



HOW TO CURATE A CAPSULE JEWELRY COLLECTION

TO EASILY ELEVATE YOUR EVERYDAY LOOK
AND HELP SIMPLIFY YOUR MORNINGS

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A note from me.

For my fellow simplicity loving, often oversaturated, white space seeking, aspiring essentialists, this is for you.

To the woman who feels like she is constantly protecting her physical space, time and energy from being chipped away at and claimed by others, I put this guide together to help you tackle a corner of your world that is often overlooked, under-valued and hidden away.

Hi , I'm Krista, an architect, metalsmith, design lover, decluttering enthusiast and mom. I fully believe in the power that simplifying your environment and routines has on improving the quality of your days. I believe that finding more space in your calendars, brains, and environment can add so much peace to your life.



In my experience as both an architect and a metalsmith, I have observed that jewelry and accessory storage and maintenance is often overlooked as an area deserving of our decluttering and organizing time and energy. We occasionally find time for the closets and drawers, for the pantry and garage, but we let our jewelry sit tangled up in bags and boxes, tarnishing, kinking, and waiting to be worn.

SMALL AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN THE FLOW OF YOUR DAY.

Similar to a capsule wardrobe, a well considered capsule jewelry collection can have a simplifying effect on your daily routine. It can elevate your overall look, leaving you with more time and confidence.

This guide outlines my G.I.L.D. method that will leave you with a well edited, visually digestible, easy to access, and systematically maintained jewelry collection that is growing in a direction that reflects your style. It will leave you with the ability to see your complete jewelry collection more easily, and to collect pieces mindfully and intentionally.

The reality is, no matter how much we try to avoid it, mornings are often dense. Being able to grab the right accessories to elevate your look is such a quick and easy way to enter into your day with just a little bit more confidence. My hope is that after you work through these steps, you'll have this tiny, shiny confidence boost at your fingertips.

Krista

JEWELRY DESIGNER ARCHITECT DECLUTTERING ENTHUSIAST





NOW LETS GET INTO IT.



The G.I.L.D. method

Because who doesn't love a good acronym.

In order to help you edit that tangle of trinkets and charms and to allow you to curate the perfect capsule jewelry collection, I've outlined these four easy steps;

G

1 | GATHER

First, you will gather up all of your jewelry and lay it out in front of you, together, in one place. You'll need to see it ALL together to get the full picture.

I

2 | ITEMIZE

After you have everything gathered, it's time to list and categorize your pieces to help make sense of your existing collection, and to allow for easier decisions about what to do with each piece.

L

3 | LET SOME GO

My goal with this guide is to help you curate a jewelry collection that you both LOVE and WEAR. In order to get there, you will likely need to do some editing and "weed the garden".

D

4 | DISPLAY

In order to maintain these tangle free, easy to access pieces, you will need to find a display and storage solution that works for you. This will really help you to maintain a beautiful and long lasting collection as you move forward.



1 | GATHER

FIRST, GET IT ALL OUT

Gather up all of the jewelry that has found its way into your life, either intentionally or inexplicably over the years.

Go to that box under your bed. Dig into those old purses. Find the random plastic baggies, the cloth satchels, and the original cardboard boxes protecting fine jewelry pieces and pull them all together so you can see your entire existing jewelry collection in one place.

This is your starting point. It might overwhelm you. It might look sad or be lopsided with 50 necklaces and two rings. It might be dated, tangled, oxidized and eclectic. It is likely some of all of these things.

Because jewelry pieces are small, easy to stash away, and don't take up too much of our space, we often default to keeping the tangle in tact to deal with "later". We tend to keep unwanted jewelry for longer than other items we've grown out of. Most people don't have trouble getting rid of old, out of style, or poorly fitting clothing, but late 90s jewelry fads still show up in so many jewelry stashes. We keep bent and broken pieces, orphaned earrings, and dirty charms that we never honestly intend to clean.

LET'S DEAL WITH IT TODAY!



2 | ITEMIZE

NOW, LET'S MAKE SENSE OF THIS PILE.

All of these charms and strings, from the fancy fine jewelry pieces that you would grab if there was a tornado approaching, to the tangled up strands that used to be holding some beads together, need to be sorted out.

To help move from your existing pile to your curated collection, categorizing your pieces will be so useful in allowing you to make confident and quick decisions. You will be able to see areas where you have more than you want, and help you to identify categories that you'd like to expand.

Seeing your collection in smaller, bite-sized groups will also help you weed out pieces that are no longer aligned with your personal style.

On the next page, I've suggested some categories for you to use in this step. Feel free to add or combine categories based on what you see in front of you. For example, you may want to separate into "long necklaces" and "short necklaces" depending on your collection.

Also, sorry, but this is where the untangling needs to happen.

Put on some trashy tv, fire up a good podcast, and get ready to separate. If you dedicate some time in your schedule to this, it can be seriously meditative. Consider overlapping it with some Real Housewives (don't judge) and call it self-care!

A detangling tip: get a paperclip and unfold it so there is a long, straight leg. Use this in the heart of the knots to help you loosen things until you can get in there with your fingers. Once things are a bit looser, focus on one piece at a time. Just work on whichever strand is closest to being free, and stay with that one until it's out. It will get easier with each one you remove!



LIST SHEET

HEIRLOOM

The most special, probably not everyday, likely handed down through generations.

NECKLACES

Include any pendants here, even if they don't have a chain to live on.

BRACELETS

Include any charms here, even if they don't have a chain to hang from.

EARRINGS

Include posts, hoops, dangle and orphaned earrings.

RINGS

Weather they fit or not, missing stones or complete

BROOCHES

Brooches, pins, tie clips or cufflinks if you have any.

3 | LET GO

THIS IS THE FUN PART. OK, I'M NOT REALLY SURE HOW TO HAVE FUN, BUT TO ME, THIS IS THIS IS THE FUN PART.

This is the step where you edit out the pieces that you don't love in order to really let the beautiful ones shine through. Personally, I am aiming for a jewelry collection that isn't overwhelming with too many pieces to maintain or decisions to make. I love an intentional collection that really feels aligned with my aesthetic. My goal after this step is for you to be left with only pieces that you love, and that you will actually WEAR. So, take that list, and circle the pieces that you really love, and cross off the ones that you don't want anymore. Hold on to the ones that you aren't sure about, we'll talk about those in step four.

Here are some suggestions of what to do with those crossed off pieces:

DONATE TO CHARITY:

Jewelry for Good is an organization where you can donate **gold or silver**, in a streamlined process, and in exchange, the non-profit of your choice receives a cash donation. This is a great way to give to organizations that you would love to support, but that don't have any need for jewelry (think animal shelters, planned parenthood, medical support foundations, etc.).

Costume jewelry can often be donated to women's shelters in your area, or can be mailed in to the **Glamour Project** to support their confidence building photo shoots. Another great option is to contact your local **Dress for Success** affiliate to see if they are in need of jewelry donations that will help women in need of professional attire.

A great option for **evening jewelry** that you no longer wear is to donate it to **Operation Prom** to help provide teens across the U.S. with some prom appropriate accessories for their big night.

Or, if you're looking for a quick clean out, you can always drop off all jewelry categories to your local **Savers** or **Goodwill**. REMEMBER, THESE ARE ALL TAX WRITE OFFS, SO GET THE NECESSARY TAX DOUCMETATION!

HEIRLOOM REDESIGN:

If you have sentimental or valuable pieces that have been passed down to you, it can be really hard to let them go. The reality is, styles change over the decades in ways that make many of our grandmothers' jewelry not exactly desirable today. Consider finding a jeweler who specializes in heirloom redesign. You can repurpose gemstones, melt down metals, and together with your designer create a beautiful and modern piece that still carries all the sentimental energy and intrinsic value of the original piece!

SELL IT:

Finally, you could use this as an opportunity to gain more space *and* earn some extra cash in the process. For lower value jewelry, I personally feel comfortable selling it on Facebook marketplace, on local buy / sell groups, or on Ebay. If you have a lot of pieces that you're looking to sell, try contacting a local consignment or vintage clothing shop to see if you could consign your jewelry through them (you would get paid when and if they sell). Finally, if you are looking to sell anything really valuable, contact a local jeweler who is certified and qualified to appraise your jewelry for resale, and start the process there. Always have these higher value items professionally cleaned before selling to show them in their best light!



4 | DISPLAY

NOW THAT YOU'VE EDITED YOUR COLLECTION DOWN TO ONLY THE PIECES THAT YOU LOVE, IT'S TIME TO ARRANGE THEM IN A WAY THAT WILL ENCOURAGE YOU TO WEAR THEM.

I call this step "DISPLAY" instead of "store" because I think it's important, now that you have an edited collection, to be able to SEE all of it easily, and to access each piece quickly. A well displayed collection allows you to identify gaps so you can purchase intentionally, and to see when pieces might be getting tarnished or be in need of a cleaning. A successful display will allow for ease of retrieval and will allow you to visually scan what you have, all together, all in one place.

HERE ARE MY RECOMMENDATION FOR THE MOST SUCCESSFUL DISPLAY OPTIONS:

IN DRAWER ORGANIZERS:

As an aspiring minimalist who loves a clear dresser, this is my favorite option. I love that this keeps things tucked away, but in an easily accessible space. I personally don't love hanging jewelry on wall hooks because it makes it easier for them to become tangled and tarnished, and it somehow makes them feel less special. Let's make a sacred, dedicated space for our collection and treat them as tiny pieces of art instead of as accidental decor.

You can purchase [drawer organizers](#) that are made for this job, or try a DIY solution with some adhesive [cork board](#) and [push pins](#) (just adhere the cork board to the bottom of your drawer, and use push pins to fix your necklaces and chains in place). You can couple this strategy with cute thrifted dishes or even ice cube trays for individual pairs of earrings, small charms, and bracelets.

JEWELRY "ARMOIRE"

If you don't have the luxury of extra top drawer space, consider getting a dedicated jewelry armoire. I'm a lover of modern design, and it can be tricky to find jewelry armoires in this style. This [mid-century themed armoire](#) from overstock is cute, a nice scale, and not too pricy. Or, if you love walnut and are willing to invest in a more expensive, crafted piece of furniture, I just LOVE the look of this [walnut wall mounted unit](#). Using a jewelry armoire gives each piece its own home, but generally won't have the benefit of allowing you to easily see the whole collection all together like you can with a large single drawer.

MIRROR WITH HIDDEN DISPLAY

This is a great solution if you need a wall mirror in your bedroom anyway. Your collection will stay tucked away, organized, and easy to see as a whole, every morning when you're getting ready. For a small space, this [simple white mirror](#) could work well. There are also many full length options for larger collections. My dream with this, if you have the space or if you're doing a bedroom or closet renovation already, is to recess a mirror organizer into your wall, as they can tend to be clunky and project in a potentially awkward way. You could always fit something between studs and keep the project relatively small!

Remember those "maybe" pieces from step 3? Put a small piece of masking tape or a sticker on or next to those pieces in your display. Write the date three months from when you put that sticker on. When you wear a piece, remove the sticker, it's a keeper! If three months pass and those stickers are still on, let them go!



GREAT JOB! YOU'VE GATHERED, EDITED, MADE SOME DECISIONS ABOUT WHAT PIECES TO KEEP, LIBERATED PIECES FROM THE TANGLE, AND FOUND THE BEST WAY TO DISPLAY YOUR ITEMS.

Here are some final suggestions for maintaining this curated and growing collection.

- **REMEMBER TO CLEAN YOUR JEWELRY.** If its dirty, tarnished, or not quite sparkling, chances are you won't wear it as much. You can find so many DIY jewelry cleaning solutions online, but here are some basics.
 - Bring fine jewelry to your local jeweler for an occasional cleaning, it will be so satisfying!
 - If you wear a lot of solid metals, keep a [jewelry polishing cloth](#) in your display for routine polishing. Make sure to check that the cloth is safe for the metal you're using it on!
 - Grab a soft, baby toothbrush at the dollar store (or Target if you're fancy), and clean vermeil jewelry with warm, soapy water and a gentle scrub. Dry completely with a soft cloth.
 - For silver jewelry, you might want to try some [cleaner](#) made for silverware and see if you like the results, they probably have it at your local hardware store.
- **HELP YOUR JEWELRY AVOID TARNISH.** I often hear jewelry storage recommendations to help maintain a pieces luster that include storing each ITEM in an individual ziplock back with an anti-tarnish strip. Sure, if there is a piece that you really want to keep pristine, and that you don't see yourself wearing often, this type of storage is ideal. For me, though, my goal is to wear my jewelry, and I know that this extra step would be just enough to deter me from seeing or grabbing a piece. What I recommend, as a compromise, is to add [anti-tarnish strips](#) in your jewelry display to help with potential silver and base metal tarnishing.
- **RESIZE.** If necklaces are too long for your taste, see about getting them shortened. If they are tight and uncomfortable, order a longer chain or contact a jeweler about a solution. If your rings don't fit, have them re-sized. Don't punish yourself, allow your collection to evolve with you. My hands changed after kids, my jewelry needed to keep up.
- **TREAT YOUR JEWELRY WITH CARE.** It's always best practice to not wear your jewelry in the shower or in a pool, not to apply perfume or lotion with your jewelry on, and in general not to get any chemicals on your. Just put it on last every morning!



NOW, KEEP COLLECTING!

I'LL LEAVE YOU WITH MY CHECKLIST OF CAPSULE JEWELRY WARDROBE STAPLES TO HELP YOU IDENTIFY YOUR NEXT PIECES. ENJOY THE PROCESS OF DISCOVERING YOUR JEWELRY STYLE, FINDING DESIGNERS WHOSE WORK YOU ADMIRE, AND SLOWLY BUILDING YOUR COLLECTION WITH MEANINGFUL, QUALITY, TINY SCULPTURES!

- GOLD CHAIN
- PENDANT NECKLACE
- STRAND OF PEARLS
- HOOP EARRINGS
- GOLD STUD EARRINGS
- LONG STATEMENT NECKLACE
- BANGLE (SINGLE OR STACK)
- EVERYDAY RING (SINGLE OR STACK)

