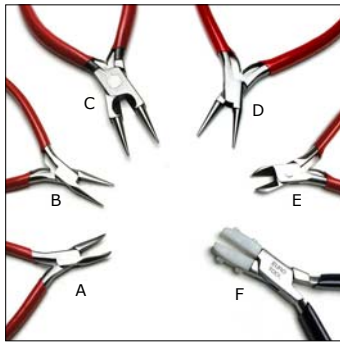The Bead Shop ™

Egyptian Mesh Necklace

Skill Level: Beginner
Project time: 2-3 hours

Combine wire, chain and crystals to create a glimmering mesh fabric of jewels. Learn how to make rosary loops and link them into chain. This golden wrapped fabric resembles the beaded cloth headdresses worn by Egyptian Queens.

EGYPTIAN MESH NECKLACE RECIPE

Common Ingredients for Egyptian Mesh Necklace

TOOLS NEEDED

A. Bent-nose chain pliers
B. Needle-nose chain pliers
C. Rosary or
D. Round-nose pliers
E. Wire cutter
F. Wire straightener

INSTRUCTIONS INCLUDE

Part 1
Material Considerations

Part 2
Creating the Rosary Loops

Part 3
Assembling the Necklace

Part 4: Technique Review
How to Make a Rosary Loop
How to Make a Wire-Wrapped Loop

Approx. 30	Beads in a uniform shape and size. Crystals, pearls, and glass beads work well. 6mm bicone crystals were used for this sample.
5' +	22 or 24-gauge Sterling silver or gold-filled wire
Approx. 30"	Medium gauge chain
1	Lobster or hook style clasp that will fit the chain you choose

PART 1: Material Considerations

Similar Sizes
Look for beads that are either exactly or very similar in length. This will ensure that the mesh section of your necklace is evenly spaced.

Different Sizes
Using beads of different sizes will create a disheveled look to your necklace and may be harder to work with when connecting the rows of rosary loops.

Uniform Chain
Look for a chain with consistent link size and shape. This will be the easiest to work with and create the most uniform pattern for the mesh portion of the necklace.

Intricate Chain
Tightly linked, intricate chain (as shown here) will not work for this project. You will **not** be able to add your beads to the chain.

Thick Chain
A chain with thicker links that leave little room for wire attachments (as shown here) will **not** work well for this project.
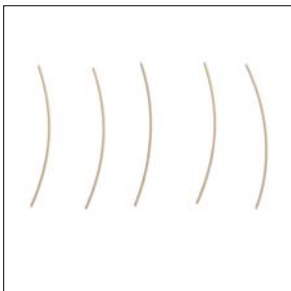
Wire Gauges
Pick the gauge of wire based on the hole sizes of most of your beads. 24-gauge wire should fit through most beads, but be sure to check each different type of bead **before** you start creating the necklace. In most cases, you will find yourself using either 24-gauge or 22-gauge wire.

Considering the Dimensions
Decide (A), how wide and (B), how long you want the mesh section of your necklace to be **before** you start. This will determine how many beads and how much chain and wire you use. The sample shown uses 11 beads in the first row, 10 in the second, and 9 in the third.

PART 2: Creating the Rosary Loops

Step 1
Cut several pieces of wire approximately 1.5" longer than your beads. The sample above uses 30 pieces of wire this size.
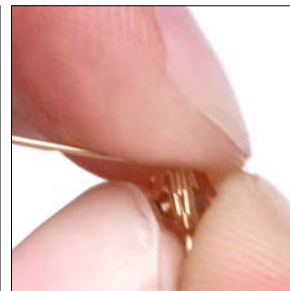
Step 2
Create a rosary loop on one end of each of your wire pieces.

Technique Review
Need some more help making rosary loops? Turn to Page 5 for step-by-step instructions.

Step 3
Add your bead to the piece of wire with the rosary loop and bend the other end of the wire close against the bead.
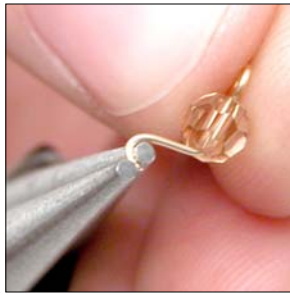
Step 4
Using wire cutters, trim the wire, leaving 3/8".

Step 5
Using round-nose pliers, grip the end of the wire.

Step 6
Use the round-nose pliers to roll the wire back towards the bead, creating another rosary loop.

Step 7
Your bead should look like this once both sides of the wire have been rosary looped. **Repeat Steps 2-6** to create the rest of your rosary looped beads.

Step 8
Using needle-nose pliers, gently rock the rosary loops open on each end of each bead. This will open the loop without distorting its circular shape.

Step 9
The opened rosary loop should look like this, with the shape of the loop still intact and enough room for the chain to fit into the opening.

PART 3: Assembling the Necklace

Step 1
Cut a length of chain to form the main part of your necklace. An average necklace size is 16 inches. Fold the cut piece of chain in half to find the center.

Step 2
Add one of your open rosary looped beads to the center link of your chain. **Close** the rosary loop by rocking it back to the original circle shape with needle-nose chain pliers.

Step 3
Working out from the center, add more rosary looped beads until you've reached the desired width of the mesh portion of the necklace. **Alternating** chain links works best.

center

Step 4
Measure and cut a length of chain to create the second row of the necklace. **Hint:** It is better to have a few extra links to be trimmed off at the end of the row, than too few links. Cut more than you think you'll need.

Step 5
Add the first link of the newly cut chain to the first open rosary loop. Continue adding the chain in this manner to the rest of the open rosary loops.

Step 6
Repeat Steps 4 and 5 to add more rows to the mesh section. Add as many rows as you like, remembering that more rows will make the necklace hang lower on your neck.

Step 7
Add a clasp to the end of the chain using a wire-wrapped loop. **See page 6 to learn how to make a wire-wrapped loop.** Lobster clasps work well and allow you to adjust the length of the finished necklace.

LEARNING TO MAKE ROSARY LOOPS
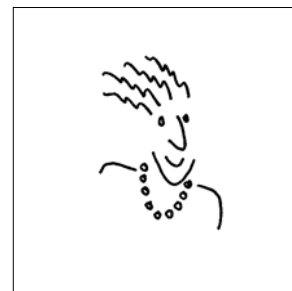
Example of rosary loop bead units.

Detail of one rosary loop connected to another.

To practice this link, you will need:
☐ Needle-nose chain pliers
☐ Rosary (pictured) or round-nose pliers
☐ Wire cutter

For supplies gather:
1   2" Head pin
2   1" Eye pins
1   4mm Spacer bead
4   8mm Beads

Helpful Hint: To make your loops consistent in size, continue to work on the same spot on your rosary pliers tips.
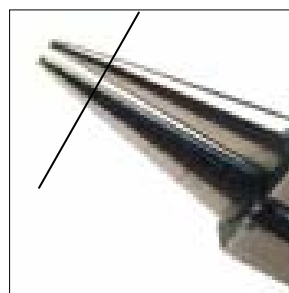
Step 1
Slide beads onto a head or eye pin.

Step 2
Using your finger, bend the wire at a right angle on top of the bead.

Step 3
Using the cutter portion of the rosary pliers, remove excess wire leaving about 3/8".

Step 4
Find the place on your pliers tips that are approximately 1/4" from the end.

Step 5
Using your rosary pliers, approximately 1/4" from the tip, grab the *very end* of the wire.

Step 6
a) Using your wrist, curl the wire towards yourself.
b) Slide the pliers back into their original position.
c) Curl the wire again.

Step 7
Continue to curl until the wire forms a complete circle.

Step 8
Double check to make sure the rosary loop is closed.

Step 9
To open or close a rosary loop, lift the loop out of its plane. Do not pull the loop open sideways or you will distort its round shape.

Step 10
Insert other rosary loop (or ear wire). Close the loop using your needle-nose chain pliers. Make sure the tip of the wire fits snuggly against the bead to form a secure loop.

LEARNING TO MAKE WIRE-WRAPPED LOOPS

Example of a wire-wrapped loop with two beads and a spacer.

To practice this link, you will need:
- [ ] Bent-nose chain pliers
- [ ] Needle-nose chain pliers
- [ ] Rosary or round-nose pliers
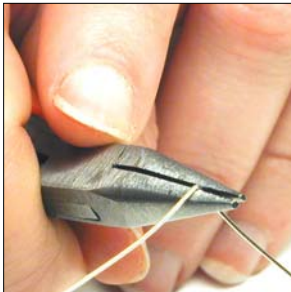- [ ] Wire cutter

For supplies gather:
- 5"   24-gauge round wire
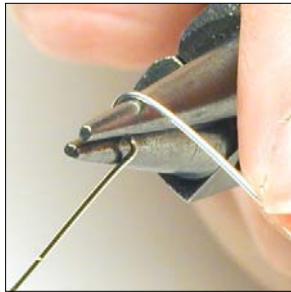- 2   Small spacer beads
- 4   8mm Beads

Imagine that the wire-wrapped loop is the head of a little person like me, and the wrap is the scarf.
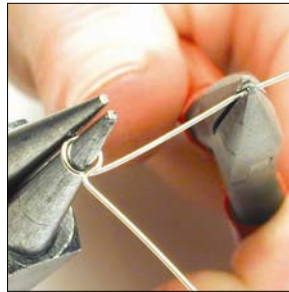

The head and scarf sit on the shoulders of the bead. The first thing you have to do is form my head!
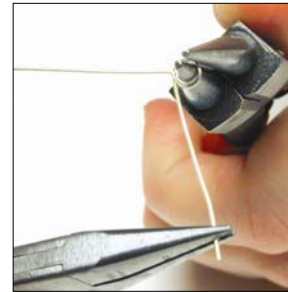

Step 1
a) Holding the needle-nose chain pliers grab the wire about one inch from the end.
b) Using your finger, bend the short end of the wire at a right angle.
c) Switch to rosary pliers.

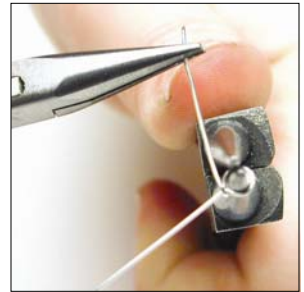**Step 2**
a) Place the tips of the rosary pliers above and below the short wire at the right angle.
b) Use your finger to begin pushing the short end of the wire *over* the top plier cone.

Step 3
a) Switch the rosary pliers to your non-dominant hand.
b) Use the needle-nose chain pliers
c) to complete the round loop.

Step 4
Center the loop on top of the long wire.

Step 5
a) Starting at the base of the loop, begin wrapping the short wire around the long wire.
b) Complete three full turns of the wire.

Step 6
a) Using the wire cutters, clip off excess wire.
b) Using the bent-nose chain pliers, press down the end of the

Step 7
Slide beads onto the wire.

Step 8
a) Use the tip of the needle-nose chain pliers to grab the wire against the bead.
b) Use your finger to push the wire into a right angle.
c) Switch to rosary pliers.
d) Repeat steps 2-4 to complete loop.

Step 9
To link units together, slide one loop *into* the other.

Don't forget to link wire wraps together *before* completing the second wire-wrap.

Step 10
a) Hold the loops steady with the needle-nose chain pliers.
b) Starting at the bottom of the loop, begin wrapping the short wire around the long wire.
c) Continue wrapping until you've reached the bead.
d) Repeat step 6.