Three-Strand Beaded Necklace

Many bead shops have trays of individual beads arranged in colorways and so it is quite easy to select an eclectic mix of beads. This particular style of necklace has three graduated lengths of beads that are strung from a special finding that reduces the number of strands from three to one. Bring all the elements together with a single metallic color.

YOU WILL NEED

46 in of .015 in 19-strand bright, beading wire

Mixed selection of beads:

- Round beads, 8 @ 12 mm, 10 @ 10 mm, 12 @ 8 mm, 5 @ 6 mm
- 15 oval fire-polished beads, 6 x 5 mm
- Shell beads, 4 @ 12 mm
- Metal beads, antique silver, 30 @ 4 mm round
- 11 @ 8 x 2 mm washers
- Seed beads, 18 @ size 8 (3 mm)
- 2 silver-plated 3-to-1 strand connectors
- 6 size 2 crimp tubes, silver-plated
- 6 crimp covers, silver-plated
- 6 wire guardians, silver-plated
- 8 in chain, silver-plated, 3 mm round links
- 4 jump rings, silver-plated, 4 mm
- 1 split ring, silver-plated, 6 mm
- Lobster claw clasp, silver-plated
- 2 bead stoppers
- Jewelry tools
- Crimp pliers

1 Arrange the colored beads, spaced out slightly, in three rows, with smaller beads at each end. Try to create a balanced effect with the same bead in different places in adjacent rows.

2 Once you are happy with the arrangement add some washer beads, three in the top row, four in the next and five in the bottom row. Add small metal beads in between. Check the strand lengths are approximately 7, 8½ and 10 in.
3 Cut three lengths of beading wire, 14, 16 and 18 in. On each length of wire, pick up three seed beads. Add the beads in the order in which you set them out and finish with three seed beads. Attach the wires into a bead stopper and then check the drape of the beads. Adjust the lengths, if required.

Tip: Use bead stoppers or a piece of tape to stop the beads falling off the beading wire.

4 Add a crimp tube, then a wire guardian to the first wire. Hook the wire guardian over the 3-to-1 connector, and then feed the tail of the wire back through the crimp tube. Secure the crimp with crimp pliers (see Techniques, pages 75–76).

5 Repeat with the first end of the other two beaded wires. Trim the tails to 5/8 in, then slide the first few beads over the tails to hide. Hold the short bead string up by the other tail so that the beads all sit together.

6 Pick up a crimp tube and wire guardian. Hook the wire guardian over the other 3-to-1 connector on an outside loop and then feed the tail back through the crimp and a few beads.

7 Make sure the wire is taut, but not overly tight, before securing the crimp again with crimp pliers. Slot the crimp cover over the crimp tube and then close carefully with crimp pliers.

Tip: You can close crimp covers with regular pliers but they may be pushed out of shape.

8 Attach a 4 in length of chain to each 3-to-1 connector using a jump ring (see Techniques, page 79). Attach a lobster claw clasp to one end of the chain and a split ring to the other end using jump rings again.
Elegant Bracelet

Pearls strung onto knotted silk cord make a classic bracelet design. You can buy freshwater pearls in a range of unusual colors and when strung with a matching silk cord they look incredibly stylish. Add some pretty charms to make it quite unique. This easy stringing technique, using bead tips, is ideal for a beginner.

YOU WILL NEED
Approximately 25 natural pearls, plum, 5 x 7 mm
Natural silk thread, no 5 (0.65 mm)
2 bead tips, silver-plated, 4 mm
4 crimp beads, size 1
2 jump rings, silver-plated, 5 mm
Toggle clasp, silver-plated
2 charms, silver-plated
Beading needle
Small scissors
Jewelry tools

1 Unwind the whole length of silk thread from the bobbin and straighten the integral twisted wire needle. Tie an overhand knot (see Techniques, page 70) about 2 in from the end of the silk thread. Pick up a pearl and drop down to the knot.

2 Tie a loose second overhand knot just below the pearl. Insert the beading needle into the loop of the knot and lift the knot behind the pearl.
3 Hold the needle with the knot behind the pearl. As you pull the silk thread the needle will guide the knot up to the pearl. The secret is to slowly draw out the needle as the knot tightens so that the knot ends up right next to the pearl.

4 Thread on another pearl and push up against the knot as you pull on the silk thread. This will also help to firm up the knot right against the previous pearl. Continue working an overhand knot after each pearl until you have a string of pearls about 6¼ in long.

5 Thread two crimp beads onto the short tail of the pearl string. Squeeze the crimp beads flat one at a time so that they are sitting close to the knot and then trim the thread end [see Techniques, page 75].

Tip: If you are using a clam shell-style bead tip (with the hole in the hinge) you need to thread the bead tip on to the thread before the two crimp beads.

6 Tuck both crimps inside the bead tip – you may need to fold them over one on top of the other – then close the bead tip using chain-nose pliers. Add a jump ring on the end of the bead tip and squeeze flat with chain-nose pliers [see Techniques, page 77].

7 Attach the T-bar of the toggle clasp to the jump ring. Check the length of the bracelet allowing for adding a bead tip and the ring end of the toggle clasp and add another one or two pearls, if required, finishing with an overhand knot.

8 On this end, add another bead tip with two crimp beads as before. Attach a jump ring and then the loop end of the clasp. Attach a charm or two to the small jump ring next to the loop end clasp. Depending on the style of charm use a jump ring or thread the charms onto a headpin and make a wrapped loop dangle.
Wrap Friendship Bracelet

Wrap bracelets are made using a method of braiding in which thread loops each side of a thicker cord, and then doubles back on itself to create the ‘switchback’ technique. Use a single row of beads to create a long thin bracelet that wraps around your wrist several times or try three bead rows for a wider style.

**YOU WILL NEED**

- 1 yd of 1 mm leather cord, turquoise
- 2¼ yd colored thread, lime
- Miracle beads, 3 mm, 35 orange, 35 turquoise
- 30 washer beads, gold, 1.5 x 5 mm
- Small metal button
- Macramé board or cork pin board
- Beading needle
- Small scissors
- Clear nail polish
- Map pins

1. Thread the cord up through one hole in the button and drop it down to the middle of the cord. Thread the end back down through the other hole. Loop a short length of cord around the button and tuck into the slots at the top of the board. Push the ends into a slot at the base of the board.

2. Feed the beading thread under both leather cords and pull through until both thread ends are the same length. Work a section of switchback braid to create a shank under the button: to start, take the left thread over the left cord and under the right-hand cord so that both threads are out to the right.
3 *Take the top right thread over the right cord and under the left cord. Switchback with the same cord over the left and under the right. Repeat from * five or six times to create the shank, finishing with both threads sticking out on opposite sides under the leather cord.

4 Pick up a 3 mm turquoise bead on the left thread and feed the right thread through the bead in the opposite direction. Pull the threads through so that the bead is sitting between the leather cords. Tuck the cords under the leather cord at each side.

Tip: Dip both ends of the beading thread in clear nail polish and leave to dry to create a ‘built in’ needle before you start.

5 Repeat step 4 but pick up two orange beads, 3 mm, on the left thread. To start the main section of the bracelet, pick up a turquoise bead, a washer bead and another turquoise bead. Feed the right thread through all three beads in the opposite direction. Pull the threads taut and tuck under the leather cord at each side.

6 Continue adding the two round beads with a washer bead between them in the same way, alternating between orange and turquoise beads until the section with three beads in each row measures 5 in. Reduce the beads in the next two rows to match the other end.

7 Work a short section of switchback technique just with the cords. Sew the ends through the switchback section then add a drop of superglue or beading glue to secure before trimming.

8 Tie the two ends of leather in an overhand knot so that the knot is next to the switchback section. Tie another overhand knot leaving a gap just large enough to thread the button through. Repeat again to make a second buttonhole slot, if required, to make the bracelet adjustable. Trim the ends near the knot.
Wire-Wrapped Earrings

To make them extra special, these earrings have been made with tiny round semi-precious beads and as a result have small holes that mean you need to use very fine wire and headpins to make the design. The little bird charm is very cute but you can choose a different charm, perhaps tiny cats or hearts, so long as the hole goes through the middle vertically.

YOU WILL NEED

Small round semi-precious beads, 2 mm, approximately 90 plum and 40 lilac
20 in of 20-gauge wire, gold-plated
1 yd of 26-gauge wire, gold-plated
2 headpins, gold-plated, fine (0.4 mm or less)
2 bird charms, gold color
2 earring wires, gold-plated
Jewelry tools

1 Cut the 20-gauge wire in half. Hold each end with flat-nose pliers and pull both ends to straighten the wire (you can put one end in a vice too). Hold the wire in the middle with flat or chain-nose pliers and bend in half to create a ‘v’ shape.

2 Pull each wire tail through between finger and thumb so that it bends in a gentle curve outward. Try not to kink the wire. Cross the wires over about 2 1/8 in from the ‘v’ shape and use chain-nose pliers to bend the wires back where they cross so that the two tails are parallel above the petal shape.
3 Hold both straight wires near the tip of the round-nose pliers and bend one wire out at right angles. Use the round-nose pliers to create a wrapped loop around both straight bits of wire at the top of the petal shape. Trim both tails (see Techniques, page 83).

4 Wrap the end of a 16 in length of 26-gauge wire around both thicker wires under the wrapped loop to secure. Wind around one side of the petal shape a couple of turns and then pick up a small round plum bead. If the wire came over the top of the thicker wire before adding the bead go under the wire at the other side and vice versa. Wrap the wire a couple of times again.

Tip: Alternating the wrapping over the wire at one side and under the wire at the other keeps the beading even.

5 Pick up two lilac beads on the wire and take the wire across the petal shape so that the beads are sitting against the first bead. Wind the wire a couple of times around the thicker wire ready to add the next row of beads.

6 Next row, pick up three lilac beads, then four plum beads, and so on adding one lilac row then two plum rows until you are about halfway down the petal shape finishing with an even number of beads. Wrap the wire around once to secure and then wrap back up the petal shape between the next two rows to secure the tail. Trim the fine wire.

7 To make the headpin dangle, pick up a plum and lilac round bead on a fine headpin, then the bird charm and three more round beads. Perform a wrapped loop on the end (see Techniques, page 83) and attach to the middle of the last bead row.

8 Complete the wrapping on the dangle and trim neatly. Attach an earring wire to the wrapped loop at the top of the earring. Make a second earring to match.
Beaded Bookmark

Bookmarks are a lovely gift idea and really quick to make. Even in this electronic era it’s a delight to keep your place in a diary, notebook or novel with these pretty beaded charms. The faux suede leather that connects the two clusters of beads is flat and won’t damage the pages.

YOU WILL NEED

Selection of 3–4 decorative beads
4 round beads, 6 mm, in toning colors
Round bead, 8 mm, in toning colors
5 seed beads, silver, in size 11 (2 mm) and size 8 (3 mm)
4 ball-end headpins, silver-plated
1 yd of 26-gauge wire, silver-plated
2 cord crimp ends, silver-plated, 3 mm
2 jump rings, 5 mm, silver-plated
¾ in fine chain, silver-plated
12 in of ¼ in-wide Ultrasuede
Jewelry tools

1 Attach a cord crimp to each end of the ultrasuede (see Techniques, page 74). Pick up a size 8 seed bead on a ball-end headpin then add a 6 mm round bead followed by the focal bead (in this case a ceramic butterfly). Make a wrapped loop and then trim the tail. You may need to add size 11 seed beads before the wrapped loops so that the butterfly bead sits straight.

Tip: Headpins can be made from hard or soft wire. Soft wire headpins that often look bent in the packet are easier to use for wrapped loops.
2 Make a wrapped loop on one end of a 6 in length of 26-gauge wire (see Techniques, page 83). Pick up the second decorative bead for the main dangle (in this case a flower). Pre-form the next wrapped loop and attach to the butterfly headpin dangle before finishing the wrapping.

3 Cut the chain into two different lengths. Start with a 6 in length of 26-gauge wire and pre-form a wrapped loop. Attach to the end of the longer piece of chain, finish wrapping the loop then trim the tail. Pick up a 6 mm round bead and pre-form the next loop. Add the shorter length of chain before wrapping and trimming the tail.

4 Make the last dangle with a ball end headpin, adding a size 8 seed bead to start and then an 8 mm round bead. Pre-form the loop and attach to the other end of the short length of chain before completing the wrapping. Attach both beaded pieces to one end of the Ultrasuede using a jump ring (see Techniques, page 79).

5 For the other end of the Ultrasuede, make one dangle with a size 8 seed bead and 6 mm round bead and another dangle with a size 8 seed bead, 6 mm round bead and a larger decorative bead, adding a seed bead again before wrapping the final loop.

6 Use a jump ring to attach these two wrapped loop dangles to the other cord end to finish.