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Tools & Materials

Most beaded jewelry projects, including those in this book, require some combination of chainnose, roundnose, and crimping pliers, as well as diagonal wire cutters. These four tools should be your first investment when you begin beading, and should be kept close at hand as you make projects from this book. Other tools, such as the hammer, will be used only with specific projects. Use the tools as directed in the project instructions and Basics section to complete your jewelry.

Chainnose pliers have smooth, flat inner jaws, and the tips taper to a point. Use them for gripping and for opening and closing loops and jump rings.



Roundnose pliers have smooth, tapered, conical jaws used to make loops. The closer to the tip you work, the smaller the loop will be.



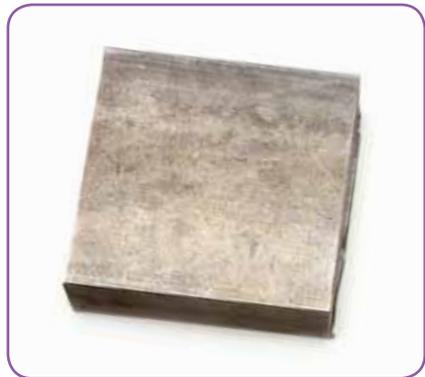
Crimping pliers have two grooves in their jaws that are used to fold or roll a crimp bead into a compact shape.



With **diagonal wire cutters**, use the front of the blades to make a pointed cut and the back of the blades to make a flat cut.



A **hammer** is used to harden and texture wire. Any hammer with a flat head will work, as long as the head is free of nicks that could mar your metal. The light ball-peen hammer shown here is one of the most commonly used hammers for jewelry making.



A **bench block** provides a hard, smooth surface on which to hammer your pieces. An anvil is similarly hard but has different surfaces, such as a tapered horn, to help form wire into different shapes.



Metal files are used to refine and shape the edges of metal and wire surfaces.

Off-center accent

Naomi Fujimoto

Supplies

- ◆ 40–45mm lampworked glass flower bead
- ◆ 14-in. (36cm) strand 24mm oval crystals
- ◆ 16–19 5mm saucer spacers
- ◆ 2 5mm round spacers
- ◆ 2 3mm spacers
- ◆ flexible beading wire, .018 or .019
- ◆ 2 crimp beads
- ◆ toggle clasp



1 Cut a piece of beading wire (Basics). String: saucer spacer, round spacer, flower bead, round spacer, saucer spacer.



2 On each end, string a crystal and a saucer spacer. Repeat, stringing more beads on one end than the other, until the strand is within 1 in. (2.5cm) of the finished length.



3 Check the fit, and finish the necklace (Basics).

Splash of color

Cathy Jakicic



1 Cut a piece of beading wire (Basics). Cut a second piece 1 in. (2.5cm) longer than the first. On the shorter wire, string two 11° seed beads and a gemstone bead. Repeat until you've strung 3 in. (7.6cm) of beads. End with two 11°s. Center the beads.



2 Cut a 3-in. piece of 2-gauge wire. String a pendant and make a set of wraps (Basics) above it. Make a wrapped loop (Basics). On the longer wire, center the pendant.

Supplies

- ◆ 38mm square pendant
- ◆ **82-90** 5mm round wooden beads
- ◆ **42-50** 5mm round gemstone beads
- ◆ 1g 11° seed beads
- ◆ flexible beading wire, .014 or .015
- ◆ 3 in. (7.6cm) 22-gauge half-hard wire
- ◆ **2** crimp beads
- ◆ lobster claw clasp and soldered jump ring



3 On each end of the longer wire, string a wooden bead and 12 to 14 gemstones.



4 On each side, over both wires, string: wood, gemstone, wood, gemstone, wood.



5 On each side, over both wires, string wooden beads until the strand is within 1 in. of the finished length. On one side, over both wires, string a crimp bead and a lobster claw clasp. Repeat on the other side, substituting a soldered jump ring for the clasp. Check the fit, and finish the necklace (Basics).

Tip

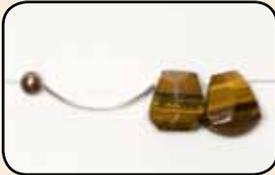
The crimp beads may slide into the wooden beads when the wire is tightened. To make it easier to crimp the crimp beads, string a 6° seed bead on each end before stringing the crimp beads.

Natural wonder

Camilla Jorgensen

Supplies

- ◆ **19-23** 38mm curved tube beads
- ◆ **14-18** 17-22mm faceted nuggets, top drilled
- ◆ **10-14** 8mm round beads
- ◆ flexible beading wire, .018 or .019
- ◆ 1-in. (2.5cm) head pin
- ◆ **2** crimp beads
- ◆ **2** crimp covers
- ◆ **2** Wire Guardians
- ◆ lobster claw clasp and soldered jump ring



1 Decide how long you want your necklace to be, add 14 in. (36cm), and cut a piece of beading wire. Center a round bead, a tube bead, and two nuggets.



2 On each end, string an alternating pattern of a tube and a round, or a tube and one or two nuggets, until the strand is within 1 in. (2.5cm) of the finished length. End with a tube.



3 On one end, string a crimp bead, a Wire Guardian, and a lobster claw clasp. Repeat on the other end, substituting a soldered jump ring for the clasp. Check the fit, and finish the necklace (Basics).



4 On a head pin, string a round. Make a plain loop (Basics).



5 Open the loop (Basics) of the bead unit and attach the jump ring. Close the loop. Close a crimp cover over each crimp.