

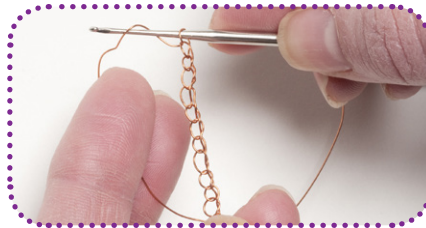


Crocheted keshi pearl necklace

Allyson Weir of Albuquerque, N.M., wanted keshi pearls to be the focus of her necklace so she kept the structure straightforward using a single crochet. She calls her necklace “pretty but not fancy” and wants her jewelry to look handmade and somewhat irregular, saying, “Who wants jewelry to look like it was made by a machine?” – *Cathy Jakicic*



1 Leave the wire on the spool. String 42 pearls, making sure the more attractive side of each pearl is facing the same way.



2 Leaving a 4-in. (10 cm) tail, chain 129 stitches (Techniques, p. 3).



3 Single crochet (Techniques) into the first two stitches. Slide the first pearl to the crochet hook and single crochet into the next stitch. Make sure the pearl hangs freely.



4 Repeat step 3 with the remaining pearls, making sure each loop with a pearl attached is about the same size. Single crochet into the last two stitches. Cut the wire about 6 in. (15 cm) from the last stitch and pull it all the way through the last stitch.



5 On the end of the necklace with the tails, string the toggle loop half of a clasp. Leaving enough slack so the toggle can dangle, bring the wires back through the last stitch and the loop.



6 Wrap the ends several times around the wires, creating a shank. Wrap the ends three times around the end stitch. Trim the excess wire and tuck the ends.



7 Cut an 8-in. (20 cm) piece of wire. On the wire, center the last stitch on the other end of the necklace. Following steps 5 and 6, attach the bar half of the clasp. Make the shank long enough that the bar fits through the loop half of the clasp.

Supplies

necklace 20 in. (51 cm)

- ◆ 16-in. (41 cm) 8–10 mm keshi pearls, top drilled
- ◆ spool 28-gauge dead-soft wire
- ◆ toggle clasp
- ◆ crochet hook, size 10 (1.3 mm)
- ◆ diagonal wire cutters

Pearls from Artbeads.com,
866.715.2323.

PEARLS OF WISDOM

- It is easier to combine pearls with gold rather than fine silver because silver-polishing solutions can damage the nacre (shiny outer coating) of the pearls.
- Before attaching the clasp, gently smooth and shape your necklace so it will lie evenly around your neck. Gently pull each pearl so it hangs straight. Pull the wire ends carefully to lengthen your necklace a bit.

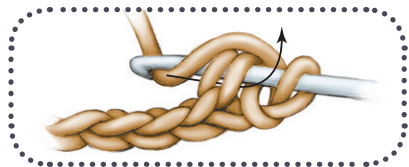
Techniques



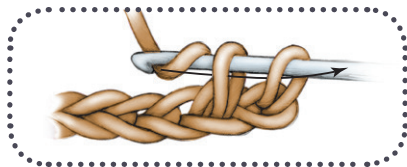
1 **Chain stitch** • Make a loop in the wire, crossing the spool end over the tail. Insert the hook in the loop. Bring the wire over the hook, and pull it through the loop.



2 Bring the wire over the hook, and pull it through the loop. Repeat for the desired number of chain stitches.



1 **Single crochet** • Insert the hook into the two loops of the next stitch in the first row. Bring the wire over the hook, and pull the hook through the two loops.



2 This leaves two loops on the hook. Bring the wire over again and pull the hook through both loops.

PEARLS OF WISDOM

Crocheting requires a lot of wire. If you're a crochet novice, use inexpensive copper wire to practice and to figure out how much wire you'll use in a necklace. Get a spool to be safe.

Allyson Weir

Allyson is a retired middle school counselor who's been married for 40 years ("And I still like the guy"). They have two adult children and one granddog. She started beading about 15 years ago, and six years ago taught herself how to knit and crochet with wire. She loves working with fine-silver, gold, and niobium wire and often adds beads, stones, and glass to her jewelry. Contact Allyson at allyson@allysonweir.com or visit allysonweir.com.

