

Crystals come in so many shades and finishes, it's easy to match them with other beads in your favorite colors.

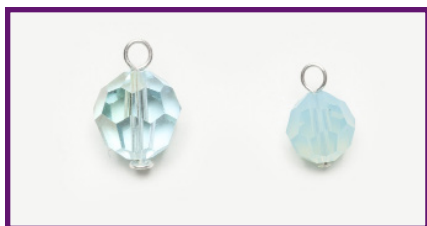


Palette play

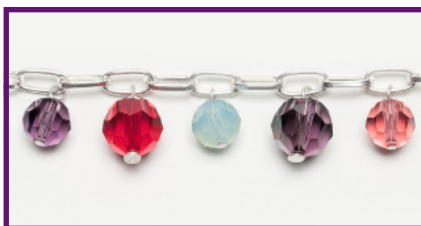
Bright crystals and subtle gems offer colorful stringing options

by Kelsey Lawler

While browsing the Design Seeds website (design-seeds.com), I fell for a palette called “flora brights.” To avoid getting too crazy, I strung only three of the five shades in the palette: aqua blue, plum purple, and watermelon red. Bold, saturated crystals bring these jewel tones to life with pomp and flare — my preferred way to string. But fancy jasper in muted hues is an understated take on the same palette.



1 **crystal necklace** • On a head pin, string a crystal. Make a plain loop (Basics). Make 13 10 mm crystal units in three colors. Make 11 8 mm crystal units in three colors. Open the loops of the crystal units (Basics).



2 Separate a 15-in. (38 cm) piece of chain, opening and closing the links as you would a jump ring (Basics). Attach an 8 mm unit and the center link. Close the loop. On each side, skip one link and attach a 10 mm unit. Attach the remaining units, leaving one 10 mm unit for the extender.



3 Cut six 20-in. (51 cm) pieces of beading wire. String 4 mm crystals on each strand, making two strands in each of three colors.



4 On one side, on each end, string a crimp bead, a Wire Guardian, and an end link of the beaded chain. Go back through the last few beads strung and tighten the wire. Crimp the crimp bead (Basics) and trim the excess wire. Repeat on the other side.



5 Cut a 6-in. (15 cm) piece of beading wire. String a crimp bead, an 11° seed bead, a Wire Guardian, and the end link of the beaded chain. Go back through the beads just strung and tighten the wire. Crimp the crimp bead and trim the excess wire. Repeat on the other end.



6 Separate two 1½–3-in. (3.8–7.6 cm) pieces of chain. On each end of each wire, string: cone, 4 mm crystal, crimp bead, Wire Guardian, end link of chain. Go back through the beads just strung and tighten the wire. Crimp the crimp bead and trim the excess wire.



7 On one end, attach a lobster claw clasp. On the other end, attach a 10 mm crystal unit.

Color note
For the dangles in the crystal necklace, I used 10 mm round crystals in aquamarine champagne, light Siam, and amethyst satin. For the 8 mm crystals, I used Pacific opal, padparadscha, and amethyst.

I fell for these colors at design-seeds.com. What a fun venture — translating a palette on screen into a stringing sensation!



“I love how combining crystals and gems makes for a versatile bracelet that can be paired with either necklace.”



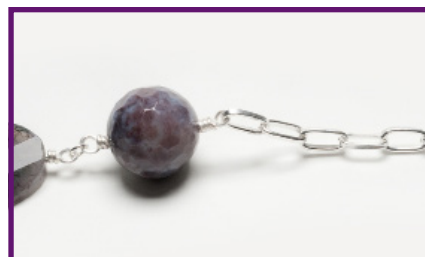
bracelet • Follow step 1 of the crystal necklace to make 40 to 65 bead units. Cut a 6–8-in. (15–20 cm) piece of chain. Attach two bead units per link. Finish as in step 7 of the crystal necklace.



1 **gemstone necklace** • Cut a 3–4½-in. (7.6–11.4 cm) piece of 20-gauge wire. Make a wrapped loop (Basics). String a bead and make a wrapped loop. Make eight bead units.



2 Open a 5 mm jump ring (Basics) and attach the loops of two bead units. Close the jump ring. Use jump rings to attach seven bead units.



3 Separate two 3½–5-in. (8.9–13 cm) pieces of chain, opening and closing the links as you would a jump ring (Basics). Attach a chain and an end loop.



4 On one end, use a jump ring to attach a lobster claw clasp. Separate a 1-in. (2.5 cm) piece of chain.



5 On the other end, use a bead unit to attach the 1-in. (2.5 cm) chain. On a head pin, string a bead and make a wrapped loop. Open the end link of the extender and attach the dangle.

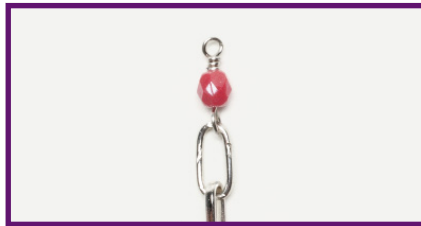
Kelsey Lawler

Claude Monet once said, “Color is my day-long obsession, joy, and torment.” Kelsey admits that she quite agrees.





1 **earrings** • For each earring:
Separate a two-link piece of chain, opening and closing the links as you would a jump ring (Basics). Follow step 1 of the crystal necklace to make three 8 mm crystal units. Attach the crystal units and one link of chain.



2 Trim the head from a head pin. Make a plain loop and attach the other link of chain. String a 4 mm crystal and make a small wrapped loop (Basics).



3 String a cone over the wrapped loop. Open the loop of an earring wire. Attach the dangle and close the loop.

Supplies

crystal necklace 19 in. (48 cm)

- ◆ 13 10 mm round crystals, in three colors
- ◆ 11 8 mm round crystals, in three colors
- ◆ 12 7-in. (18 cm) strands 4 mm crystals, in three colors
- ◆ 2 11° seed beads
- ◆ flexible beading wire, .014 or .015
- ◆ 19–21 in. (48–53 cm) chain, 8 mm links
- ◆ 24 1-in. (2.5 cm) head pins
- ◆ 2 cones, with 13 mm bottom opening
- ◆ 14 crimp beads
- ◆ 14 Wire Guardians
- ◆ lobster claw clasp
- ◆ chainnose and roundnose pliers
- ◆ diagonal wire cutters
- ◆ crimping pliers (optional)

gemstone necklace 20 in. (51 cm)

- ◆ 7 16–32 mm fancy jasper beads
- ◆ 2 10 mm round crystals
- ◆ 24–36 in. (61–90 cm) 20-gauge wire
- ◆ 7–10 in. (18–25 cm) chain, 8 mm links
- ◆ 7 5 mm jump rings
- ◆ lobster claw clasp
- ◆ chainnose and roundnose pliers
- ◆ diagonal wire cutters

bracelet

- ◆ 40–65 8–10 mm crystals and fancy jasper beads
- ◆ 6–8-in. (15–20 cm) chain, 8 mm links
- ◆ 40–65 1-in. (2.5 cm) head pins
- ◆ lobster claw clasp
- ◆ chainnose and roundnose pliers
- ◆ diagonal wire cutters

earrings

- ◆ 6 8 mm round crystals, in three colors
- ◆ 2 4 mm crystals
- ◆ 2 two-link pieces of chain, 8 mm links
- ◆ 8 1½-in. (3.8 cm) head pins
- ◆ 2 cones
- ◆ pair of earring wires
- ◆ chainnose and roundnose pliers
- ◆ diagonal wire cutters

Beads and chain from Eclectica, 262.641.0910. Cones from Fire Mountain Gems and Beads, 800.355.2137, firemountaingems.com. Check your local bead store for supplies.