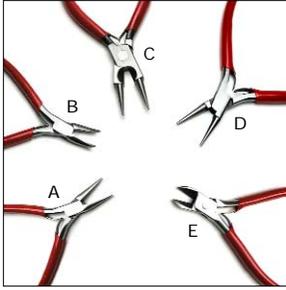# The Bead Shop ™

Delicate Briolette Necklace

Skill Level: Intermediate Beginner
Project Time: 2-3 hours
Prerequisite: Basic wire-wrapping experience helpful

Learn how to work with fine-gauge wire and wire-wrap on either side of your stones to piece together a delicate and colorful extravaganza of gems.

Ingredients for the Delicate Briolette Necklace

TOOLS NEEDED

A. Bent-nose chain pliers
B. Needle-nose chain pliers
C. Rosary OR
D. Round-nose pliers
E. Wire Cutters

MATERIALS NEEDED

Sterling silver/gold-filled chain of your choice

1 — Sterling silver/gold-filled lobster clasp

1 — Sterling silver/gold-filled soldered jump ring

4 — Rondelle or round gemstones

15 — Various briolette gemstones

5′ — 26 or 28-gauge sterling silver/gold filled wire depending on the hole sizes of your beads.
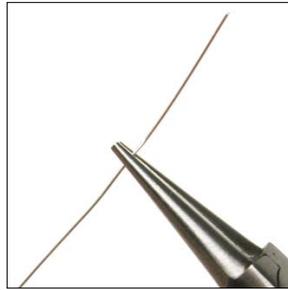
What is a briolette?
Pronunciation: (brē"*u*-let'; *Fr.* brē-ô-let'),
From the French words, "brillant" (brilliant, sparkling) and "brignolette" (a small dried plum), a briolette is a pear-shaped stone covered with facets and comes to a pointed end. Today, the word briolette is commonly used when referring to faceted drops in a variety of shapes. Because of the faceting and shape, briolettes add a delicate, yet expensive look to any design. They are seen often in today's necklaces and earrings.
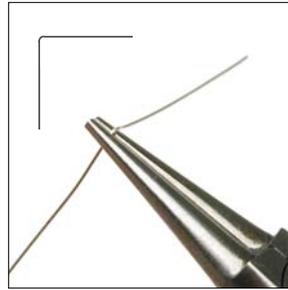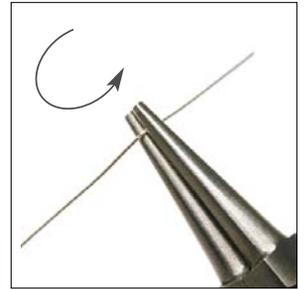
Making the Delicate Briolette Necklace

Step 1
Arrange the briolette gemstones in the order you would like for the finished necklace. Try to balance the assortment and sizes in a pleasing pattern.
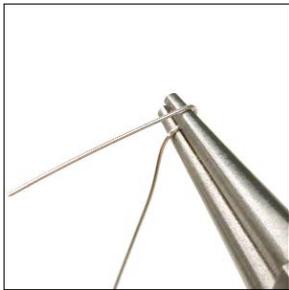
Step 2
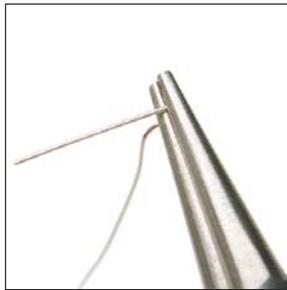Cut a piece of wire 4" in length. Using your round-nose pliers, hold wire in the center.

Step 3
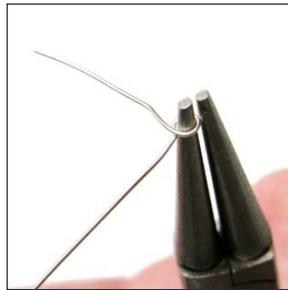Using your finger, create a 90-degree bend in the wire just above the pliers' tips.

Step 4
Rotate your pliers a quarter turn up. You will now be gripping the wire at the top of the 90-degree angle.

Step 5
Using your fingers, bend the wire back towards you, over the tip of the pliers, creating a partial loop.
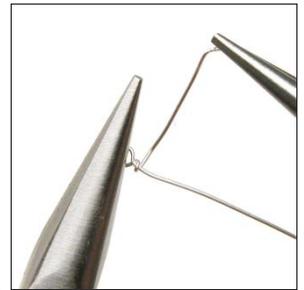
Step 6
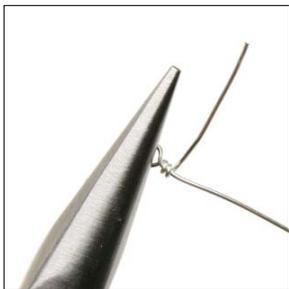Open the pliers and grip the loop with the bottom tip of the pliers.

Step 7
Continue to bend wire around the pliers to complete the loop.

Step 8
Grip the loop *gently* with your needle-nose pliers and center the loop over the straight portion of the wire. Your two wire ends should be at roughly a 90-degree angle.
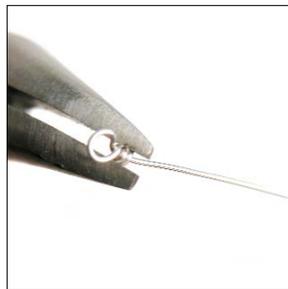
Step 9
While gripping the loop use bent-nose pliers to wrap the short end of the wire around the longer stem.

Step 10
Continue wrapping the wire in the same direction two or three times.

Step 11
Using the wire cutters, trim the excess wire.

Step 12
Gently press down the end of the wire so it isn't sharp, using the bent-nose pliers.

Step 13
String on the *second* briolette of your chosen pattern onto the open end of the wire.

Step 14
Using the tip of your round-nose pliers, grip the straight end of the wire closely against the side of the briolette.

Helpful Hint
Be careful not to damage the stone by pushing too hard with the pliers.

Step 15
Bend the wire against the tip of the pliers to create a 90-degree angle.

Step 16
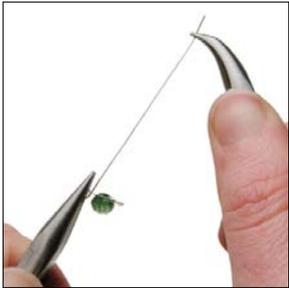Using your fingers, bend the wire back towards you, over the tip of the pliers, creating a partial loop.

Step 17
Open the pliers and grip the loop with the bottom tip of the pliers.

Step 18
Continue to bend the wire around the pliers loop to complete the loop.

Step 19
Grip the loop gently with your needle-nose pliers and use your bent-nose chain pliers to wrap the excess wire around the base of the loop. (see Steps 8 - 9 for a closer view)

Step 20
Continue wrapping the wire in the same direction two to three times.

Step 21
Don't forget to snip the excess wire when you are done wrapping and tuck it against the wrap to avoid sharp edges.

Step 22
Repeat steps 2-20 on alternate gemstones along the arranged pattern. **Half** of your briollettes will have wire-wrapped ends and the rest will not.

Step 23
Cut a piece of wire 4" in length and repeat steps 2-8 on a new piece of wire.

Step 24
A. Slightly open the loop *before* you wrap it closed.

B. Add a briolette that has *already been wire-wrapped on both ends* from the previous steps.

Step 25
Complete the wire-wrap on the first end of the new wire.

Step 26
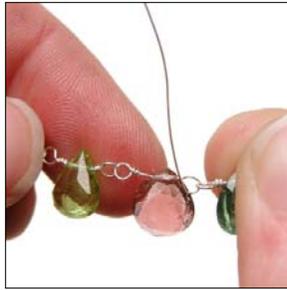Don't forget to snip the excess wire using you wire cutters.

Step 27
Add the next gemstone of the pattern to the open end of the new piece of wire.

Step 28
Begin the wire-wrap at the second end of this newly added stone. **STOP** before you begin to wrap the base.

Step 29
Add the fourth (already wire-wrapped) gemstone to the open loop from the previous step.

Step 30
Complete the wire-wrap.

Step 31
Repeat steps 23-28 to add the remaining unwrapped stones into the pattern.

Step 32
To connect the rondelle and chain to first briolette, wire-wrap it to the briolette on one side.

Step 33
Add a length of chain to the other end of the rondelle *before* completing the second wire-wrap.

Step 34
A. Cut a piece of wire 4" in length and repeat steps 2-8 with a new piece of wire.

B. Open the loop and slide the clasp onto the open loop.

Step 35
Wire-wrap along the stem and add a rondelle to the open end of the wire.

Step 36
Repeat steps 14-18. Open the loop and add the open end of the chain.

Step 37
Complete wire-wrap.

Step 38
Repeat 34-36 for the other end of the necklace. Use a soldered jump ring instead of a clasp. Your necklace is complete!