



Quick mix and match

Sparkling gemstone and cubic zirconia beads make a dramatic impact when you cluster them at the front of a necklace. Use shapes that are similar, such as briolettes, pears, and drops, to pull the look together. — *Eva Kapitany*



1 necklace • Cut a 3-in. (7.6cm) piece of wire. String a top-drilled bead and make a set of wraps (Basics). Make the first half of a wrapped loop (Basics) perpendicular to the wraps. Repeat with the remaining top-drilled beads.



2 On a head pin, string a rectangular bead and a crystal. Make the first half of a wrapped loop.



3 Decide how long you want your necklace to be, and cut a piece of chain to that length. (The purple necklace is 16½ in./41.9cm; the green-and-orange necklace is 17½ in./44.5cm.) Attach the largest bead unit to the center link and complete the wraps. Set aside one top-drilled bead unit for step 5. On each side, every ¼–½ in. (6–13mm), attach a bead unit to the chain and complete the wraps.



4 Check the fit, and trim chain from each end if necessary. On one end, open a jump ring (Basics) and attach a lobster claw clasp. Close the jump ring.

EDITOR'S TIP

To keep your necklace well balanced, buy your beads first, then choose a chain that is proportional. If you select heavy beads and chain, use 22-gauge wire and head pins. For a more delicate necklace, use 24 gauge.



5 On the other end, use a jump ring to attach a soldered jump ring. Attach the remaining bead unit to the soldered jump ring and complete the wraps.

SUPPLY NOTE

You can buy cubic zirconia beads from Fusion Beads, (888) 781-3559, fusionbeads.com.

SupplyList

necklace

- 5 top-drilled beads (briolettes, pears, or drops) in assorted sizes
- 6 x 8mm rectangular bead
- 4mm bicone crystal
- 15 in. (38cm) 22- or 24-gauge half-hard wire
- 16–20 in. (41–51cm) chain, 2–7mm links
- 2-in. (5cm) head pin
- 2 4–6mm jump rings
- lobster claw clasp and soldered jump ring
- chainnose and roundnose pliers
- diagonal wire cutters

earrings

- 2 6–15mm top-drilled beads
- 6 in. (15cm) 22- or 24-gauge half-hard wire
- pair of earring threads, with open loops
- chainnose and roundnose pliers
- diagonal wire cutters



1 earrings • Cut a 3-in. (7.6cm) piece of wire. String a top-drilled bead and make a set of wraps (Basics). Make a wrapped loop (Basics) perpendicular to the wraps.



2 Open the loop of an earring thread (Basics). Attach the bead unit and close the loop. Make a second earring to match the first.

