

Gem Cluster Necklace

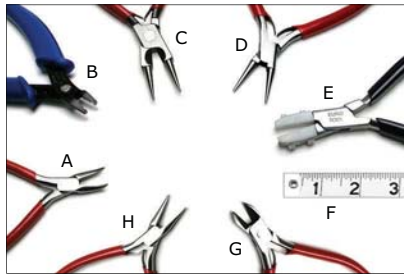


Skill Level: Intermediate
Project time: 3 hours

Using various sizes of briolettes and rondelles, you will learn how to wire-wrap rondelles and string briolettes onto Soft Flex to create a clustered designer gemstone necklace. Learn about gem patterning and stringing to create that gorgeous chunky look

GEM CLUSTER NECKLACE RECIPE

Common Ingredients for Gem Cluster Necklace



TOOLS NEEDED

- A. Bent-nose chain pliers
- B. Crimping pliers
- C. Rosary pliers or
- D. Round-nose pliers
- E. Wire Straightener
- F. Ruler
- G. Wire Cutter
- H. Needle-nose chain pliers

INSTRUCTIONS INCLUDE

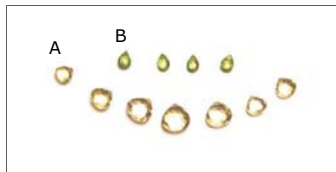
Part A

Constructing the Gem Cluster Necklace

Part B

Technique Review

- A. Crimping on Soft Flex
- B. Wire-wrapping a Briolette



- A. 5-9 various briolette shaped gemstones
- B. 20-25 smaller contrasting briolette gemstones



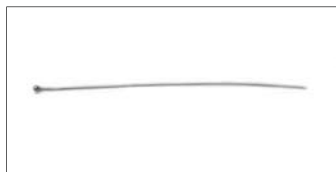
Assorted round/rondelle, coin, various shaped beads



60-75 4mm-Daisy spacers



Clasp of choice



At least 50 2" headpins



0.010 or 0.014 Soft Flex

Constructing the Gem Cluster Necklace



Step 1

Create individual wire wraps consisting of one headpin, daisy spacer, and bead.



Step 2

Also wire wrap a few of your smaller briolettes.



Step 3

Start stringing on Soft Flex. Start from the center with a briolette. String directly on.



Step 4

Add your wire wrapped beads and briolettes to either side of the center.



Step 5

Continue building your necklace outward from the center. Taper your clusters to be smaller at the ends and finish with single round or rondelle beads until you reach the desired length.

Add a variety of:

1. Beads strung on Soft Flex
2. Wire-wrapped beads with daisy spacers
3. Briolettes strung on Soft Flex
4. Briolettes wire-wrapped

LEARNING TO CRIMP USING CRIMPING PLIERS

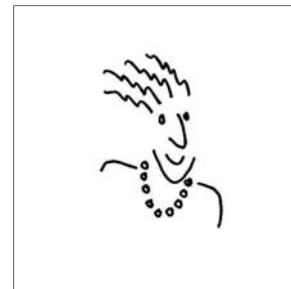


To practice this link, you will need:

- Crimping pliers
- Needle-nose chain pliers
- wire cutter

For supplies gather:

- 5" Soft Flex
- 2 Crimp beads
- 1 Lobster clasp



Take a look at the [crimping plier](#). Note that it has two channels in the jaws. The channel closest to the handle is shaped like a pair of lips. This is the channel that makes the first crimp. The second channel is shaped like an oval. This is the channel that rounds the crimp.

We recommend making a few practice crimps in order to perfect your crimping technique.



Step 1
String crimp tube on the end of your cord.



Step 2
String the cord through one loop on your clasp and back through the crimp bead.



Step 3
Slide crimp bead up towards the clasp leaving a small loop that is large enough to allow movement of the clasp.



Step 4
Enter the crimp bead in the first channel of the crimping plier and crimp firmly.



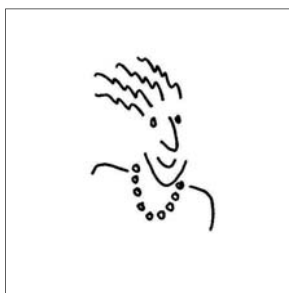
Step 5
The result should be a slightly rounded crimp with a dip running down the center.



Step 6
Now turn the plier 1/4 turn and center the crimp bead in the second channel of the crimping plier. Gently crimp the bead to round it in on itself.



Step 7
The finished result should be a rounded compact crimp.



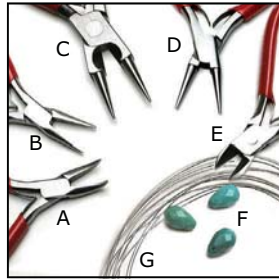
Step 8
Complete technique using a needle-nose pliers. Squeeze down on crimp bead with plier for added security.

How to Wire-Wrap a Briolette

WHAT IS A BRIOLETTE?



A briolette (bree-oh-let) is any gemstone drop that is an oval or pear shaped cut with triangular facets covering its entire surface. Here at The Bead Shop, our favorite way to "capture" a briolette is to use the triangular



TOOLS NEEDED

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

MATERIALS NEEDED

- E. An assortment of briolettes
- F. Several feet of 24-gauge wire*

***Note:** The example shown uses 24-gauge wire, but the same technique can be used for different gauges of wire. The gauge of wire you use will vary depending on the beads you are wire-wrapping. For tips on choosing the correct gauge of wire for your project, visit our website at www.beadshop.com/chooscorwirf.html



Step 1

- a) Cut 4 inches of 24-gauge wire.
- b) String and center a briolette on the wire.



Step 2

- a) Pinch both wires at the top of the briolette to form the shape of a triangle.



Step 3

- a) Confirm that the briolette is centered inside the triangle.



Step 4

- a) Cut one wire 1/8" from the top of the wire triangle.



Step 5

- a) Using the needle-nose chain pliers, grab both wires above the triangle.
- b) Bend the longer wire into a right



Step 6

- a) Switch to a round-nose pliers.
- b) Place the tips of the round-nose pliers above and below the longer wire at the right angle.



Step 7

- a) Bring the end of the longer wire up and over the plier to form a loop.

Helpful Hint



To avoid forming a loop over both of the plier cones, rotate your plier a quarter turn and continue to pull the wire all the way around to form the



Step 8

- a) Center the loop above the briolette.



Step 9

- a) Starting at the base of the loop, begin wrapping the longer wire in the space between the loop and the top of the triangle.



Step 10

- a) Using the wire cutters, clip off the excess wire.
- b) Using the bent-nose chain pliers, press down the end of the wire so the sharp end is not exposed.