Jewelry Making 101
Easy How-To Instructions for Making Your Own Handcrafted Jewelry

By Lorri Ely

Copyright Notice
Copyright © 2006 Lorri Ely, Smart Sisterz LLC
Published by Lorri Ely, Smart Sisterz LLC.
All rights reserved.

Only customers who have purchased this book have the rights to view it. Purchase of this book does not grant resell rights. Please help support and protect the author's business by not sharing or duplicating this book illegally.

No part of this publication may be transmitted or reproduced in any way without the prior express written permission of the author. Violations of this copyright will be enforced to the full extent of the law. These rules have been established to protect the rights and ownership of the author.

Limits of Liability/Disclaimer of Warranty
While all attempts have been made to verify information provided, the author assumes no responsibility for errors, omissions, or contrary interpretation of the subject matter herein. Any perceived slights of peoples or organizations are unintentional. The purchaser or reader of this publication assumes responsibility for the use of these materials and information. Results may vary and no guarantees of income are made. The contents of this book are not intended to provide legal advice. The author reserves the right to make changes and assumes no responsibility or liability whatsoever on behalf of any purchaser or reader of these materials. In no event shall Lorri Ely, Smart Sisterz LLC, agents or suppliers be liable for damages of any kind or character, including without limitation any compensatory, incidental, direct, indirect, special, punitive, or consequential damages, loss of use, loss of data, loss of income or profit, loss of or damage to property, claims of third parties, or other losses of any kind or character, even if Lorri Ely or Smart Sisterz LLC has been advised of the possibility of such damages or losses, arising out of or in connection with the use of the book or any web site with which it is linked. Lorri Ely is in no way responsible for the content or behavior of any linked websites, and has no liability whatsoever for claims or damages against any web site maintained by a third party.
# Bead Jewelry Making 101

Easy How-To Instructions for Making Your Own Handcrafted Jewelry

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Copyright Notice</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limits of Liability/Disclaimer of Warranty</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction – About Me</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 1 - Getting Started with Beads, Tools and Supplies</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beads Glossary</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bali Beads</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bead Caps</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bead Spacers</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crimp Beads</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chip Beads</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faceted Beads</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hill Tribe Silver</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lampwork Beads</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dichroic Beads</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foil Beads</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal Beads</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass Beads</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic Beads</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood Beads</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shell Beads</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coral Beads</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bone Beads</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearl Beads</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vintage Beads, Antique Beads</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polymer Clay Beads</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMC or Art Clay Silver Beads</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seed Beads</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bugle Beads</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rondelle Beads</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Briolette Beads</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter Beads, Word Beads, Alphabet Beads</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Jewelry Tools</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Round Nose Pliers</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flat or Chain Nose Pliers</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crimping Tool or Crimping Pliers</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wire Cutters or Flush Cutters</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Split Ring Pliers</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Memory Wire Shears ................................................................. 27
Nylon Jaw Pliers ........................................................................ 27
Bead Reamer .............................................................................. 28
Jewelry Awl and Jewelry Tweezers ........................................... 28
Ruler ....................................................................................... 28
Jewelry Design Board or Bead Board ..................................... 29
Bead Mat ................................................................................... 29
Task Lighting ............................................................................ 29
Thread Scissors ......................................................................... 30
Flexible Beading Needles ....................................................... 30
Big Eye Beading Needles ........................................................ 30
Thread Conditioner ................................................................. 30
Polishing Cloth, Anti-Tarnish Strips, Silver Cleaner ............... 30
Specialty Jewelry Tools & Equipment ...................................... 31
Polymer Clay Tools ................................................................. 31
Silver Clay or PMC Tools ........................................................ 31
Metalsmithing ......................................................................... 31
Wire Wrapping Tools .............................................................. 32
WigJig for Wire Wrapping Designs ........................................ 32
Pin Vise for Twisting Wire ....................................................... 32

**Bead Stringing Supplies** .......................................................... 33
Silk and Bead Thread ............................................................... 34
Jewelry Wire ............................................................................ 35
Elastic Cord/Stretch Cord ....................................................... 35
Beading Wire ........................................................................... 36
Memory Wire ........................................................................... 37
Hemp Cord .............................................................................. 37
Leather or Suede Lace ........................................................... 38
Chain ..................................................................................... 38
Ribbon ................................................................................... 38

**Jewelry Findings & Jewelry Components** ................................ 39
Headpins ................................................................................ 39
Eye Pins ............................................................................... 40
Jump Rings .......................................................................... 41
Split Rings ............................................................................ 42
Clasps .................................................................................. 42
Toggle Clasps ....................................................................... 43
Magnetic Clasps .................................................................. 43
Spring Ring ......................................................................... 44
Lobster Claw ...................................................................... 44
Hook Clasp .......................................................................... 44
Barrel or Screw Clasp .......................................................... 45
Box Clasp ............................................................................ 45
Multiple-Strand Clasp .......................................................... 46
Cord Ends ............................................................................ 46
Spring and Tube Ends ........................................................... 47
End Cap ................................................................. 47
Earring Findings ...................................................... 48
Bead Frame .............................................................. 49
Links and Components ............................................ 49
Metal Beads, Bali Beads ............................................ 50
Bead Cone .................................................................. 50
Spacer Bar .................................................................. 51

Section 2 - Jewelry Design Considerations .................................................................. 52
Using Jewelry Design Elements ........................................ 52
Jewelry Design Elements - Defined ................................ 52
Using Color .................................................................. 53
Color Wheels ............................................................... 53
Using Shape in your Designs .......................................... 54
Using Size in your Designs ............................................. 54
Using Metal and Findings in your Designs ......................... 54

Birthstones and Colors ........................................................................................................ 55
Birthstone Jewelry .......................................................... 55

Common Jewelry Lengths ...................................................................................................... 57
Choker .......................................................................... 57
Princess ......................................................................... 57
Matinee .......................................................................... 57
Lariat .............................................................................. 57
Baby .............................................................................. 57
Child ............................................................................ 57
Adult ............................................................................. 57
Anklet .......................................................................... 57

Section 3 - How-To Make Jewelry ................................................................................... 58
Basic Wire Wrap Jewelry Instructions - Making a Basic Wire Loop .......................... 58
Wire Wrap Jewelry - Making Chains with Beaded Loops .......................................... 62
How to Wire Wrap a Briolette or Top-Drilled Bead ..................................................... 75
How to Use Crimp Beads .................................................. 79
How to Use Crimp Covers .................................................. 85
Bead Stringing and Knotting How-To ................................................................. 88
How to String Beads on Organza Ribbon ............................................................ 96
How to Use an Extender Chain for Bracelet or Necklace Designs ......................... 99
How to Finish Memory Wire Ends .................................................. 102
Making a Loop .................................................................. 102
How to Finish Cord Jewelry .................................................................................. 106
How to Attach Cord Ends .................................................................................. 109
How to Attach a Spring Coil Cord End ............................................................... 111
How to Attach Foldover Tab Ends ........................................................................ 113
How to Use Stretch Cord .................................................................................. 115
How to Use Bead Cones .................................................................................. 117
How to Use Split Ring Pliers .............................................................................. 118
How to Properly Open Jump Rings ........................................................................ 119
Introduction – About Me
Hello, my name is Lorri Ely, and I love jewelry! Big and bold jewelry, delicate jewelry, fun jewelry, and sophisticated jewelry—I love it all. Because of my passion for jewelry, I started making beaded jewelry as a hobby, and immediately realized how exciting it was to make my own jewelry to create a very personal form of self-expression.

I learned how to make jewelry mostly through trial and error, studying jewelry designs that I liked, and trying to perfect the techniques. I also own a large assortment of jewelry making books collected over the years. However, when I was starting out, I never found one book that covered all the basics for bead and wire jewelry making. There are so many findings and components, and beads—how do you know what to buy, and where to start? Well, I will show you everything I have learned right here in this book. Within minutes you will be crafting your own unique jewelry.

Whether you want to make jewelry to express your creative talents, make something unique to wear with a favorite outfit, or create some jewelry to give as a wonderful personal gift—read on, because I’m about to show you just how easy it is to make your own jewelry with easy step-by-step instructions.

Best regards, and happy jewelry making!

-Lorri Ely
Section 1 - Getting Started with Beads, Tools and Supplies

If you are like me, when you are getting started with jewelry making, you will likely be excited but also a little overwhelmed with all the beads and findings for sale at bead and craft stores. Are you having trouble understanding what you need to have in your beading kit, and what is optional? In this section of the book, you’ll learn all about the variety of jewelry supplies and the different materials you'll need for making jewelry.

Let’s start with a simple glossary of the most common beads and findings. Take a few minutes to look this over, then select a favorite jewelry technique or design, and pay attention to the supply list so you will be prepared before you go to the bead store.

Here is where you will learn about all the different types of beads that are available for your jewelry designs. If you are a beginner and just starting out with making jewelry, you might be wondering about all the choices of beads, materials, shapes and sizes.

Common types of beads:
- Rondelle Beads
- Bali Beads
- Briolette Beads
- Seed Beads & Bugle Beads
- Bead Caps
- Faceted Beads
- Spacer Beads

When I first started making jewelry, the trips to the bead store were fun but I always spent a small fortune on things, mostly because I didn't really understand what I needed and what was optional. Beading is a popular and growing hobby, and all the bead stuff and supplies that are available in the market can be a little bit overwhelming. You'll soon begin to realize that there are really only a few major bead styles and basic findings that will go into making a majority of your jewelry designs. And soon you'll be on your way to understanding and speaking jewelry lingo in no time. Your trips to the bead store will become more enjoyable and fun because you'll know exactly what you are looking for, and you'll probably also save money!
Beads Glossary
Here is a list of the most popular bead shapes and styles available. And, there are always new ones popping up, which keeps jewelry designing fun and interesting. Pick out a few of these bead styles for your next design, and use a little imagination to see what you can come up with.

**Bali Beads**

*Bali beads*, or "Bali style" beads are silver beads originally crafted from designs that are centuries old, in Bali Indonesia. But, due to the booming popularity of the jewelry bead market, these "Bali" beads are now made in many countries. These are handcrafted silver beads (typically less than 93% silver) with intricate designs. They come in a variety of spacer beads, bead caps, and focal designs, as well as ornate clasps and hook style closures. While they are certainly more expensive than plan glass or plastic beads, you can really spice up a boring design simply with the addition of a few well-placed Bali beads. Give it a try and you'll see what I mean!
**Bead Caps**

Bead caps are generally silver beads (such as Bali) that are crafted in the shape of a cone so they will fit on the top or bottom of a round bead. They come in many intricate designs such as woven baskets, flowers, and more. Bead caps are wonderful accent beads. Try this simple design idea--take a pair of your favorite round beads (plastic, faceted glass or crystal) and slide them onto a headpin, then place a bead cap of the same diameter on top, and make a loop to attach to your ear wires. Voila! Instant designer earrings.

---

**Bead Spacers**

Spacer beads are used as accent beads in-between other beads to create more interest in a design. The most popular ones are Bali "daisy" spacers, little silver daisy-like discs that come in handy to create interest in any number of bracelet, necklace or earring designs. Simply adding a few spacer beads here and there will break up the monotony of your design, create some sparkle and interest.
Crimp Beads
These a little metal tubes that are used to crimp and close off the ends of bracelet and necklace jewelry. The wire is threaded through the tube, looped onto the clasp, then back through the tube. The crimp bead is then flattened and closed with flat nose pliers or crimping pliers, holding the wire tightly in place.

Chip Beads
Chip beads are usually made from semi-precious stones, also sometimes called "gemstone chips". I have seen them made from everything from garnet, to turquoise, to amber. These are irregular, chunky uneven beads that come in many different diameters, usually somewhat flattened but smoothed on the edges for wearing comfort. Due to the freeform nature of these beads, they go well in casual designs. These beads also go great in natural, organic designs, such as a woodsy or nature-themed design, as well as in any casual design such as summertime jewelry.
**Faceted Beads**

Faceted beads are simply beads that have been cut and polished to take on a sparkly eye-catching shine. Think of a cut diamond--all the "facets" catch and refract the light. They come in everything from plastic and glass, to real semi-precious and precious gemstones, quartz, and one of my personal favorites - Swarovski crystal beads! Use these beads whenever you want a little attention in your design. Mix them up with some smooth, non-faceted stones or pearls for more design interest.

---

**Hill Tribe Silver**

Hill Tribe Silver is handmade Thai silver made by artisans of the Karen tribe located in northern Thailand. They use traditional tribal methods to produce their silver designs, and they pass their knowledge down through generations. There are a wide variety of Hill Tribe Silver designs available, from unique clasps, to pendants and flower shapes, and other silver beads in every shape. These beads look great in earthy and rustic designs and with their unique appearance they can really become the focal point in any design.
**Lampwork Beads**

Lampwork beads are **handmade glass beads**. Because they are made by hand, these are often one-of-a-kind designs, and often come in creative dimensional designs such as with little bumps or swirls. Sometimes they even come in the shape of fishes, animals, or other creative objects. There are many excellent lampwork bead artisans out there producing some extremely beautiful and fine lampwork beads. On the other hand, sometimes you can pick up some perfectly acceptable mass-quantity lampwork inexpensively from Asia. It all depends on what you want in your design and what your budget calls for. Lampwork beads are often used as focal beads in your design, or when you want to make something really unique and special. A set of lampwork beads is also good if you want to make a theme bracelet, such as a beach-themed bracelet with ocean and sand-colored lampwork beads, with a sea themed charm or two attached to the clasp.
**Dichroic Beads**

I just love **dichroic glass beads**. These beads are carefully crafted so that they transmit and reflect different colors. Like lampwork beads, dichroic glass beads are handcrafted and are usually one-of-a-kind designs (it's hard to get identical beads when melting glass!). These beads are extremely eye catching and are usually made in mirror-like jewel tones. I think of opals whenever I see dichroic glass, as it has the same **refractive, color-changing effect** that changes with the angle of your perspective. Dichroic glass beads work well as focal beads in a pendant design, or choose a few matched dichroic beads to craft a special bracelet or earring set.
**Foil Beads**

Foil beads are simply glass beads that are lined underneath with silver or gold foil. This creates a mirror-like, reflective quality. They are great as accent or focal beads in your design, as they really reflect the light and catch your eye. If you can't afford dichroic glass beads in your design, simple foil beads are a great alternative.

![Foil Beads](image)

**Metal Beads**

Metal beads are made from any number of metal types, as well as a wide array of designs and sizes. Base metal beads are the most inexpensive variety, and these are great to use as accent beads as long as the wearer isn't allergic to nickel. Sterling silver beads are a great way to add instant class and a little pizzazz when mixed in with glass or stone beads. And of course, there are 14KT gold-filled if you prefer a gold look, or the real thing --14KT gold beads if you can afford them.

![Metal Beads](image)
**Glass Beads**

Glass beads are a wonderful bead as they come in any number of colors, shapes, sizes and designs. Often they come with unique finishes and you can't always tell a glass bead from a more expensive crystal or gemstone bead just by looking. Also, glass doesn't irritate the skin and cause allergic reactions as some metal beads can, so these are a good option for anyone to wear close to the skin. So, experiment with glass beads and see what you can design.

---

**Plastic Beads**

Plastic beads also come in all shapes, sizes and colors. And, they are very inexpensive! So, these are great to use in jewelry projects for children, or when you just want a fun piece to wear that you don't want to spend a small fortune on.
**Wood Beads**

*Wood beads* come in many sizes, shapes and colors. These are great for natural organic designs, or for summer jewelry. Sometimes they even come carved into ornate shapes and designs.

![Wood Beads](image)

**Shell Beads**

*Shell beads* are real seashells that have been cut and polished and turned into beads. These are great beads for summertime or casual bead designs. Mix them up with leather, or with turquoise or coral beads for interesting designs. Often you can find nice mother of pearl focal beads to use in pendants.

![Shell Beads](image)
**Coral Beads**

*Coral beads* have grown in popularity, especially for summer jewelry designs. Usually offered in the colors red, or pink, branch coral is polished and by adding a drill-hole—turned into beads. Like any natural material that is harvested from the ocean, due to the environmental concerns, there are many faux coral products out on the market now that made from plastic.

![Coral Beads](image)

**Bone Beads**

*Bone beads* are bone that has been refined and polished and turned into a bead. These are usually rustic in appearance and often used in an organic natural design. Less often used (harder to find and less desirable now due to the moral and ethical concerns around ivory poaching) are genuine ivory beads.

![Bone Beads](image)
Pearl Beads

Pearls! I use pearls all the time now, as there are so many wonderful fresh water pearls that are being made into a wide array of colors. They don't have to be expensive--it all depends on the quality, size and shape of the pearl, and where it originated. Of course, if you are looking for high end South Sea pearls, you'll have to spend quite a bit more, but basic freshwater pearls can be had for a couple of bucks. You can use pearls to add instant class to any design. Pearls are generally strung and knotted on silk thread, but they also work well on thin gauge headpins and thin diameter stringing wire. Note that due to the very small diameter hole in a pearl bead, you will need to choose a very fine gauge stringing material, or use a bead awl tool to enlarge the hole (but trust me, you don't want to have to ream out 100 pearls by hand, it will take all day!). Also, be aware that pearls cannot withstand harsh cleaners and silver dips, so you will need to be prepared to care for them with a soft cloth instead.

Vintage Beads, Antique Beads

Vintage beads are simply older beads that are no longer manufactured. "Antique" is generally something thought to be 100 years old (or more). Since this gives these beads a certain rarity, they are often sought out by designers wanting to create a unique one-of-a-kind piece you won't find everywhere else. And they are sought out due to the special historical quality or nostalgia around anything vintage or antique these days. Here's an idea for you - seek out some vintage Swarovski crystal beads in unique colors or shapes that you can't find everywhere, and make a special set of earrings or a bracelet!
Polymer Clay Beads

Polymer clay beads are handcrafted beads that have been made from polymer clay. Polymer clay is worked moist just like modeling clay or play dough, and then it is baked to create a permanent hard bead. Polymer clay beads can be created in any number of colors, patterns and designs. These beads tend to be colorful and fun, so why not make up a couple of focal beads for your next bracelet?
**PMC or Art Clay Silver Beads**

Precious Metal Clay (or brand name "PMC" by Mitsubishi Metals) and also the new "Art Clay Silver" start out much like polymer clay. It is worked moist as a clay form into any desired shape, size and texture. Then it is fired in a kiln or with a torch until it has hardened and cured into a piece that can be polished or oxidized to the desired finish. The end result is a 100% pure silver component or silver bead. This is a wonderful material that has opened many opportunities for jewelry designers who want to create special one-of-a-kind pieces but don't have the knowledge or materials to take on full-blown silversmithing.
**Seed Beads**

Seed beads are tiny cut glass beads that come in many common sizes. Seed beads are inexpensive compared to gemstone beads, and they come in a wide array of colors and finishes so you should be able to find one to meet your every creative need. Seed beads are often strung in groups of multiple strands for a necklace design. For designing, consider stringing one or more complementary or contrasting colors of seed beads for a more interesting design.

**Bugle Beads**

Bugle beads are seed beads that come in longer tubes. And, just like seed beads, bugle beads come in an enormous array of colors and finishes. Mix them up in your designs along side seed beads and see what you can come up with for fun new design ideas.
**Rondelle Beads**

Rondelle beads are flattened round disc beads. These come in many materials and designs, including faceted glass, silver Bali and daisy designs, and semi precious gemstone beads. These are wonderful beads to mix into a design to break up the size and interest. For example, mix a rondelle in between every five round beads to break the monotony of the design or to create an accent.
**Briolette Beads**

There's a reason that briolettes are my favorite bead! Briolette beads are teardrop, pear or drop shape beads that have been faceted to catch the light. They are almost always made from semi precious stones, such as garnet, amethyst, chalcedony, peridot, and more. Because of the material and time it takes to facet each bead, these are usually a little more expensive than plain glass beads, but when used appropriately in a design, well worth it! I absolutely love the classy elegance that a design takes on whenever I use briolette beads, and these designs are usually my best sellers because they are so special and unique. Briolette beads are especially fantastic when used as a matched pair in earring designs, or place one or more as the focal point in a necklace for an instant designer look.
Letter Beads, Word Beads, Alphabet Beads

These are fairly self-explanatory. These beads are usually made from glass or metal, and they are stamped or painted with a letter of the alphabet, a common word like "love" or "peace", or a Chinese word symbol like "double happiness". I love these beads because in no time at all you can crank out a custom personalized name bracelet, such as a mother's bracelet, grandma bracelet or friend bracelet, or even a tiny new bracelet for baby. Here's another idea: Use the "word" beads by string them onto a headpin, and hang them as charms off a bracelet chain. Pick words to make a theme, and find a unique charm or clasp to finish your new treasure! These personalized jewelry bracelets make special gifts that show you really care.
Basic Jewelry Tools

To make a vast majority of the jewelry, you will really only need a few basic tools; round nose pliers, flat nose pliers (also known as chain nose pliers), crimping pliers, and some flush cutters. You can pick up a basic set of jewelry tools at your local bead store or craft shop, or you can find them on-line at eBay or any number of bead stores.

Of course if you're a serious jewelry making hobbyist (or a professional!), there are a whole slew of other jewelry tools you might eventually want to pick up, and these tools will become important if you plan to make a lot of jewelry or if you plan to specialize in making a certain type of jewelry. For example, there are tools that assist in knotting if you plan to make stringed jewelry such as strands of pearls.

There are specialized tools that assist in jewelry wire wrapping, such as a wig-jig tool that helps make consistent wire loop designs, and nylon jaw pliers that won't make marks on the wire. There are additional pliers such as split ring pliers, used to open split rings so you can easily attach them onto your chain (such as for attaching charms to a charm bracelet). And if you plan to use memory wire, you will need special memory wire shears that are hard enough to cut the wire without damaging the blade of your normal wire cutters.

Also, just like with any other tool, jewelry tools come in a variety of price ranges depending on quality. If you are a beginning jewelry maker, just start with a basic inexpensive jewelry tool set. If you find you are making a lot of jewelry, or you plan to run a jewelry business, you will want to invest in some top quality tools that will last a lifetime. Some high-end jewelry tools also have ergonomically designed features that can help prevent excessive hand and wrist strain.

Other things to consider adding to your jewelry-making arsenal will include a well-lit workspace, so you might consider purchasing a bright craft lamp or "daylight" lamp. This will ensure you are seeing the true colors of your design, as well as reduce eyestrain. You might consider a magnifying lamp or magnifying glass if you will be doing a lot of fine detailed work, as this will really reduce eyestrain and make your work easier.

You'll want to set yourself up so it isn't a pain in the neck (literally!) to make jewelry. Get a comfortable chair, and make sure you have a table that is high enough so you can easily work with your jewelry. If you need to, pick up magnifying lenses (some of the craft lamps have them built into the hood) or wear glasses if you need them. This is tiny, detailed work and you don’t want to strain your eyes. Again, if you suffer from joint pain or arthritis, it might make sense for you to invest in the more expensive tools with comfort features. It is important that you are comfortable and not hunched up while making jewelry, so spend a little time making sure your jewelry workstation is set up for optimum ease of use.
**Round Nose Pliers**

These round nose pliers have round noses or tips, and are used for creating wire loops. All wire wrap jewelry will use these pliers. The size of the loop depends on how far down the plier tips you grasp the wire.

![Round Nose Pliers](image)

**Flat or Chain Nose Pliers**

Flat nose pliers, also known as chain nose pliers, are smooth and flat on the inside. These come in very handy for holding jewelry, pulling wire tight, or especially if you are wire wrapping jewelry to grip the wire and hold onto one end. You can also use them to fold over the wire to make a right angle, and to basically grip anything that is difficult to do with your fingers! You will use these pliers all of the time! Needle nose pliers are the same as flat nose pliers, and they just have a longer "nose".

![Flat or Chain Nose Pliers](image)
Crimping Tool or Crimping Pliers
If you plan to use crimping beads, then these crimping pliers will help you achieve a consistent smooth and finished look on your crimps. You do not absolutely have to have them—you can close crimps simply by smooshing them flat and closed with regular pliers, however once you have tried these crimping pliers you will never go back. They just look and feel that much better.

Wire Cutters or Flush Cutters
Wire cutters, also called flush cutters, are used to cut the stringing wire, as well as wire used in your wire wrapped jewelry designs. Invest in some good quality snips if you plan to make a lot of jewelry. Never use your regular wire cutters for cutting memory wire. Memory wire is hardened and you will nick your cutters if you try to cut memory wire. You need special memory wire shears specifically for working with memory wire.
**Split Ring Pliers**
You know those little rings that look like miniature key rings? These are split rings and they work the same way as a key ring--you separate one end and slide your split ring onto whatever you are trying to attach it to. You know how hard it is to put keys on your key ring without it slipping off or breaking a nail? Well, let me tell you--working with miniature little split rings is even worse! These split ring pliers will separate the ends of the tiny wire so you can slip them onto your component without tearing all your hair out in frustration! If you plan to attach a lot of pre-bought charms with split rings, you really might want to invest in a pair of these.

![Split Ring Pliers](image1.jpg)

**Memory Wire Shears**
Memory wire jewelry is great because it is so simple to make. Simple, as long as you have memory wire shears to cut it! These are a must-have if you plan to make memory wire jewelry. They are extra durable and especially made to cut hardened memory wire.

![Memory Wire Shears](image2.jpg)

**Nylon Jaw Pliers**
If you plan to work with a lot of jewelry wire, these smooth nylon pliers are great for pulling coiled wire flat, and for holding wire without putting marks or dings in it.
**Bead Reamer**

I can't tell you how many times I have gone to make a beaded bracelet or necklace, only to discover that the diameter of the bead holes on my beads are not large enough to accommodate my stringing material. Argh! When this happens to you, it's a bead reamer to the rescue! Simply use the diamond-dust coated reamer tip to drill the hole until it is large enough. Be careful though, some beads will simply crack with too much pressure. A lot of semi precious gemstone beads as well as pearls come with very fine drill holes. It is usually better to just start with a fine diameter/gauge of stringing material and avoid having to drill holes altogether. Still--a handy tool to have around!

![Bead Reamer](image)

**Jewelry Awl and Jewelry Tweezers**

A jewelry awl is like a needle on a stick. It allows you to position beads and hold thread while pulling knots tight, used especially for stringing pearls and other knot-work. It's also handy if you need to untie a knot. Tweezers work the same way.

![Jewelry Awl and Tweezers](image)

**Ruler**

A ruler comes in very handy for measuring bracelets, etc., especially if you aren’t using a bead design board. I use a nice 18-inch stainless steel ruler, myself.
Jewelry Design Board or Bead Board
A jewelry design board, or bead board, is a very handy and inexpensive item to have for beadwork. If you will be making necklaces, this is a great way to lie out designs so beads don’t roll away. You can experiment with bead placement and you can easily see the length of your finished piece. Or, get a beading table mat or cloth. You can buy one, or use any piece of fabric that works for you, preferably a fabric with some “nap” to it, which keeps beads from sliding off the table.

Bead Mat
A bead mat is simply any fabric or mat that has some texture to it, so the beads don't all escape and roll away off your table. I bought myself one of these and it was made from a plush felt-like fabric much like a Vellux blanket.

Task Lighting
If you can afford to, purchase a craft lamp that provides bright natural spectrum light. While this is not completely necessary, they are great for seeing the “true” color of your designs and also for reducing eyestrain. A highly recommended brand of lamp is the “Ott” light, but any bright natural bulb should work if you can’t afford to splurge on a specialty lamp. Sunlight, of course, is always a great alternative if you have a window where you can place your jewelry table.
**Thread Scissors**
Thread scissors are small scissors designed for cutting thread. They have nice small sharp tips and are easier to use on fine thread than your normal larger scissors.

**Flexible Beading Needles**
Beading needles are special needles with an eye that will collapse so you can pull it through the beading hole.

**Big Eye Beading Needles**
This is a long skinny needle with a broad opening in the middle that opens for easy threading.

![Big Eye Beading Needles](image)

**Thread Conditioner**
Thread conditioner (also try beeswax) is sold under several brand names and is used with silk cord and thread. It conditions the thread so it doesn't fray and it also makes it easier to handle.

**Polishing Cloth, Anti-Tarnish Strips, Silver Cleaner**
Silver polishing cloths can be used to remove tarnish from silver jewelry. Silver cleaner is usually sold as a dip and you can easily clean your silver jewelry this way. Anti tarnish strips can be placed in storage or in the box with your components to prevent tarnish from forming over time.
**Specialty Jewelry Tools & Equipment**

**Polymer Clay Tools**
If you plan to make your own polymer clay beads, some additional tools will come in handy. You can buy a set of polymer clay jewelry tools wherever polymer or modeling clay is sold. These kits usually have a plastic roller, a cutting blade or tool and potentially some mold forms. You will also need something to bake and cure the clay. Due to the potentially noxious fumes that are created while the clay bakes, you never want to use your home oven for this unless you are prepared to thoroughly clean the oven after each use. It isn't recommended, especially because you can just use a cheap toaster oven and not have to worry about it!

**Silver Clay or PMC Tools**
If you want to work with silver metal clay, you will want similar tools to polymer clay. Basically you will want to roll your clay out with a roller, cut it using any x-acto knife or cutting tool, fire it using either a jeweler's torch with stand, a kiln, or a specially made PMC Hot Pot, and then you will need to finish your piece by polishing it. If desired, you can also dip your piece in oxidizer if you want to fill in gaps with a blackened finish. Additional tools you might want for working with metal clay include specialized texturing plates, and if you want to make rings, a set of ring forms especially made for working with metal clay, or a ring mandrel will come in handy.

**Metalsmithing**
Metalsmithing is fun and very rewarding. I'll never forget the first time I soldered something (or the second time because the first time it didn't stick...) or the time I created my very first sterling silver ring completely designed from scratch! We won't go into metalsmithing too much in this book, but if you plan to take up advanced jewelry design in the form of metalsmithing, you will need at least a starter set of metalsmithing tools. When setting up your metalsmithing shop, expect to spend anywhere from $100 - 1000 on tools and supplies, depending on how extensive a set-up you need. These tools include: jeweler's saw and blades, jeweler's torch (in a ventilated area!), a firing stand or tripod, copper tongs, tweezers, acid bath (generally a crock pot specifically dedicated to this purpose will work fine), files and sandpapers of varying grades for polishing, a jeweler's hammer set and rawhide mallet, and depending on what you plan to make you may want ring, bracelet or necklace mandrels for forming the metal. You will also need a shop table with vices so you can attach your piece and hold it down while you are working on it.
Wire Wrapping Tools
If you plan to take up advanced wire wrapped jewelry, such as making your own intricate wire wrapped designs, you might want a few additional tools in addition to the basic set of pliers and cutter. These would include a pin vise, used for holding metal wire while twisting it, a small bench vise for holding the designs as you work, and a ring mandrel (for accurate sizing) if you plan to make rings. You will also want a file for smoothing rough edges of the wire. A very popular tool for wire wrapping jewelry is a jewelry WigJig, which is a pegboard with pins, and you simply wrap the wire in different patterns around the pins to produce your design. If you’d like to get some ideas, view thousands of WigJig projects on the WigJig website.

Pin Vise for Twisting Wire
Bead Stringing Supplies

Let's cover all the different types of jewelry stringing materials and bead stringing supplies that you can use to create your handmade jewelry designs. You really don't need a lot of expensive material to make jewelry.

One of the fastest and easiest ways to make beaded jewelry is to use stringing material such as beading wire, elastic/stretch cord, or memory wire. These are easy to work with because you can typically just slide your beads right onto the cord without even using a needle.

Some other stringing options include colored silk bead thread, leather or satin cord, and chain. Once you learn the simple technique of wire wrapping, you can make your own beaded chains. These wire wrapped designs are far more time consuming to make, but they provide a delicate look that is quite durable.

If you are just starting out and on a budget, I would recommend you pick up some flexible beading wire with crimp beads and clasps, or pick up some stretch cord and some jewelers cement or glue to secure the knot—this is a very inexpensive option as there are no clasps needed. Because it is easy and fast to work with, stretch cord works particularly well for children and teen projects, and also for beaded jewelry watches.
Here are the most common jewelry stringing materials that you will use in jewelry making:

**Silk and Bead Thread**

Silk is a wonderful and inexpensive alternative to wire. It is soft, delicate and very feminine, and works well with pearls and other delicate beads. It comes in a rainbow of colors and the thread itself is often used exposed as a design element. Silk thread comes on cards with a needle already attached. You simply thread the needle through your beads, and if desired for added security, knot in-between each bead (like a strand of pearls). The ends are finished off with metal bead tips, which are then attached to your choice of clasp. Silk thread cannot be cleaned with harsh cleaners, as it is rather delicate, so keep that in mind. Bead thread can also be made from nylon and other materials.

TIP: You must use the needle that is pre-attached to the cord—if you cut the silk cord off the original needle, it will unravel and you will have a very hard time threading it through another needle for your next design. Also, once the thread is doubled in thickness back through a needle, it probably will not fit easily through your bead holes. Lesson learned! When you buy this thread, take the whole length of it off the card. Attach your first bead tip and clasp at the very end of the cord. Slide your beads all the way to the knotted end and work your design from that end. Once you are done, attach your final bead tip and clasp. Then, cut the cord, leaving the needle with the remaining cord still attached so you can use it for your next design. Wrap the silk back around the card and store it for next time.
**Jewelry Wire**

Jewelry wire wrapping will open the door for you to making a whole lot of very exciting jewelry designs! Wire is available in sterling silver and 14KT gold filled for most common designs, or you can integrate fine silver wire, or even 14KT gold wire for special pieces. If you are just learning, making children's jewelry, or simply looking to have fun with a colorful and inexpensive wire, check out the selection of colored craft wire at your local store. Copper wire is one more choice and is a great wire for learning if you are a beginner. Wire comes in various shapes (round, half round) and gauges, as well as hardness (soft, half-hard, and hard). What you choose will largely depend on the design and what you are trying to accomplish. I find a that a half-hard 24 gauge sterling silver wire allows me a lot of flexibility to string beads with fine holes (like semi precious gems) but still has enough strength to take a shape without breaking. Experiment with a few and you will find the one or two wires that work best for your designs.

---

**Elastic Cord/Stretch Cord**

There are many types of stretchy plastic and elastic cord on the market for making jewelry. Use stretchy beading cords for quick and easy bracelet and watch designs. It is flexible and all you have to do is tie a knot (with a drop of glue for added security) to finish your design. There are many types of stretch cord on the market, just make sure you pick one up that is heavy and elastic enough to hold the weight of your beads. Again, pay attention to the diameter, or thickness of the thread—heavier cord is durable and nice-- unless it won’t fit through your bead holes!

TIP: You will probably want to measure the wrist to determine how many beads to use in your elastic bracelet or watch design. You want to have just enough beads to circle the wrist snugly so there isn’t bare core showing, and you don’t want your elastic to be overly tight! Otherwise this will be an uncomfortable piece of jewelry that is never worn.
**Beading Wire**

You will use flexible beading wire all the time to quickly and easily create bracelets and necklaces. Beading wire is generally several very tiny (but strong!) stainless steel wires that have been braided together, and then covered with a smooth protective coating. Again, depending on what you are planning to do with the wire, it comes in several thicknesses (gauge). Some are stronger, some are more flexible. But with any wire, the key for me is whether I can string it through the bead holes I have intended to use in my design! I have yet to have a beading wire break, but they do recommend using a thicker gauge wire for heavy bead designs. Some common brands are Beadalon, Soft Flex, AccuFlex, and Tiger Tail. Just pick up whatever brand is available to you, or try a couple out and find the one you like the best. They are making this wire in matte silver finish, and now also in a shiny silver and gold finishes, which is a great design element if you want to leave the wire exposed.

TIP: Thicker wire is stronger and will support heavier bead designs. Use thick diameter wire for large focal or heavy glass beads. However, if you are working with pearls or small gemstone beads, the wire will be too thick to get through the bead hole. This is very frustrating! Stainless wire is very strong and I have never broken a wire with a heavy design or through normal wear. So, I always buy the thinnest diameter wire they have, or I use the standard medium gauge wire, and this seems to work best for a majority of my beaded designs.
Memory Wire

Memory wire is awesome for quickly and easily creating bracelets and necklaces (especially chokers). Memory wire is a stiff metal wire that comes pre-coiled. This rigid wire has a "memory" which simply means the wire has been wound into a circular form, and it will snap back into that form, remembering the shape. It retains its shape forever. It is sold in loops with coil diameters sized specifically for making necklaces, bracelets and even rings. You can make a multiple strand, looped design very easily with memory wire, as it will continue to spiral around and around, just cut the length you need. Finish the ends of memory wire jewelry by folding in the ends, or for a more finished look, attach end caps with glue.

TIP: Memory wire is a great alternative if you are on a budget, as it is typically inexpensive and you won’t need to purchase clasps. Memory wire is also great for children’s jewelry, and for chokers as it is one-size-fits-all. It is easy to work with, and easy to put on and take off. However, note that you will need special memory wire or “hardened” wire cutters, as if you cut memory wire with your regular wire cutters, you will ruin them!

Hemp Cord

Hemp cord is used to create natural designs, and is often used with wood, bone, metal or other natural beads. It is typically knotted (like macramé cord) and gets softer with wearing. Bonus- it's inexpensive so if it wears out you can just make another one!
**Leather or Suede Lace**

I love to offset a dramatic focal bead or piece by stringing it on leather cord. It creates a contemporary design and looks good with modern fashions. Suede and leather cord comes in many sizes and colors. You can attach cord ends and use whatever clasp you prefer.

![Leather or Suede Lace](image)

---

**Chain**

Chain comes in many styles and colors from silver, to gold, to oxidized. You can purchase chain in bulk length or buy it with clasps already attached. For example, if you want to make charm bracelets, buy a pre-made chain bracelet and fully customize it with your own bead and charm additions.

![Chain](image)

---

**Ribbon**

You can use any ribbon, satin, or other fabric cord you would like in your jewelry design. Just use cord ends or crimps to finish the ends and attach to your choice of clasp, or simply leave a long extra length of cord and knot or tie the necklace on!
**Jewelry Findings & Jewelry Components**

Finding is the word used to describe all the *components* that you can use in making your jewelry designs. Findings are usually functional in nature, but they can also be focal design elements such as *fancy, decorative bead caps* or a unique clasp that is a major part of your design. Findings include metal components such as *head pins, eye pins, clasps, bead tips, bead caps, ear wires, hoops, jump and split rings*, and more. There are more unique findings being produced all the time, and it is fun to shop at your favorite bead store to get fresh design ideas.

Here are some common findings, but check your bead or craft store, or on-line supplier for even more findings!

**Headpins**

*Headpins are a staple* in making earrings and in attaching dangling beads to bracelet and necklace designs, so make sure you always have plenty of these in stock. A head pin has a small head on one end that prevents the beads from slipping off. Head pins come in different lengths and wire thickness (also known as gauge). Use longer headpins if you are planning to use large beads or several beads to make up your design--you want to leave enough wire at the top to form a loop so you can attach it. **TIP:** The smaller the gauge number, the wider (fatter) the wire. I typically use 24 gauge headpins because the wire is thin enough to fit through most bead holes. If the head on the pin is too small for the larger diameter bead holes, and your bead slips off, just attach a small decorative bead on the end first, then slide your bead into place and it will rest on the smaller bead without falling off. Order head pins in bulk to save money!
**Eye Pins**

These are used the same way as head pins, but instead of a head they have a small loop on the end. You can attach dangles to the looped end.

TIP: You can also make your own eye pins simply by using straight sterling silver or gold-filled wire. Just cut a length of wire and create a loop at one end with your pliers--and viola, instant eye pins!
Jump Rings

Jump rings come in several sizes, and they come soldered shut (solid ring), or with an opening (split). Choose the one that works best for your design.

TIP: To open a jump ring, do not spread and pull the ends away from each other. This will warp the circular shape and you will find it difficult to reshape once you pull it apart this way. Instead, hold each side with a pair of pliers, and push each end away from the other sideways. This will create a small gap between the ends, but will retain the circular shape of the ring. Just push the two ends back towards each other with pliers to close the gap.
**Split Rings**

Split rings look like miniature key rings. They have overlapping double wires, which you can pry apart to slide things onto. They are stronger than open jump rings because you can't pull the ends open, so they are useful in attaching charms and other dangles to your design.

TIP: If you plan to use a lot of split rings, it is a good idea to invest in a pair of split ring pliers. These will hold open the double wires of the ring making it easier for you to attach something. Otherwise, just like with an irritating key ring, you could find yourself splitting your fingernails and getting very aggravated!

---

**Clasps**

Clasps come in all shapes and sizes. Clasps are used to close necklace and bracelet designs. However, there are many highly decorative clasps that can also be used as an important design element. Some clasps are adorned with crystals, or inlaid gemstones. You can even make your own clasps by wrapping wire, or creating one-of-a-kind clasps with precious metal clay, or art clay. Be creative!
**Toggle Clasps**

The toggle bar fits through the toggle ring to close the clasp. These come in many wonderful shapes, sizes, and styles. While a little more expensive than some of the other clasp styles, they are very popular and are often used as a key design element in bracelets or necklaces. You can close your necklace in the back, or leave the toggle clasp in the front if it is pretty.

![Toggle Clasp Image](image)

**Magnetic Clasps**

These are wonderfully easy to put on and off—two strong magnets are used to close the clasp. Magnetic clasps are usually smooth and streamlined in design, but they also now come in more decorative designs like the one below. Due to ease of use, they are great for people with arthritis.

![Magnetic Clasp Image](image)
**Spring Ring**
You've probably all seen and used the spring ring at some point. This is a circular clasp with a little lever that you slide back to open and close the clasp. These are typically inexpensive, yet secure clasps.

**Lobster Claw**
Much like the spring ring, you slide the lever back to open and close the clasp. These come in attractive elongated shapes, and some people find them easier to work than the rounder spring ring.

**Hook Clasp**
These come in a couple of styles, and you can even make your own with wire. Very easy to get on and off, you just slide the hook through a ring, an eye, or an extender chain on the other end. These often come in decorative designs and can be incorporated as a part of the design. However, because they slide off and on they are a little less secure than some of the other clasps.
**Barrel or Screw Clasp**

These clasps have two parts, and they simply screw together. These are typically inexpensive and made from base metal.

![Barrel or Screw Clasp Image](image1)

**Box Clasp**

Typically a decorative box, with a tab or snap used to close the clasp. These are usually delicate in appearance, often in filigree or another design, so they can be used as a key design element. They are typically more expensive than other clasps. These fancy clasps look great with pearl jewelry.

![Box Clasp Image](image2)
**Multiple-Strand Clasp**
These have two or more holes used for multiple-strand jewelry designs. They can close in any number of ways, but basically they are used for designs that you want to keep from twisting.

![Multiple-Strand Clasp](image)

**Cord Ends**
Ends are used to attach your stringing material to a clasp of your choice.

![Cord Ends](image)
**Spring and Tube Ends**
Spring or tube cord ends are folded over or flattened down to attach leather, suede, or satin cord to your choice of clasp.

**End Cap**
For memory wire, glue end caps to each exposed end of the wire to hold the beads in place.
**Earring Findings**

These are the earring components that you will attach your beaded headpins and other design elements to, creating the finished jewelry. Obviously, choose the style and type that you (or your wearer) prefers. They come in pierced, clip-on, silver, gold, hook, chain, loop, post, and leverback. For heavier earring designs, consider leverback or posts, because wires might pull forward and slip out.

TIP: Create simple earrings in five minutes or less! Simply attach a favorite bead to a headpin, (with or without a decorative beadcap), and create a loop at the top of the headpin. Attach the loop to your earring component. Ta-dah!!! You just made earrings.
**Bead Frame**

Bead frames are design elements used to dress up your design. A bead frame has a hole in either end, and the center is an open frame. To use a bead frame, find a bead that fits nicely inside your frame. Place the bead in the frame with the holes lining up with the holes in the frame, and then slide the wire through all of the holes in both the frame and the bead.

![Bead Frame](image)

**Links and Components**

Links are decorative components and very useful in creating interesting jewelry very quickly. Use these to link components in a bracelet or necklace, or to create fast chandelier earrings and pendants.

![Links and Components](image)
**Metal Beads, Bali Beads**

There are many decorative silver beads available. The most popular silver beads come from Bali, India, Thailand, and Israel. These beads are handmade and adorned with filigree, granulation, swirls and other designs. While they will add some cost to your design, these beads are definitely a design element and can make the difference between ordinary jewelry and jewelry with more pizzazz. Experiment with bead caps (a bead fits inside the cap), spacers, and other metal beads to add interest to your designs.

![Beads](image1)

**Bead Cone**

Bead cone are typically used to finish the ends of multiple strand necklaces, and provide a more finished look.

![Bead Cone](image2)
**Spacer Bar**

Spacer bars are used to separate multiple strands on a jewelry or necklace design. They can be decorative elements, as well.

This list is probably never going to be complete, as jewelry supply manufacturers are always coming out with fun new jewelry components. This is good news for us jewelry designers as we can always use some fresh inspiration to spark our creativity!
Section 2 - Jewelry Design Considerations

Using Jewelry Design Elements
What is a jewelry design element? An "element" is simply a design characteristic that you will use to make interesting designs. Imagine a bracelet that is made up of a single strand of all white beads that are uniform in size and shape, and closed with a plain spring ring clasp. Ok...simple and classic perhaps, but also not very interesting to look at. It is more of an accent piece that fades into the background and doesn't draw much attention.

Now imagine a bracelet made with a few large, brightly colored handmade lampwork glass beads, interspersed with smaller crystal beads, with some dangly bead charms attached, and completed with a very interesting sterling silver clasp. Wow! Now there is a focal bracelet that draws attention, and is a key part of your unique style and look! Both bracelets we've just described have their place. The whole point is that you can use design elements to express that certain look and feel and to make your jewelry less ho hum and boring, and more fun and exciting! Ready to learn more? Let's go!

Jewelry Design Elements - Defined
- Color - use of color to set the mood of the piece
- Shape - mix up the bead shapes to add interest
- Size - always use a couple of different sizes in your design to give a little pizzazz
- Metal Selection & Findings - choose silver, gold, or other metal colors, as well as interesting findings to make a statement
- Texture and Light - Mix up interesting textures, smooth and faceted beads, and use sparkle to draw attention.
Using Color

Let's start with one of the most important elements in any design--color! Why is color important in your jewelry design? Well, to me color is the best design element to influence the overall mood and feel of a piece of jewelry. Think about it...just like in fashion, certain colors reflect the season, the occasion, or the mood. For example, white is pure and clean. Therefore, a strand of white pearls is a common choice for the bride-to-be to wear in her special wedding. Black is generally thought to be a more formal color. Back in Victorian era times, women wore jet beads or other black jewelry as a sign that they were in mourning. Basic black or basic white are always good jewelry choices because they also go with everything! But beyond black and white jewelry, let's talk about branching out and thinking about how to use color to create exciting and interesting designs.

Here are some basic questions that a jewelry designer might ask when approaching a new design:

- How do I use color in my jewelry designs?
- What colors go well together? And what colors don't?
- What is the difference between color complements and contrasting colors?
- How can I use my knowledge of color to create interesting jewelry designs?

For centuries, master artists and painters have approached these very same issues when preparing for a painting. Much thought and care went into the selection and use of color before the first brushstroke was ever touched to canvas. Luckily, you don't need to fret too much over getting it all right the first time. I can tell you from personal experience as an oil painter, as well as a jewelry designer--it's a lot harder in preparing a painting than with making jewelry! Generally, if you don't like your color combination, you can simply unstring your design and start over! And, it really doesn't have to be complicated. Whenever I can't figure out what I want to do next in my design, I always just throw a whole bunch of different colored beads out on the table just to see what looks good together.

Color Wheels

Basic Color Wheel

A color wheel can help you understand what colors are complementary and contrasting to give you some design ideas. You can pick up a small hand-held color wheel in most craft stores where the paints are sold. These are usually inexpensive cardboard or plastic color discs, and you can spin the window to get color ideas and to understand contrasting and complementary color schemes.

On-Line Color Wheels

There are many on-line color wheel software products available for purchase. Just do a search for "color wheel" in your search engine.
**Using Shape in your Designs**

Change up the shapes of beads and components in your jewelry design. Using beads that are identically shaped may create a static and boring design. Try mixing round, oval, bead spacers, or bead chips in a design in mix things up.

**Using Size in your Designs**

Try to alternate one or more bead sizes every few beads and experiment to see how you can make designs more interesting. Using the same sized beads for the whole design is perfectly fine as long as it achieves the desired result.

**Using Metal and Findings in your Designs**

**Choosing your Metal Type**

There are three things to consider when choosing the metal to be used in your jewelry design. The most common popular metals include base metal, which comes in several colors and finishes, sterling silver, 14kt gold-filled, and 14kt gold.

First, you must know whether the wearer has a metal allergy, also known as contact dermatitis. Nickel allergies are fairly common in people with sensitive skin, and this will dictate whether you have to use a precious metal (silver or gold) in your design, or whether you can stick with a less expensive base metal alternative. 14kt gold can usually be worn safely by people who have metal allergies, but ask to make sure before you invest in expensive components. One other option for allergic wearers is a brand name called “Simply Whispers”. These are made from surgical stainless steel with no nickel. You can order their jewelry components on-line.

The next thing to decide is the color of metal. Metal comes in silver, gold, copper, bronze, and several other finishes such as “oxidized” metals that have a blackened finish. The right color will purely depend on your own taste, but consider the color of your beads before making your piece.

The final thing to consider in choosing your metal is cost. Base metal is very inexpensive. Beyond base metal, going up in cost you can choose “plated” silver or gold finishes, sterling silver, 14kt gold-filled, and finally, true 14kt gold.
Birthstones and Colors

Birthstone Jewelry
Birthstone jewelry makes a nice traditional gift for birthdays, Mother's day, and even celebrating a birth with baby jewelry! Imagine presenting the mom-to-be with a special bracelet made with birthstones for baby. Or, make a Mom a mother's bracelet or necklace that has the birthstones of each of her children (also great for Grandma!). Use your imagination, and for added interest you can pair your birthstone beads with either complementary or contrasting colors. Try pearls, crystals, and different colors of metal (silver, gold, copper, oxidized) to see which looks best with your color of birthstone. Have fun!

Modern Birthstone Chart

January - Garnet
The most popular semi-precious garnets are deep, rich red.

February - Amethyst
Semi-precious amethyst ranges in color from pale lavender to deep vibrant purple.

March - Aquamarine
Semi-precious aquamarine is typically a pale clear aqua blue.

April - Diamond
Diamonds are a precious stone, and come in many colors, the most popular being colorless or clear.

May - Emerald
Emeralds are a precious stone, and are bright, grass green.

June - Pearl & Moonstone
Pearls now come in all colors, and moonstones are a luminous clear and white with a rainbow opalescence.

July - Ruby
Rubies are a pinkish red to deep red.

August - Peridot
Peridot is a yellowish-green, clear semi-precious stone.

September - Sapphire
The most common jewelry Sapphires range from cornflower to deep midnight blue.

October - Opal & Tourmaline
Opals and tourmalines both come in a range of colors. The most commonly recognized opal is a white with rainbow effect in blues and pinks. Tourmaline ranges in color from pink and green, to black.

**November - Yellow Topaz & Citrine**
Yellow topaz and citrine are semi-precious stones that are typically a pale yellow to deep gold color.

**December - Blue Topaz, Turquoise, Tanzanite**
Blue topaz ranges from deep aqua blue to blue-green in color. Turquoise comes in colors ranging from yellow to blue-green. Tanzanite is a vivid bluish-purple stone.
Common Jewelry Lengths
Listed below are the jewelry lengths for necklaces and bracelets.

Necklace Lengths

**Choker**
A choker necklace is designed to fit snugly against the neck. The choker size will depend on the wearer but chokers are generally about 14 - 16 inches in length.

**Princess**
A princess length necklace is what is generally the most commonly worn size at it looks great with most necklines. Again, the finished size will depend upon the size of the wearer's neck as well as comfort, but the standard length is 16 - 20 inches. For convenience, I tend to make many necklaces with an extender chain on the end, which allows it to be fastened anywhere from about 16-18 inches in length.

**Matinee**
A matinee length necklace is a long necklace, often a long strand of beads. This necklace is generally 23 - 27 inches in length.

**Lariat**
This necklace is popular again. It is a single, very long strand that allows the wearer to loop it once around the neck before tying in a loose knot. Lariats are made from 36 inches to 50 inches in length.

Bracelet Lengths

**Baby**
If you plan to make baby bracelets, either make them with loose elastic or size them from 4 inches.

**Child**
It is a good idea to measure the wrist, but a child's bracelet will generally be between 5-6 inches.

**Adult**
Generally made 7 inches long, although sizes can range from 6.5-8 inches in length, depending on the wearer's wrist size and preference. Some people prefer bracelets to fit snug against the wrist.

**Anklet**
Anklets are generally 8-9 inches in length.
Section 3 - How-To Make Jewelry

Basic Wire Wrap Jewelry Instructions - Making a Basic Wire Loop

Once you learn this basic technique for making wire wrap loops, you will be making tons of amazing wire wrap jewelry in no time! It is not as hard as it looks and only takes a little practice to make you a pro. Just follow my step-by-step wire wrap jewelry instructions, and don't be intimidated, your loops do not need to be perfect, really!

What you will need:
- Round Nose Pliers
- Flat Nose Pliers or Chain Nose Pliers
- Headpins
- Beads

Step 1

String your bead onto a headpin. Hold the bead flat to the bottom of the head pin and bend/fold the wire over at a right angle, right across the top of your bead. You can either fold the wire with your pliers, or just push it with your fingers.

We'll demonstrate this technique by making an earring. Gather your components:

Slide a bead onto a headpin:
Step 2
Option 1 - If you just plan to make a basic round loop, grasp the wire and bend it flat to the top of the bead at a right angle.

Press the wire down with your thumb and fingers so the wire is flat and parallel to the top of the bead:

Step 3
Now, you will begin creating a round loop with your pliers. Grasp the wire about 1/4 inch from the bend with your thumb and palm facing up, and with a twist of your wrist forward, roll the wire up and around, trying to make a nice round loop. If it is easier, turn the wire to the side so you can visibly see the round bend as you are making it. The round nose pliers are used to shape the circular shape by twisting the wrist forward. When you first start, you
will be holding the pliers with your thumb facing up, and as you begin to roll the wire into a circle, rotate your wrist so that your thumb ends up facing downwards.

In the picture below I have already rotated my wrist to get the first half of the round loop. I will then grasp the end of the wire, and pull it down and around the round nose pliers to complete the loop. Cut the wire where the loop closes. Don't worry if you don't get it right the first time, practice will help!

**Rotating my wrist to make a loop:**

![Rotating my wrist to make a loop](image)

Look at your loop, and adjust it with either set of pliers (squeeze the loop closed if you need to, or use the round pliers to round the shape back out and center it over the bead a little better). Snip off the excess wire with your flush cutters.

**Pulling wire down and around to complete the round loop. Cut off excess wire where it joins the other wire and top of the bead:**

![Pulling wire down and around](image)

You can open the loop a bit to attach it onto your component, then squeeze it shut again with your flat nose pliers. Make sure you open loops by separating and pulling the wire side-to-
side and not by spreading it open and apart at the top (you will mess up the circular shape of the loop).

**Designer's TIP** - The size of your loops will vary depending on where you position the wire on the round-nose pliers. Notice the diameter of the plier tips get larger as it head back towards the handle. The closer you grab the wire towards the nose tip end of the pliers, the smaller the loop diameter will be. After practice you will learn what feels comfortable and looks best to you in your design. For uniform loops every time, make a mark with a Sharpie marker on the pliers at the exact spot that matches the loop diameter you want. This way you will always grab the wire in exactly the same place on the pliers, thereby getting exactly the same diameter loop every time!
Wire Wrap Jewelry - Making Chains with Beaded Loops

Let's learn how to make wire wrapped loops to form entire bead chains. These beaded chains are also sometimes called rosary chains.

Just be patient and practice and within a few hours you will have perfected the art of wire wrapping to create beaded chains. You won't regret the time it takes because you can make some stunning and unique jewelry with this technique! If you're a beginner, give yourself a couple of hours to practice and use some inexpensive copper wire to start out. Just follow my step-by-step wire wrap jewelry instructions, below.

What you will need:

- Round Nose or Chain Nose Pliers
- Flat Nose Pliers
- Beading Wire (copper, brass, colored craft wire, sterling silver, or 14KT gold filled).
- Beads

This technique starts exactly the same as creating a basic wire loop. The only exception is that you will leave a little space between your first bend in the wire and your bead, so you will have a place to wrap a few spirals of wire around. Let me show you how it's done.

Step 1
Find a wire of the proper gauge to fit through your bead holes. I usually use 22-26 gauge half hard sterling silver or gold-filled wire, but it is really a matter of preference for your own designs. Depending on how many wire wraps or spirals you plan to make between each bead and the loops, cut a nice length of wire to work with, about 5-6 inches or so.
TIP - Measure the first cut of wire, and pay attention to how much is wasted after making your first beaded loop, so you will know what length to cut all remaining wires for the rest of your design.

Preparing to make a right-angle bend in the wire:
Step 2
Begin by bending a right angle into the wire about two inches from the end. Using this as your starting point, form a simple round loop using your round nose jewelry pliers. Instead of closing the loop and cutting off the remaining tail of wire, you will instead grasp and hold your loop flat with your flat chain nose pliers, and grasp the wire tail and begin wrapping it around the "stem" of wire. This will take a little practice but you will get the hang of it. Press the wire tightly up against each preceding spiral so that it looks tight and neat. Count the number of spirals you made and when you are ready, cut the wire with your flush cutters. TIP - Note how much excess wire you had to cut off, so you can subtract this amount from the length of your starting wire. You can now cut the remaining wires for your design to the proper length to save time.

Fold wire into bend with flat nose pliers:

Using round nose pliers, grasp wire about 1/4 inch from bend and begin to twist and roll wrist in a circular fashion to start the loop:
Keep rolling to create a circular loop:

Grab the tail and pull it down and around to complete the circular shape of the loop:
Grasp the tail wire and begin wrapping it around the wire stem:

For traction (and to save my fingernails!), I like to use my flat nose pliers to hold the top loop steady as I wrap the wire. Keep wrapping until you get the desired number of loops, holding wire tight up against the prior spiral:

Step 3
Thread the first bead onto your wire. Next, allow a little space between the top of the bead and your next bend (enough room for the wire spirals on this side of the bead), and using your flat nose pliers, bend the wire at a right angle and create another round loop. Eyeball it and make sure your loop is the same diameter as the first loop you made. (TIP - Mark a point on the end of your round nose pliers using a permanent marker, and always grasp the wire at this same spot to get uniform loops). If you plan to use a clasp or an extender chain, attach it to this first end loop now.

Cutting end of tail with flush cutters:
Grasp wire with some space at the top of the bead. Make right angle bend with flat nose pliers:

Grasp wire about 1/4 inch from bend with round nose pliers and start the loop:
Rotating wrist in spiraling motion to complete the round loop:

Pulling tail of wire down and around to complete the circular shape of the loop:

Holding the loop for traction with flat nose pliers while I begin to wrap the tail around the stem:
Step 4
Using the remaining tail of wire, begin wrapping the wire tightly around the stem until you reach your bead. Use your flush cutters to cut the wire flush against the bead. Use your flat nose pliers to gently press the tail in tightly on both sides of the bead to create a more finished look and to prevent the wire from scratching.

Beginning to wrap tail of wire around the stem:

Continue wrapping until wire touches top of bead:
Cut excess wire with flush cutters:

Pinch in the end of the wire with flat nose pliers so it doesn't stick out and scratch:
Step 5
That's it, you have created your first bead with loops on two sides! Now we begin the chain by adding the next bead. Start again with Step Two, by bending a right angle into the wire and creating your loop.
This time, before beginning to wrap the wire loops around the stem, first thread your first wire wrapped bead component onto the loop so you can begin creating the chain (thread it through the empty loop, not the one with the clasp or extender chain on it). With the first bead now attached to this second component, begin looping your wire in a spiral around the stem. Note how many loops you have (compare it to the first one so they are consistent), and once you have made enough loops, cut the wire with your flush cutters, and tuck the end piece down with your flat nose pliers. Thread your next bead onto the stem, allow enough space for the proper number of spirals, and make a round loop. Wrap the wire tail around to the bead, and cut it flush, again tucking in any scratchy ends with your flat nose pliers.

Attach first loop to the first bead component to start the chain:

Holding top of loop for traction with flat nose pliers as I start to loop the wire around the stem:
Completing spirals on this side, ready to add my next bead. Excess wire cut off:

Bead added. Allowing a little space at the top of the bead, make a right angle bend with flat nose pliers:

Grasping wire about 1/4 inch away from bend with round nose pliers, I start to rotate my wrist to form the loop:
Rotating wrist and pliers to form the loop:

Grasp tail and pull it down and around to complete the circular loop:

Wrap wire and make loops until you reach the top of the bead:
Clip off excess wire with flush cutters:

Tuck in tail of wire with flat nose pliers:
Step 6
Repeat steps 4-5 until your beaded chain is long enough for your design. Measure your chain periodically with a ruler, or use a bead design board to make sure your design will be the proper length. Don't forget you need to add room for the clasp at the end. Once you have reached the end bead, thread the clasp onto the final loop.
How to Wire Wrap a Briolette or Top-Drilled Bead

Let's learn how to wire wrap a bead that is drilled through the top, such as a briolette. Wire-wrapped top-drilled beads, or briolette shaped beads, make a wonderful drop or dangle from a bracelet or necklace chain. They also make quick gorgeous earrings--just take a pair of briolette beads, follow the instructions below, then top with a crystal or other small decorative bead and attach to earring findings with a top loop.

What you will need:
- Round Nose or Chain Nose Pliers
- Flat Nose Pliers
- Beading Wire (copper, brass, colored craft wire, sterling silver, or 14KT gold filled).
- Briolette or other Top-Drilled Beads

Step 1
Select your wire in a diameter that will fit easily through your bead hole.

Step 2
Cut about several inches of wire (5-6 inches should work). Thread your wire through the bead hole and center it along the wire. Fold the wire up on both sides and center it evenly over the top center of the bead.

Thread the bead onto your piece of wire and center it:

Bend the wire evenly and centered over the bead:
Step 3
Use your flat nose pliers to bend one wire end at an angle so the wire points straight up over the top of your bead. This will become the "stem" that you wrap the wire around. Decide how much space you want between the bead and the top loop. This is purely a matter of visual preference.

Make a right angle bend in the one wire so it sticks up above the bead:

Step 4
Take the remaining wire and begin twisting it around the stem you created in the prior step. Hold the wire smooth and flat so it wraps nice and tightly. Wrap as many loops as you desire in your design, to go halfway up the stem. Cut the tail off the piece you have been using to wrap around the stem using flush cutters. You will continue working with the stem piece of wire.

Hold the stem wire in one hand, and begin tightly wrapping the other wire around the stem:
Keep wrapping for as many loops as you want in your design:
When you have reached the halfway point on your stem, cut the wrapping wire flush with your flush cutters:

Step 5
Use your flat and your round nose pliers to create a round loop at the top. To attach this briolette to another component or earring, slide the component on at the round loop before beginning to wrap it back down around the stem, so that it will be attached.
How to Use Crimp Beads

Crimp beads are small metal tubes that are squeezed tight around beading wire to hold beads in place. They allow you to easily attach a clasp to the end of your design. They are also used to hold a bead stationary along a piece of wire or cord as an integral part of the design (called a "bead station"), such as in illusion wire jewelry.

Close your crimp bead by squeezing it flat with regular pliers, or closed with a crimping tool, also referred to as crimping pliers, which creates a rounder appearance by folding the crimp bead around the wire. Also, there are new crimp covers on the market, which close over the top of a crimped bead giving a more finished appearance.

Ready to crimp? Here is how it is done!

What you will need:

- Two Crimp Beads
- Clasp
- Length of Flexible Jewelry Wire
- Design Beads
- Crimping Tool or Flat Nose Pliers

Step 1
When you are ready to attach a clasp (or any end-piece you are using in your design, such as a jump ring, or extender chain), first thread the end of your wire through a crimp bead.

Slide a crimp onto the wire:
Step 2
Next, the wire is looped through the clasp or extender chain, and then fed back through the crimp bead, forming a loop. It is a good idea to leave a tail of wire at least a couple of inches longer than you think you need so you will have some wire to work with.

**Feed the wire through the clasp, and back through the crimp bead:**

Step 3
Slide the crimp bead up close to the end of the clasp or end-piece. Check the crimp bead and make sure it is not too close to the clasp or end-piece. You want to have a small loop around the clasp or end-piece, but not so small that it holds the clasp so tightly that it cannot move freely.

**Designer's TIP** - You want to have a little play in the loop. Especially for bracelets that will fit the wrist snugly, you will want the clasp to hang a little looser to allow for some flexibility and movement. It's very disappointing if the wire comes loose and the clasp breaks off. Then
you have to remake the bracelet simply because your loop was too tight and your clasp couldn't move! Also, having some flexibility makes it much easier for the wearer to put on.

**Slide the crimp up close to the clasp, but not too close—the clasp should have some room to move and dangle freely:**

![Image of crimped bracelet](image)

**Step 4 with Crimping Tool**
You have two choices to close your crimp. If you have a crimping tool or crimping pliers, follow this step. If not, follow the next step, below.

You are now ready to squeeze the crimp bead shut. Place the crimp bead in the back channel of the crimping pliers, closest to the handle. Squeeze the pliers closed, gently but firmly. This will both flatten and place a dent in the crimp bead.

Next, place the dented crimp bead on its side in the front channel of the crimping pliers, closest to the end. Basically, position the crimp bead so that it looks like the Letter C. You are positioning the bead upright like this so that when you close the pliers and squeeze, the bead will be folded closed right on the dent (bringing each end of the letter C together). Squeeze gently but firmly and make sure your crimp bead has tightly closed around the wire. If necessary, use pliers to make it close tighter. Tug gently to make sure the wire doesn’t pull free.

**Designer's TIP** - Sometimes, you just don’t get a perfect crimp. It either didn’t fold over nicely or the wire pulls loose. If this happens, cut the crimp bead off the end, and just start over again with a fresh new crimp bead. This is another good reason to leave yourself a little extra wire to play with on the end of your design.

**Start with the crimp bead in the dented channel of the tool, and a wire on either side of the crimp bead and squeeze pliers closed to dent the bead:**

![Image of crimping tool](image)
Next place the dented bead on its side in the rounded channel of the tool:

Squeeze pliers shut to curl the crimp bead over and closed into a tight C shape:
Step 4 with Flat Nose Pliers
Using regular flat or needle nose pliers works to close crimp beads, too. There is only one step to closing the crimp. Simply grasp the crimp bead with the flat section of the pliers. Squeeze gently but tightly to smash the crimp bead flat. Check to make sure the crimp bead is tightly holding the wire so it won't pull free. That's it! You will repeat this on the other end of your design.

Step 5
Thread your first bead onto the wire. Thread both pieces of flexible wire through the bead hole if possible. Use your flush cutters to cut the cord off as close as possible to the bead. Thread the rest of your beads according to your design until you reach the other end.

Slide a bead onto both wires if possible:

Cut the wire flush up against the bead:

Complete your design by stringing all remaining beads:
Step 6
When you are ready to attach your final clasp to the end of your piece, thread the crimp bead and clasp just like before, but now you will want to tighten all of your beads by pulling on the tail end of the loose wire. This will snug all your beads up together, leaving no gaps in your design. If you need more leverage to pull the wire tight, use your pliers; one to hold the clasp and the other to grasp and pull the wire. Crimp your final bead, and you're finished!
How to Use Crimp Covers

Crimp bead covers are used to create a more polished and finished look by hiding the crimp bead under a smooth and shiny bead cover. Crimp covers come in both silver and gold finishes and they are easy to put on.

What you will need:
- Crimp Bead Covers
- Crimping Tool

Step 1
First, follow the instructions on How to Use a Crimp Bead to finish both ends of your design with crimp beads. Next, take a crimp bead cover, and wrap it around your finished crimp bead. Please the bead carefully in the smooth channel of your crimping pliers. The bead will be standing up so it looks like the letter "C".

Place crimp cover over crimp bead and into the first channel of the crimping pliers:
Step 2

Gently squeeze the pliers shut so the crimping tool closes the crimp bead cover over the top of the crimp bead. That's it; your crimp bead is now covered. If necessary use either your crimping tool or flat nose pliers to straighten out or further close the crimp bead cover onto the bead.

Squeeze pliers shut to close the crimp cover onto the crimp bead:
Finished bead with crimp cover!
Bead Stringing and Knotting How-To

Bead stringing is usually done for strands of pearls or other fine beads. Each individual bead is knotted into place along the thread. This looks nice and prevents beads from falling off if the thread should break.

TIP - For design ideas, use a thread color that either matches or contrasts with your beads. This will be especially interesting if your beads are clear, as you will be able to see the colored thread through the bead.

Gather supplies - What you will need for bead stringing:
- Clamshell bead tips
- Thread
- Beads
- Tweezers, an awl, or a specially made knotting tool
- Glue or jewelry cement
- Clasp

Step 1
Select your thread, beads, and clasp. Select a thread that will pass through the diameter of your bead holes. I usually buy colored silk thread on cards that already come with a beading needle attached. But, use whatever strong beading thread you like, and if it doesn't come with a needle, use thread conditioner like beeswax to make it easy to work with and pass through your bead holes.

I have gathered dark red beading silk (with needle attached), garnet beads, two clamshell bead tips and a decorative hook clasp:

Step 2
You have the option of attaching clamshell tips either before or after stringing all your other beads. If you plan to attach the tips before (like I will do in this example), make sure you lay
your design out on a bead board or with a ruler first to make sure you will have the right number of beads for the desired length. Check the length throughout (the knots will add some length) to make sure you are on track before attaching the final clamshell bead tip and clasp. String the bead thread through the clamshell tip. Make a surgeon's knot in the end of the thread. A surgeon's knot starts with a regular overhand knot, but pass it through the loop twice, then for the second part of the knot, make a regular overhand knot and pull it tight. Place a drop of glue on the knot for added security, and pull the thread so the clamshell tip is held into place. The knot will hold the thread and attach it to the clamshell tip. TIP: If your bead thread is too fine and a single knot is too small and will slip through the hole in the bottom of the clamshell bead tip, then first knot your thread around a tiny bead (like a seed bead) that is small enough to be covered by the clamshell once it has been closed.

**Bead thread is passed through hold in bottom of clamshell tip:**

**Begin to make a knot in end of thread:**

**Cut off tail of thread close to knot:**
Place a drop of jewelry cement on the knot for added security:

Step 3
Use your flat nose (chain nose) pliers to squeeze the sides of the clamshell bead tip closed around your knot. String your first bead.

Pull knotted thread into bead tip, and using chain nose pliers, press the clamshell closed onto the knot:
Slide first bead onto thread, up to the bead tip. Note: If you are planning to attach bead tips last, then leave several inches of thread at the end so you will have something to work with when you are ready to attach the tips.

Step 4
Make a regular overhand knot in your thread, as close to the bead as possible. Make sure the loop is loose enough that you can fit your tweezers points or an awl into the knot opening. Continue holding tweezers up to the bead, pull gently on the thread while sliding the knot as close as possible to the bead, removing the tweezers only at the last moment as you draw the knot tight.

Making a knot, holding it close to bead using tweezers:
Holding tweezers and knot into place until it is tight:

Step 5
Add the next bead, and repeat the same process to make a knot up close against the bead. Repeat until you have strung and knotted all your beads into place. Check your length using a ruler or bead board to make sure before you attach the clamshell tip on the other end!
Stringing and knotting until all beads have been strung:

At final end, string bead through the bottom of clamshell tip, and tie a knot. Add some cement for security:
Squeeze the clamshell closed around the knot:

Step 6
Attach clasps through the loops on the end of clamshell bead tips. You can also use a jump ring if you prefer. Use your flat nose pliers to gently squeeze the loop closed, so that it is attached to your clasp or to your jump ring.

Attaching the loop on the clamshell bead tip to my choice of clasp:

Example of attached clasp and strung and knotted beads:
How to String Beads on Organza Ribbon

A very feminine and popular necklace or choker design is using your favorite organza ribbon to string beads. But how on earth do you string ribbon through that tiny bead hole? Well, there are two techniques I can share. Using the first technique, you will cut the end of the ribbon into a sharp point and thread that through the bead. In the second technique you will use some thread or a collapsible big eye needle to wrap around the ribbon and pull it through the bead. Either method should work, just pick one and try it.

Technique 1 - Cut the ribbon into a sharp point

Step 1

Leave yourself several extra inches of ribbon because some part of the ends will be wasted. Using sharp scissors, cut the ribbon into a long diagonal point on the end, leaving a long sharp tip that you can then thread through your bead hole.

Step 2

Depending on your design, string and crimp or knot as many beads as you want into place on the organza ribbon, and repeat this technique on the other end.

Step 3

Once you are ready to finish the ends, feed your ribbon through a crimp bead, around your choice of clasp or ring, and back through the crimp bead. Crimp your bead flat to hold the ribbon securely. Cut off the wasted ends of the ribbon close to the crimp bead (be careful you don't accidentally cut through the good part of the attached ribbon).
Technique 2 - Use thread or needle to pull ribbon through beads

This is an easy technique but will required that you fold and pull two thicknesses of the ribbon through the bead, so you need to have a wider diameter bead hole.

Step 1
If you are using thread - Fold the end of your ribbon in half. Thread a piece of thread through the ribbon loop. Hold the two ends of the thread and thread those ends through the bead hole. Pull to force the ribbon through the bead.

If you are using a collapsible big eye needle - thread your ribbon through the needle hole. Thread the needle through the bead hole and pull until the ribbon is threaded through the bead.

Step 2
Depending on your design, string and crimp or knot as many beads as you want into place, and repeat this technique on the other end.
Step 3
Once you are ready to finish the ends, feed your ribbon through a crimp bead, around your choice of clasp or ring, and back through the crimp bead. Crimp your bead flat to hold the ribbon securely. Cut off the wasted ends of the ribbon close to the crimp bead (be careful you don't accidentally cut through the good part of the attached ribbon).
How to Use an Extender Chain for Bracelet or Necklace Designs

First of all, what is an extender chain?
An extender chain allows the option of fastening your bracelet or necklace closed at different places on the chain to control the length. I love to use extender chains in both bracelet and necklace designs because it gives the wearer some flexibility on length. This is especially nice if you want to wear a necklace at different places on the neckline depending on the top you are wearing. And, if you are making jewelry to sell, you won't have to re-size the piece to suit the wearer--this gives your jewelry more of a "one-size-fits-all" appeal. Plus, as an added bonus, I think extender chains are feminine and classy and with the addition of a final dangle bead or charm to the end of the extender chain, you end up with a much more professional and finished piece of jewelry than just using a plain old clasp.

Step 1

Gather components
You will need some chain, and your flat nose pliers. You will need round nose pliers if you plan to attach the chain with a wire wrap technique. Purchase a pre-made set of extender chains from your favorite jewelry supplier or bead store, or simply use some bulk chain for the extender, and use a lobster clasp on the other end. Decide how much length you want for the extender chain, and cut this length of chain.

TIP - I wouldn't go any longer than one inch or so for a bracelet (maybe even half an inch) because if the bracelet extender is too long it may dangle too much and irritate the wearer. I usually go about two inches or so on a necklace. But, there are no hard and fast rules on length, so just do what looks and feels good to you.

I have a piece of bulk chain I will use as the extender, and a lobster claw clasp:
Step 2
Attach the extender chain
Now you are ready to attach the chain. You have a couple of options. You can use flexible jewelry wire with crimp beads to attach the extender chain. Or, if you know how to wire wrap, you can attach the extender chain to the necklace or bracelet chain with a single wire-wrapped bead component.

I am using flexible jewelry wire, which I have threaded through the extender chain and back through my crimp bead:

Step 3
Attach clasps if necessary
If you haven't purchased a pre-made extended chain set, you will now want to attach a lobster clasp or hook clasp to the other end. Use your flexible jewelry wire, or a jump ring or wire-wrapped bead component to attach the clasp to the other end of your design to complete your piece of jewelry.

TIP - I always attach a dangle bead or a small charm to the end of my extender chain. It gives a nice personal designer's touch!

At the other end, I have attached my flexible jewelry wire to a lobster claw clasp, and back through the crimp bead, preparing to crimp:
I am making a basic loop and attaching a decorative dangle crystal bead to the very end of my extender for decoration (a small charm would look nice, too):

That's it! See the finished bracelet with extender chain and dangle bead!
How to Finish Memory Wire Ends

For memory wire, use super glue or jewelry cement to glue your end caps to each exposed end of the wire to hold the beads in place. If you don't have end caps, you can simply fold the ends of the memory wire over to hold the beads in place.

Memory wire is so great for making quick and easy pieces of jewelry! Memory wire now comes in necklace, bracelet, and even ring sizes. You have two options to complete the ends of a memory wire piece of jewelry. First, you can use your pliers to create a loop at the end. The loop will stop the beads from sliding off the ends, and if you like you can also attach a decorative dangle bead to give a more finished look. Second, you can purchase memory wire end caps, which are simply glued onto the ends of the wire.

Making a Loop

You will need your flat and round nose pliers.

At the end of the memory wire, use your flat nose pliers to bend a right angle. Next, using your round nose pliers, make a loop (see wire wrapping for more instructions on how to create a loop). That's it! String your beads, and then complete the same technique on the other end. If you like, attach a dangle bead or charm to the loop for a little added style.

Using flat nose pliers, make a right angle bend in the wire:

Use round nose pliers to make a loop. Finished loop:
Attach a dangle bead for decoration at the end of your loop. String the rest of your beads onto the memory wire, and complete this process on the other end:

Using Memory Wire End Cap Beads
You will need special memory wire end beads, and some glue.
Add a drop of glue (like ES6000) or jeweler's cement to the end of the wire, and slide it into the memory wire end cap bead. Hold the bead in place for a minute until the glue takes hold. Wait a day to wear your jewelry just to make sure there is a secure hold.

Add a drop of glue to end of wire:
Attach memory wire end bead to end of wire:

Let dry! String your beads onto the wire, and finish the other end in the same fashion. Allow a day or so for the cement to dry before wearing your piece.
How to Finish Cord Jewelry
Cord jewelry is modern, fun, and contemporary, and goes great with casual fashions. And, it is very simple to finish and you can complete a pendant in no time at all!

For leather cord, rubber cord or suede lace jewelry, you will be using a little bit of glue or jewelers cement (like E6000), and a tab end cap to hold the ends.

Step 1 – Add some glue
Gather your components and glue. Place a small drop of glue on the end of the cord. Carefully place the cord into the end cap. Leave a little space at the end so you can attach your ring and chain.

Add some glue to the end of the cord:

Step 2 - Fold down the end caps
Using your flat or chain nose jewelry pliers (not a crimping tool), simply squeeze down the tabs of the folds on the end cap so that they are securely holding the cord into place. Repeat these steps on the other end of your piece.

TIP - It is recommended that you hold this in place with your pliers for at least 30 seconds to a minute to allow the glue to take hold and dry a little bit for an extra secure finish. Let the necklace or bracelet dry for a day before wearing it so you don't pull out your ends!

Place the cord into the channel:
Carefully use flat nose pliers to bend the tabs down and around the cord on both sides:

Step 3 - Attach your clasp
That's it! Now you can attach a jump ring, split ring or other finding to the end caps and then attach an extender chain or clasp to your piece, and your jewelry is ready to wear!

Finished end cap with both ends folded tightly around cord. Now, attach a clasp to the loop on the end and you're done!
How to Attach Cord Ends

These tube cords come in two styles. You can use them with leather, rubber, suede or other cord. One style is intended to be crimped in the middle to hold the cord in place. The other style is simply a smooth end that cannot be crimped.

Crimp Style End

Step 1
For the style that has a mid-section that can be crimped, you will insert the stringing material into the tube.

Step 2
Next, grasp the midsection tightly with your flat nose pliers and squeeze to close the section tightly around your stringing material. Pull the cord gently to make sure it has a snug hold.

Tip - If desired for added security, add a drop of jeweler's glue into the end before squeezing the crimp shut. You will need to clean off any adhesive that squeezes out, before it dries.
Smooth Style End
If your tube cord end does not have a mid-section that can be crimped, you will need to
simply glue the cord in place with jeweler’s cement (like ES6000) or other strong glue. Make
sure you get an end that closely fits the size of the cord diameter. If there is too much of a
gap, or not enough room for any adhesive, you won't get as good a result. Follow these steps:

**Step 1**
Add a good drop of glue to the end of your cord. TIP - If you are using smooth leather cord,
you might scratch the leather up on the end with a bit of sandpaper to make it hold better.

**Step 2**
Carefully feed your cord into the tube, being careful not to dislodge all of the adhesive. Leave
this in a safe place where it won't be moved so it can dry. TIP - Tape this end down so it
doesn't move while you do the other end.

**Step 3**
Let the piece dry at least 24 hours before wearing, just to make sure it is secure.
How to Attach a Spring Coil Cord End

These coil ends have several spirals, and look like little springs. They are inexpensive and easy to use on leather jewelry cord, rubber cord, or suede cord.

Step 1
Add a drop of glue to the end of your cord. Feed your stringing material into the spring coil end.

Glue added to cord tip:

Coil end component is slid onto cord end:

Step 2
Next, grab the first couple of coils furthest from the end with your flat nose pliers. Squeeze gently but firmly to flatten a couple of coils down so they hold the cord tightly in place.

Use flat nose pliers to gently squeeze closed the first two coils of the wire. This will hold the cord tightly into place:

Attach a clasp of your choice to the coil end:
How to Attach Foldover Tab Ends

For leather cord, rubber cord or suede lace jewelry, you will be using a little bit of glue or jewelers cement (like E6000), and a tab end cap to hold the ends.

Step 1
Gather your components and glue. Place a small drop of glue on the end of the cord. Carefully place the cord into the end cap channel. Leave a little space at the end so you can attach your ring and chain (don't overlap the hole).

Step 2
Using your flat or chain nose jewelry pliers (not a crimping tool), simply squeeze down the tabs of the folds on the end cap so that they are securely holding the cord into place. Repeat these steps on the other end of your piece.

TIP - It is recommended that you hold this in place with your pliers for at least 30 seconds to a minute to allow the glue to take hold and dry a little bit for an extra secure finish. Let the necklace or bracelet dry for a day before wearing it so you don't pull out your ends!
**Step 3**
That's it! Now you can attach a split ring or other finding to the end caps and then attach an extender chain or clasp to your piece, and your jewelry is ready to wear!
How to Use Stretch Cord

Stretch jewelry cord, or elastic cord, is a great bead stringing material, especially for bracelets! You don't need to use a clasp, so the cost of making jewelry is lower, too. All you have to do is string your beads onto the elastic, then knot and glue the end. Or, you can simply thread the ends through a crimp bead and crimp the bead flat to hold the elastic instead.

Step 1

String your beads onto a length of elastic cord. Allow several extra inches so you will have something to knot with. Pull the elastic cord tight, and begin to make a knot. I have seen several knots recommended for this purpose. You can do a double overhand (regular) knot, a surgeon's knot or a square knot. TIP: I have had all my beads fall off while trying to hold the cord taut while I make the knot. To make life easier if you plan to make lots of elastic jewelry, buy a "third hand" tool (used by metal smiths) to hold your piece steady with tweezers while you make the knot!

For illustrative purposes so you can see my stretch cord a little better, I have not used any beads in my example. You will have strung all your beads before starting the knot. Start the knot.

Step 2

Knot step 2 - Next, close the knot with a regular overhand knot, and pull the knot tight.
Step 3

Important - You MUST add a drop of glue or cement to the knot and hold it still for 60 seconds or so to allow to dry. If you skip this step, the knot will likely work itself loose and your piece will break! Once the glue has dried, clip off the ends. Hide the knot inside a bead. That's it!
How to Use Bead Cones

Bead cones are great for finishing multi-strand jewelry designs. Plus, they really add a finished look to any necklace, giving more of a custom, handmade designer’s look that your clients will love.

What you will need:
- Eye Pins
- Bead Cones
- Beads for Design and Stringing Material
- Choice of Clasp

Step 1
Make sure your eye pin is long enough to go all the way through the bead cone and some sticking out the other end for attaching a clasp. TIP: You can make your own eye pin with a length of wire--just create a basic loop at one end! First, string your beads as desired and attach them to a soldered jump ring or directly to the bottom of the loop on an eye pin. Thread the eye pin up through the bead cone and pull the strings of beads into the cone.

Step 2
Thread the end of the eye pin through the bottom of the bead cap, and pull the bead strands up into the cone:

Step 3
Use your flat nose and round nose pliers to create a basic wire loop on the tail of wire at the end of the bead cone. For steps on how to create a basic loop, click here. Attach your clasp to the end, and that's it! Complete the same technique on the other end.
How to Use Split Ring Pliers

These pliers are handy if you plan to use split rings. What are split rings, you ask? They look like miniature key rings, and just like the full size key rings, they are hard to slide things onto! It takes a little practice, but is still easier than trying this without the pliers. Don't break a nail, get yourself some split ring pliers and attach your split rings with ease. Here is how it is done.

Step 1
Use your split ring pliers to separate the wires close to one end of the wire spiral. Close the pliers gently so the top curved "nose" tip of the pliers separates the two wires. This will create just enough of a gap so you can begin to slide a jump ring component onto the split ring.

Close the top tip of the pliers so that it forces the ring open:

Step 2
Use your flat nose pliers to push/roll the jump ring or component around the split ring, until it closes onto the ring. This takes a little practice but you'll get it!
How to Properly Open Jump Rings

Jump rings are so handy in jewelry design! You may use them to attach components, charms, clasps, etc. so it is important that you learn how to properly open and close these. If you do it wrong, you will lose the round shape and they won't be as strong. Here is how it is done:

Step 1
First, don't do it the wrong way. The wrong way is to grab each side of the ring and pull it apart like you are opening a fortune cookie. No, do it this way instead!

Grasp either side of the wire ring, right at the split in the wire. Use one set of pliers to push down, and one set of pliers to pull up. This will twist open the wire vertically by creating a gap between the top and the bottom wires of the ring.

Step 2
Use the gap between the wires to slide your ring onto your component. Follow exactly the reverse step to push both wires back closed together.
You’ve come to the end of the book. If you have any questions or problems when following the instructions in this book, feel free to drop me a message. Just go to my website at www.making-jewelry.com, and click the Contact Me link. Your feedback and comments are appreciated. Don’t forget to check the website each month for fresh new design ideas, and more jewelry inspiration. Sign up for my Newsletter on the website and you’ll receive free jewelry designs emailed to you every month or two, along with information on special jewelry supply discounts and more.

Ready to take your jewelry hobby to the next level and run your own work from home jewelry business? You’ll want to check out my eBook, How to Run a Home Based Jewelry Party Business for Fun and Profit - A Step-by-Step Action Plan for Building your Dream Business. This great eBook is available for instant download, just visit, www.making-jewelry.com.

Thanks so much, and I wish you much fun and success with your jewelry!