make a 90° bend at least ½" from the end of the wire. Use round-nose pliers to grasp the wire after the bend; roll the pliers toward the bend, but not past it, to preserve the 90° bend. Use your thumb to continue the wrap around the nose of the pliers. Trim the wire next to the bend. Open a simple loop just as you would a jump ring.
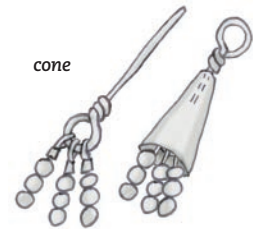
cone

Use **CONES** to finish a multi-strand piece. Attach each strand of beads to a wrapped loop or an eye pin. Use the wrapped-loop wire or eye pin to string the wide end of a cone, covering the ends of the strands; form a wrapped loop at the tip of the cone that attaches to a clasp

For additional technique information, including videos and illustrations, visit beadingdaily.com and click on the "glossary" tab.