Create a cool
Patina necklace, bracelet, and earrings in blue mode

by Jane Konkel

Make an easy necklace by stringing a strand of beads through cool-blue chain. Suspending copper chain over ammonia turns it a rich shade of blue. Pass a short strand through the chain for a matching bracelet, and use patinated findings to make chandelier earrings.

1. **Necklace**
   - Cut a piece of beading wire (Basics). (My necklace is 16 in./41cm.) On the wire, string: pearl, spacer, pearl, spacer, pearl, spacer, crystal. Repeat until the strand is within 2 in. (5cm) of the finished length.

2. **Necklace**
   - Cut a piece of chain to the length you want your necklace to be. Prepare the chain (New Technique). Pass the strand down through one link and up through the next until you’ve strung the entire chain.

3. **Necklace**
   - On each end of the beaded strand, string a spacer, a crimp bead, a spacer, and a jump ring. Check the fit, and add or remove beads if necessary. Go back through the beads just strung and tighten the wire. Crimp the crimp bead (Basics) and trim the excess wire.

4. **Necklace**
   - On each end, open the jump ring (Basics) and attach the chain. Close the jump ring.

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**Supply List**

**Necklace**
- 8-in. (20cm) strand 9mm cathedral fire-polished crystals
- 16-in. (41cm) strand 6–8mm pearls
- 42–54 3mm faceted round spacers
- Flexible beading wire, .014 or .015
- 16–20 in. (41–51cm) copper chain, 20mm links (Midwest Beads, midwestbeads.biz)
- 2 crimp beads
- S-hook clasp with 2 jump rings
- Chain-nose and round-nose pliers
- Crimping pliers (optional)
- Diagonal wire cutters

**Bracelet**
- 3–4 9mm cathedral fire-polished crystals
- 12–15 6–8mm pearls
- 16–20 3mm faceted round spacers
- Flexible beading wire, .014 or .015
- 6–8 in. (15–20cm) copper chain, 20mm links (Midwest Beads, midwestbeads.biz)
- 2–4 5–6mm jump rings (optional)
- 2 crimp beads
- S-hook clasp with 2 jump rings
- Chain-nose and round-nose pliers
- Crimping pliers (optional)
- Diagonal wire cutters

**Earrings**
- 2 9mm cathedral fire-polished crystals
- 4 6–8mm pearls
- 6 3mm faceted round spacers
- Pair of 40mm copper chandelier findings (Fire Mountain Gems and Beads, 800-355-2137, firemountaingems.com)
- 6 2-in. (5cm) head pins
- Pair of earring wires
- Chain-nose and round-nose pliers
- Diagonal wire cutters
earrings • On a head pin, string a crystal and a spacer. Make the first half of a wrapped loop (Basics). Repeat to make two pearl units.

bracelet • Follow steps 1–4 of the necklace. To adjust the length of your bracelet, attach additional jump rings to one end.

Prepare two chandelier findings (New Technique, below). Attach the crystal unit to the center loop of a chandelier finding. Attach each pearl unit to an outer loop. Complete the wraps.

Open the loop of an earring wire (Basics). Attach the dangle and close the loop. Make a second earring to match the first.

NEW TECHNIQUE
To add a blue patina to copper:
1) Soak copper pieces in a saltwater solution (approximately 2 Tbsp. salt per 4 oz. water) for four to eight hours.
2) Hang the copper pieces from a dowel that you’ve cut to fit the rim of a plastic container.
3) Fill the bottom of the container with ½ in. (1.3cm) of ammonia.
4) Cover with a tight-fitting lid and set aside for four to ten hours.
5) In a ventilated area, spray dry pieces with a protective matte finish, such as Krylon (available at craft or hardware stores).