



WIRE LINKS & BLING NECKLACE

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Creating links is one of the most versatile ways to use wire. I used two different colored wires in this project, you could use as many as you wish. The color pallet you use makes each one look different! You can also add any type of bead, pearl or crystal as the connecting link for added pops of color.

Skill Level: Confident Beginner+

Techniques to know: How to open and close a jump ring, using a wire straightener

Finished size: about 16"

MATERIALS

19" Copper wire natural 20 Ga

19" Gm/antique brass 20 Ga

20 – 3mm fire polish rounds

10 – 6mm crystal bicones

Lobster claw, copper

20 Jump rings 5/32" brass

2 ear wires (optional)

Round nose and chain nose pliers

Nylon wire straightener

Flush cutter

Bench block

Domed chasing hammer

Sharpie marker (optional)

DESIGN TIP: Use a heavier gauge wire for sturdier links to hang a statement focal pendant!

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Permission to teach this pattern is exclusive to customers of The Beadsmith.

FIGURE 1

Step 1. You need two pieces of wire per link. The short links and crystal links are 1.5-inches and the long links are 2-inches. Using the Wire straightener, straighten a long length of wire right on the spool and cut five 2-inch wire lengths in color A and five in color B. Cut five 1.5-inch wire lengths in color A and five in color B. Make loops on both wire ends going in the same direction using round nose pliers.

TIP: Use a Sharpie to mark a line on the tool's nose where you want to make your loop so it is consistent each time you do this step.

FIGURE 2

Step 2. Place the center of wire in the middle of the pliers and use your fingers to slightly bend the wire around the jaw. Repeat bending for all wire lengths.

NOTE: Keep the bend consistent with all wire lengths.

FIGURE 3

Step 3. Work harden all the wire pieces by hammering the entire piece of wire. Flip them over and hammer the other side. Repeat for all wire lengths.

FIGURE 4

Step 4. To create a beaded link, first make a small loop on a 1.5-inch piece of wire. Slide on one fire polish bead, one crystal and one fire polish. Make a small loop at the other end of the wire going in the opposite direction of the first loop. Make eight beaded links.

FIGURE 5

Step 5. Use one wire length of each color to create each link. Attach both wire loops with a jump ring making sure that the bend in each wire length is facing the opposite direction.

FIGURE 6

Step 6. Open a jump ring and set it aside. Align the other loops of the two wire lengths and slip them onto the open jump ring through both loops. Add a beaded link and close the jump ring. Repeat for the remaining wire lengths by using a beaded link as the connector between links ... alternating small and large links.

FIGURE 7

Step 7. Attach a lobster clasp to one of the end of the necklace with a jump ring. Attach as many jump rings as needed to the other end of the necklace for your desired length.

TO MAKE EARRINGS: Create two beaded links and attach to ear wires to one loop.

Residing in breathtaking Colorado with her rescue pups Sparkle & Twinkle, International award-winning designer and past Swarovski Instructor **KRISTAL WICK** has creations in galleries spanning the globe. Her designs have appeared on The Martha Stewart Show, HGTV, PBS, JTV, YouTube and for Michaels. Kristal teaches worldwide at jewelry, fiber, quilt shows, on cruises, and with Creative Mindfulness workshops for Google. Her invention of Sassy Silkies and Batik Beauty hand-painted silk beads rocked the bead market and inspired four published books. Check out her healthy dog treats, too! www.KristalsCriticCreations.com.

WIRE LINKS & BLING NECKLACE photos by KRISTAL WICK

FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2



FIGURE 3

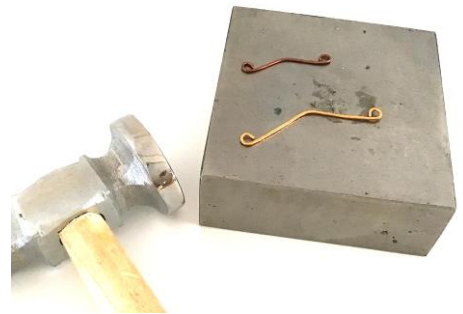


FIGURE 4



FIGURE 5



FIGURE 6



FIGURE 7

