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MOTHER-OF-PEARL JEWELLERY

PHOTOGRAPHS: CLAIRE CURT

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Materials









Pearls

Mother-of-pearl or nacre is a natural material coating the inside of seashells. Sometimes a grain of sand penetrates the shell and is covered with nacre to form a more or less regular pearl. The most beautiful pearls are produced by pearl oysters.

Mother-of-pearl and natural pearls come in soft colours, whitish grey and pink with iridescent tints. Cultured pearls are generally more regular. The pearls used in this book are almost all glass and plastic imitations of various qualities.

Cultured pearls (imitation)

Perfectly round and graded, these are available in several sizes and many colours.

Baroque pearls (imitation)

These pearls are not round but are all identical; they are suitable for vintage style jewellery.



Freshwater pearls

Irregular pearls which are much less expensive than seawater pearls, true freshwater pearls can be found at an affordable price. They are naturally light in colour, ranging from white to grey, and come in a whole range of artificially tinted colours in delicate tones.



Novelty mother-of-pearl beads

These are cut from the wall of the shell and come in different shapes and sizes.



Mother-of-pearl

This is a piece cut from the wall of the shell – often one side is pearly and the other more rough. They are naturally iridescent and light in colour, ranging from white to grey. Mother-of-pearl may also be tinted, which means that a whole range of colours can be found.

Rondels, sequins and spangles

Pierced with one or more holes, these can be threaded on to a cord, put together with rings or sewn on to a piece of cloth jewellery or an item of clothing.

Chips

These are small, irregular pieces of mother-ofpearl found in varying thicknesses.



Buttons

Traditionally, mother-of-pearl is used to make buttons of all shapes and sizes, engraved or with an openwork design, available both in natural and tinted colours.



Large pieces of mother-of-pearl and pierced seashells can also be found and may be used as centrepieces in necklaces or even on their own.



Accompanying beads

The creations in this book use other beads to offset the mother-of-pearl. Crystal bicones, seed beads (also called rocaille beads), multifaceted beads and cat's eye beads exist in a myriad of colours which match the tints of the mother-of-pearl.



Lead glass beads

When set, these can be threaded like beads or glued.



Red coral

This material accentuates the purity of white pearls.





Threading materials

Nylon threads

Flexible, slightly stretchy and transparent, nylon thread is suitable for pearl and mother-of-pearl creations. Use a thread gauge of 0.35mm or 0.25mm, depending on the number of times it will be passed through the beads.



Elastic thread

Thicker than nylon thread, this cannot be used for creating complicated jewellery; however, it is perfect for simple bracelet threading when a clasp is not required.

Pearls and mother-of-pearl are enhanced by more unusual materials, which are left visible. Stranded cotton (embroidery cotton) comes in a very wide variety of colours. Different width ribbons in satin or organza will have a really beautiful effect when coupled with mother-of-pearl; raffia and flax can be used for more natural jewellery.

Different sized wire and small chains can also be found in specialist shops.



Findings

This term describes all the small accessories that are needed for finishing off pieces of jewellery.

Brooch supports

These come in different lengths and are generally fixed to the jewels using discreet stitching.



Necklace: 50cm to 60cm (19%in to 23%2in). String: 80cm to 3m (31%2in to 118%2in), according to the number of loops planned.

Customised jewellery

Making your own jewellery offers several

advantages, for example it can be

customised perfectly to the size required.

To quide you in your projects, here are

some approximate lengths of finished

Bracelet: 17cm to 20cm (6% in to 7% in),

according to the width of the bracelet and

Choker: approximately 40cm (15% in).

size of the beads used.

jewellery (including finishes and clasp).



These allow rings to be made on a metal band. Some have a small flat surface enabling beads to be glued on top; others have rings from which charms or bead weaves can be hung. Ring supports with grille settings are also available.





Earring fasteners

Different types are available for earrings for pierced ears and for clip-on earrings. Beads can be fixed on to studs with a shell motif. Clip-on studs have a flat part above the ring for glueing a flat element.

Clasps

Simple models such as rings or snap hooks work well and clasps with several rings are suitable for necklaces with multiple rows. Gold, silver, lead or brass... choose the colour which best matches your beads.



Metal pins and jump rings

Jump rings come in different diameters; they connect the jewels and join different parts together.

Metal pins are fairly flexible, and can be cut and fastened easily with pliers. Headpins can be used to make charms. Joining pins without heads, fastened at each end, are used for hinged jewellery.

With a commercial 7cm pin, the head part can be used for a charm and the rest for a joining pin. Only discard ends measuring less than 2cm ($\frac{3}{4}$ in).



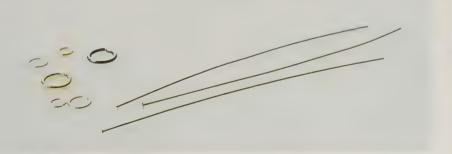


Tulips and toggle bars

These two parts enable the strands of a piece of jewellery with multiple rows to be brought together in a simple clasp. The strands are knotted together and the knots hidden in a tulip. A toggle bar is used for wide, flat necklaces and bracelets.

Crimp beads

Widely used, these metal beads allow clasps to be fixed on to the nylon thread without ugly knots.





Jewellery pliers

These are easy to buy from bead or craft shops. They are small and easy to use.

Wire cutters

These pliers are used to cut metal pins or thick cord.

Round nose pliers

These pliers are used to form loops on pins.

Flat nose pliers

These pliers are used to hold small parts, to open and close jump rings and to flatten the crimp beads.

For finishes requiring a little detail, use flat nose pliers and round nose pliers simultaneously, taking one set in each hand.

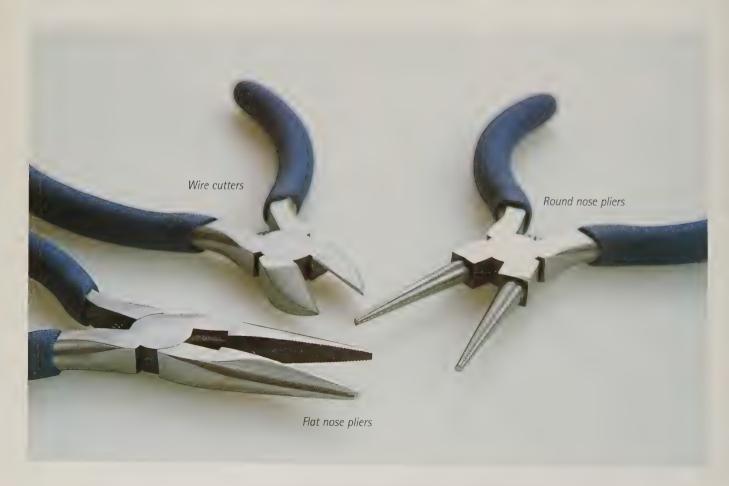
Needles

Long, fine, beading needles can be found in specialist shops. They are only suitable for the finest threads. Pinch the end of the thread between your teeth to thread it through the eye.

Needles are used in jewellery making where a thread passes through the same bead several times. Do not force the needle into a bead as it may break.

Glues

To strengthen certain knots, use contact glue (cyanoacrylate) or transparent nail varnish. For fine glueing, remove the glue with the head of a pin. To glue parts together, use slow-drying glue (epoxy). Leave to dry completely before handling the assembled jewellery.



Tips



Understanding the drawings

For greater clarification, the illustrations in this book are drawn as follows: in order to make a clear distinction between the two strands of a single thread, one is coloured red and the other blue. The starting point is indicated by a green arrow.



The beads through which the thread is passed in the first stage look grey in the next stage and only new workings of threads and new beads are shown in colour. The start of the stage is indicated by a pink triangle.



Beads through which the thread returns are ringed in black.

Setting up

It is important to set up properly, particularly when making more elaborate pieces. Ensure that the lighting is good. Work on a tray on to which you can place the boxes of beads and the jewellery being made: if a box is accidentally knocked over, the beads will not be scattered everywhere.

Levels of difficulty

The level of difficulty for each piece of jewellery is shown by one or more beads:



very easy
fairly easy
more difficult

complicated



Techniques



Knotted finishes

This type of finish is used when a clasp is not included or with a clasp if 0.25mm thread is used.

Make two or three simple knots, one on top of the other. If you can, thread one of the strands through an adjoining bead and pull it up to hide the knots in the bead. Then thread the strands back through a few beads and cut them short. If it is impossible to return the threads back through the beads, place a drop of contact glue or transparent nail varnish on the knots. Leave to dry and cut the threads short.

Positioning a clasp using crimp beads

This setting looks good on 0.35mm nylon thread. Thread a crimp bead after the last bead, then pass the thread through one of the two clasp elements. Pass the thread back through the crimp beads and some of the following beads in the opposite direction.



Stop the play between the beads by pulling gently on the thread. Pinch the crimp bead using flat nose pliers. Cut the excess thread. To decorate this assembly, it is possible to interspace a bead matching those used in the item between the clasp and the crimp bead.



Opening and closing a jump ring

This operation is easier with two sets of pliers. Open the jump ring by twisting it, so that it does not lose its shape: pull one of the ends of the jump ring towards you and the other in the opposite direction. Close using the same principle.



Making a small chain

Small chains are very practical for adjusting the length of chokers and bracelets. Simply connect jump rings to each other. Alternating jump rings of different sizes create an elegant effect.



Charms

Much more than a simple detail, a charm hung from the clasp of a piece of jewellery gives it an original touch and makes it easier to fasten.

Thread the beads you require on to a metal headpin. Using wire cutters, cut the pin approximately 1cm (V_2 in) after the last bead and make a ring around one end of the round nose pliers.



-Setting on a metal pin

This setting enables hinged jewellery to be made. At the end of a metal pin, make a loop using the round nose pliers. Then thread the chosen beads on to the pin. Cut the pin approximately 1cm (V_2 in) after the last bead and make a second loop on the pin.















So chic

Tweed suit or taffeta dress, velvet wrap or fur collar... an elegant wardrobe is not complete without jewellery. By day, the elegance of a set of pearls in harmonious shades feminises the most sober outfit. By night, coupled with crystal and lead glass beads, mother-of-pearl personifies sophistication.





Moon pearls



Brooch

Materials

Brooch

24 iridescent transparent or translucent pink faceted beads

 32×4 mm iridescent blue or pink bicone beads

12 × 4mm grey or pink cultured pearls

 $1\times12\text{mm}$ or 14mm grey or white cultured pearl

Pink mother-of-pearl or silver seed beads

- 0.25mm nylon thread
- 2.5cm silver brooch support

Base. Cut 1.20m (47¼ in) of thread. In the middle of the thread, thread three faceted beads and one 4mm cultured pearl. Cross over the threads in a faceted bead.



Make a second square loop then a triangular one as shown in the drawing.



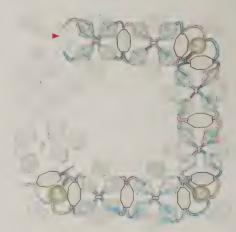
Finish the base as shown in the drawing.



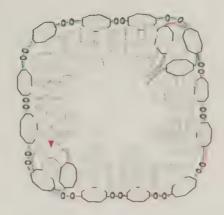
Flower mosaic. Thread one bicone on to each strand and cross over the strands in a seed bead. Thread another bicone on to each strand and cross them over in the next faceted bead on the base. Make a second motif in the same way. On the corner, cross over the strands in a 4mm cultured pearl then in the faceted bead in the base.



Make the three other sides in the same way, carefully noting where the thread comes out at the end of the last motif.

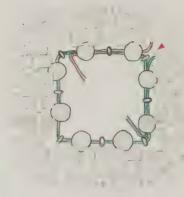


Pass the threads back through the faceted beads in the angle of the base then through those of the loop, inserting two seed beads each time. Cross over the threads in the opposite faceted bead at the start and through the other beads in the angle of the base.

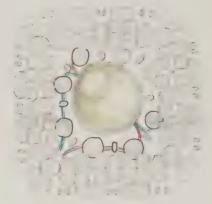




Pass the threads back through the cultured pearls in the base inserting a seed bead between each one. Pass the threads back ensuring that they come out as in the drawing.



Cross over the threads in a large cultured pearl then thread them back through the pearls on two inner sides of the base. Make two or three knots, pass the threads back through a few pearls and cut the threads.



Finishes. Cut 30cm (11% in) of thread and sew the brooch support to the back of the jewel, threading through the pearls in the base.



String

Materials

String

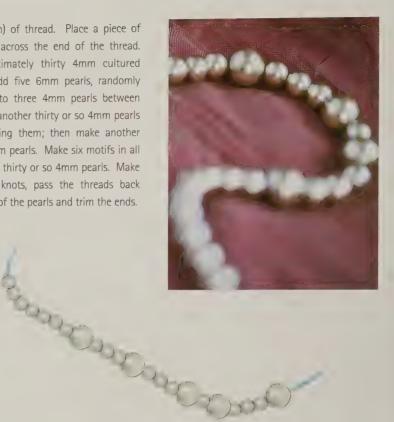
Approx. 300 × 4mm grey or pink cultured pearls

 30×6 mm grey or pink cultured pearls

0.35mm nylon thread

Adhesive tape

Cut 1.5m (59in) of thread. Place a piece of adhesive tape across the end of the thread. Thread approximately thirty 4mm cultured pearls, then add five 6mm pearls, randomly inserting one to three 4mm pearls between them. Thread another thirty or so 4mm pearls without counting them; then make another motif with 6mm pearls. Make six motifs in all and finish with thirty or so 4mm pearls. Make two or three knots, pass the threads back through some of the pearls and trim the ends.



Ring

Material

Ring (grey version)

8 × 4mm cultured pearls

1 × 10mm cultured pearl

18 × 4mm bicone pearls

Silver seed beads

0.25mm nylon thread

Cabochon. Cut 80cm (311/sin) of thread. Thread six 4mm pearls alternately with the seed beads. Cross over the strands in two pearls and one seed bead.



Thread one 4mm bicone bead, one seed bead and one bicone bead on to one of the strands. Pass the thread back through the last pearl and through the seed bead and the following pearl. Repeat twice, then do the same with the other thread. Cross the threads in the last pearl in the circle, thread a bicone bead on to each thread and cross the strands in a seed bead.

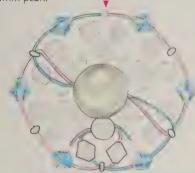


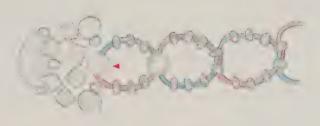


Thread a bicone bead on to one of the strands and pass back through the next seed bead. Repeat twice on the other thread. Cross the threads through a 10mm pearl and pass them back through the seed beads. End the loop and thread the strands back through two bicone beads before crossing them in a 4mm pearl.

Ring. The threads emerge on either side of a 4mm pearl in the base. Thread three seed beads on to each one and cross them through a 4mm cultured pearl. Thread another three seed beads on to each thread and cross them through two seed beads.

Continue the rings of seed beads until a sufficient length is obtained. On the other side, attach the ring to the base by crossing the threads through the pearl opposite the start of the ring. Pass the threads back through the base pearls so that they join each other. Make two or three knots, pass the threads back through several pearls and trim.











Materials

Cuff

19 translucent pink or iridescent transparent faceted pearls

210 × 6mm pink or grey cultured pearls

 24×4 mm iridescent blue or pink bicone pearls

Silver or mother-of-pearl pink seed beads

- 0.25mm nylon thread
- 0.5mm or finer elastic thread Contact glue

Cuff







Toggle bar. Cut 80cm (31½in) of nylon thread. In the middle of the thread, thread four faceted beads and cross the threads through the last one.

2

Make six loops.



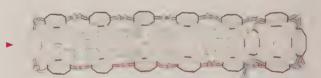


Thread a bicone bead on to each thread and cross them through a seed bead; thread another bicone bead on to each thread and cross them through the next faceted bead. Repeat in the same way for each loop in the base.

Pass the strands back through the faceted beads on each side, inserting one seed bead in the angles and two in the straight lines.

Pass the strands back through the faceted beads in the last loop and knot. Pass the threads back through several pearls and cut.







Threading the seven rows. Cut 40cm (15¾ in) of elastic thread for each row. Thread thirty 6mm pearls on to each. Slide each end of a thread between the two seed beads in the loop at the base of the toggle bar. Knot the threads on the other side of the toggle bar. Place a drop of contact glue on the knots before cutting the threads. For the two outside rows of the cuff, pass the threads towards the other side of the toggle bar nearest to the corner seed bead. Knot and glue the threads in the same way.

Note, at this stage, the threads do not pass through the pearls in the toggle bar!





Baroque pearls



Materials

String

 31×8 mm Baroque pearls

1 × 12mm cultured pearl

32 × 4mm cultured pearls

Gold seed beads

50 × 4mm gold jump rings

1 × 6mm gold jump ring

Approximately 50 gold pins

7 gold headpins

Wire cutters, round nose pliers and flat nose pliers

String

Tassel. Make seven charms on a pin, threading one baroque pearl, one seed bead, one 4mm cultured pearl and one seed on to a headpin.

Cut the pin 1cm (½in) from the last pearl and make a ring with round nose pliers. Repeat these steps for the seven charms.

Mount one large cultured pearl on to a pin, forming a ring at each end.

Open the 6mm jump ring by twisting and slide the seven charms on to it along with the pin of the large pearl. Close up the jump ring.









*

Assembling the necklace. Make twenty-five pins with one seed bead, one 4mm pearl and one seed bead, and twenty-four pins with one Baroque pearl.





Using a 4mm jump ring, attach two pins with round pearls to the free end of the pin with the large pearl of the tassel. Then continue to assemble the necklace symmetrically on each side, alternating the two types of pins. Always position the bulging part of the Baroque pearls towards the tassel.



Materials

Ring

1 ring support with 10 gold rings

16 Baroque pearls

16 gold headpins

Wire cutters, round nose pliers and flat nose pliers

Ring

Make sixteen charms on metal pins with Baroque pearls. Hang them directly on to the support rings. Put two charms on each of the six rings in the centre and one charm on the four outside rings.





Materials

Earrings

- 2 × 8mm Baroque pearls
- 4 × 4mm round pearls

Gold seed beads

- 1 pair of fasteners with gold shell
- 2 gold pins
- 0.25mm nylon thread

Wire cutters, round nose pliers and flat nose pliers

Earrings

Design of the fastener. Cut 30cm (11¾ in) of thread and pass it through the fastener ring up to halfway along its length. Cross the strands through a seed bead. On each strand, thread three seed beads and cross them in an additional seed bead. Then cross the threads behind the pin of the fastener before passing them back through the top seed bead.



Thread one 4mm pearl on to the two strands at the same time and cross the strands through the bottom seed bead. Knot the threads at the back of the fastener, thread back through several pearls and cut.

Charm on metal pin. Thread one Baroque pearl, one seed bead, one round pearl and one seed on to a headpin. Cut the pin 1cm (½in) from the last pearl and make a ring using the round nose pliers.





Open this ring by twisting with the flat nose pliers and fasten to the fastener ring.

Lead glass



Choker

Materials

Choker

 $122 \times 6 \text{mm}$ lavender cultured pearls

 2×4 mm lavender cultured pearls

1 × 10mm lavender cultured pearl

 3×15 mm white iridescent marquise glass gemstones

Assorted small seed beads

0.35mm nylon thread

Cut 1m (39½ in) of thread. In the middle, thread seventeen seed beads. Then thread one 4mm lavender pearl on to the two threads at the same time. Check that the 10mm pearl goes through the loop that has been made.

On one of the threads, thread three seed beads and twenty-seven 6mm pearls and on the other, four seed beads and twenty-eight 6mm pearls. Slide each thread into two holes of a marquise glass gemstone. Thread three 6mm pearls on to each thread then a second lead glass bead and again three 6mm pearls on to each thread and the last lead glass bead. Continue threading symmetrically with

twenty-seven 6mm pearls and three seed beads on the inside thread and twenty-eight 6mm pearls and four seed beads on the other.

To finish, thread one 4mm pearl then five seed beads on to the two threads at the same time. Thread one 10mm pearl and one seed bead on to one of the threads; pass the thread back in the opposite direction through the large pearl. Knot the threads, pass them back through several pearls and cut.







Ring

Materials

() () () Ring

8 iridescent transparent lavender faceted beads plus 7 or 8 for the ring

- 1×12 mm lavender cultured pearl
- 4 × 4mm lavender cultured pearls
- 4×7 mm iridescent white marquise glass gemstones

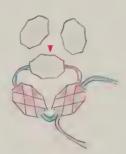
Assorted small seed beads

- 0.25mm nylon thread
- 2 beading needles

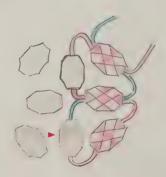
Base. Cut 80cm (31½in) of thread. At each end, thread one needle. In the middle, thread three faceted beads and cross the threads through the last one.



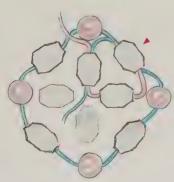
Thread two faceted beads on to one of the strands and cross the threads through the last bead.



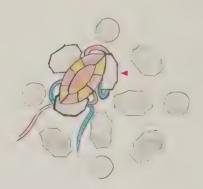
Finish the base as shown in the drawing.



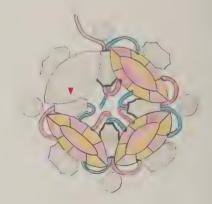
With one of the threads, go back through the faceted beads in the loop by adding one 4mm cultured pearl between each one. Pass the two threads back through the pearls in the base as shown in the drawing.



Cabochon. Cross the threads diagonally through a marquise glass gemstone then through the next faceted bead on the base.

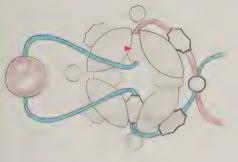


Assemble the three other lead glass beads in the same way.

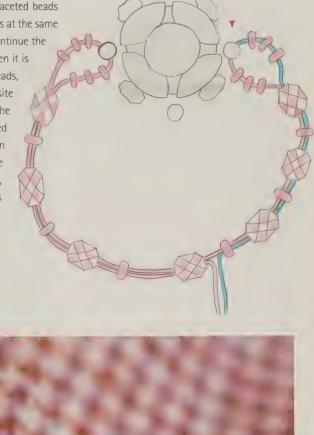




Thread the 12mm cultured pearl on to the inner thread (blue in the drawing) then pass the thread through the opposite faceted bead. Pass each thread back through one faceted bead in the loop and cross in the 4mm cultured pearl.



Ring. Thread three seed beads on to each thread then alternate the faceted beads and seed beads on the two threads at the same time. In the middle of the ring, continue the threading on a single thread. When it is fairly long, thread three seed beads, pass back through the opposite cultured pearl at the start of the ring, thread another three seed beads and pass the thread back in the opposite direction up to the other thread. Knot the threads, pass back through several pearls and cut.





Brooch

Materials

() () () (Brooch

20 iridescent transparent lavender faceted beads

- 1×12 mm pinkish white cultured pearl
- 2 × 6mm lavender cultured pearls
- 4 × 15mm iridescent white marquise glass gemstones
- 1 × 25mm silver brooch support

Assorted small seed beads

- 0.25mm nylon thread
- 2 beading needles

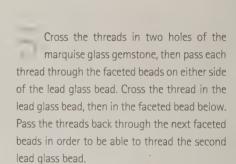
Cut 1m (39% in) of thread and thread a needle at each end. In the middle, thread three faceted beads, crossing the strands in the last one.



Continue the first column as shown in the drawing.



Follow the patterns for the second and third columns.



Pass one of the threads back through all,

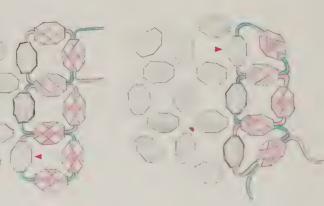
the faceted beads in the loop, adding two

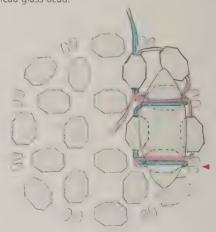
seed beads between each, then pass back

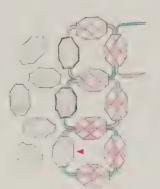
through one faceted bead in the base. Pass the

other thread back through two faceted beads in

the base.



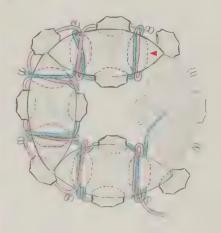




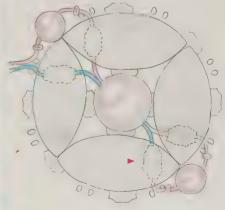




Position the three other lead glass beads in the same way.



Thread one seed bead, one 6mm lavender pearl and another seed bead on to the outer thread. Thread it back through one faceted bead under the first lead glass bead. Thread the 12mm cultured pearl on to the two threads at the same time, and pass the two threads through the faceted beads of the base. Thread one 6mm pearl framed by two seed beads on to one of the threads.



Knot the threads, thread them back on the other side and sew a brooch support to the back of the jewel.

Mademoiselle



Bracelet

Materials

Bracelet

 1×8 mm glazed chestnut brown cultured pearl

28 × 6mm olive green cultured pearls

 50×4 mm glazed chestnut brown cultured pearls

140 or a measure of 3mm ivory cultured pearls

6 silver crimp beads

2 silver toggle bars with three rings

4 × 5mm silver jump rings

3 × 4mm silver jump rings

1 silver headpin

1 silver snap hook

0.25mm nylon thread

Wire cutters, round nose pliers, flat nose pliers

Cut 60cm (23%₂in) of thread and thread it through the central ring of a toggle bar up to halfway along its length.

Thread one crimp bead and one green pearl on to the two strands at the same time. Pinch the crimp bead using flat nose pliers.

Thread one ivory pearl, one small brown pearl, one ivory pearl, one green pearl, one ivory pearl and one ivory pearl on to each strand then thread one green pearl on to the two strands at the same time.





The finishes are explained on page 34

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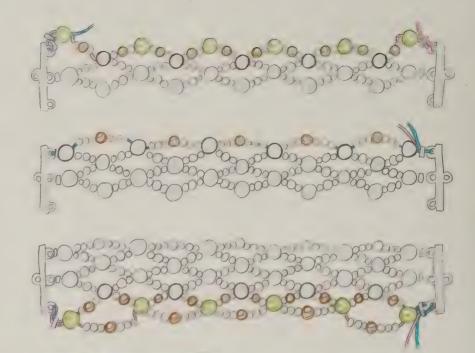
Repeat this motif another four times.

After the last green pearl, pass the threads together through a crimp bead then through the central ring of a toggle bar. Pass the two threads back through the crimp bead in the opposite direction but do not pinch it.



Cut 60cm (23½in) of thread, pass through the top ring on the toggle bar up to halfway along, and thread one crimp bead and one green pearl on to the two threads. Pinch the crimp bead.

Thread one ivory pearl, one small brown pearl and one ivory pearl on to one of the threads, then pass the thread back through the green pearl of the previous row. Continue threading as shown in the drawing.





Pass the other thread back through the green pearls of the previous row by inserting three ivory pearls, one small brown pearl and three other ivory pearls.

Make the two bottom rows in the same way.

Tug gently on the threads to close the gap between the pearls and pinch the three crimp beads. Return the threads through several pearls and cut.

Finishes. Assemble a charm on a pin (see page 12) with the brown pearl. Attach to the bracelet with a ring chain made of alternating 4mm and 5mm jump rings. On the other side of the bracelet, attach a clasp with a 5mm jump ring.

selle

Materials

String

- 37 × 6mm ivory cultured pearls
- 74 × 6mm olive green cultured pearls
- 28 × 4mm glazed chestnut brown cultured pearls
- 9×8 mm glazed chestnut brown cultured pearls
- 0.35mm nylon thread

Materials

Earrings

- $40\times4\text{mm}$ glazed chestnut brown cultured pearls
- 2×6 mm olive green cultured pearls One pair of silver grid supports
- 0.25mm nylon thread
- Beading needle

Cut 80cm (31½in) of thread and thread one needle at each end. Thread five brown pearls in the middle and cross the threads through the last one.



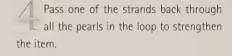
String

The sequence of the colours is always the same: one olive green, one ivory, one green, and one brown. Only the size of the brown pearls varies. All along the necklace they are 4mm, except at the front: on nine motifs, replace them with 8mm pearls.

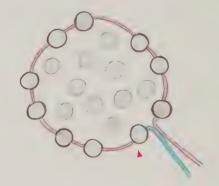
Knot the threads, pass them back through several pearls and cut.

Earrings

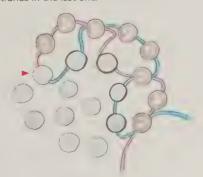
Thread four pearls on to one of the threads and cross the strands in the last one. Pass the inside strand back through a pearl in the first pentagon. Then thread three pearls on to the outer strand and cross the strands through the last pearl.







Make two other pentagons in the same way. For the last one, pass the inner thread back through two pearls. Thread two pearls on to the other thread and cross the strands in the last one.



Knot the threads but do not cut them. Slide the green pearl into the half ball and sew it on to a support threading back through the pearls in the loop and the holes in the grid. Knot the threads, pass them back through several pearls and cut.





Nomadic

Sometimes shimmering like a mirror in the sun, sometimes unpolished and diaphanous, mother-of-pearl is a gem used by craftsmen around the world. In different cultures this precious material has been set in silver, and sewn on coarse linen or woven cotton... from a simple shape to the creation of a jewel.





Bali







Necklace

Materials

Necklace

1 large piece of natural mother-ofpearl with a hole in the centre

1 matching novelty mother-of-pearl bead

2 silver knot-concealing tulips

4 × 4mm silver jump rings

2 × 6mm silver jump rings

3 silver headpins

1 silver snap hook

Fine linen twine

Contact glue

Round nose pliers, wire cutters and flat nose pliers

Fibula

6 novelty mother-of-pearl beads in different shapes

1 silver pin with clasp (8cm)

Cut thirty lengths of 50cm (19¾in) linen twine. Make a figure of eight knot in the middle.



Tug gently on the strands so that the knot is well positioned on the mother-of-pearl piece. On each side, make a simple knot with all the threads approximately 17cm (6% in) from the figure of eight knot. Put one drop of glue on these two knots before cutting the strands.

Slide all the threads on one side into the hole of the mother-of-pearl piece and pass all the strands back through the top loop of the knot.



Slide a pin into a tulip, pin down inside, cut the pin 1cm ($\frac{1}{2}$ in) from the tulip and make a ring with the round nose pliers. Do the same with the other tulip. Coat the knots with glue and slide them into the tulips.

Assemble a charm on a pin with the mother-of-pearl bead (see page 12). Fasten it to the necklace using a small chain of 4mm and 6mm jump rings. On the other side of the necklace, fasten the clasp with a 4mm jump ring.

Fibula

Thread the beads on to the pin and glue the last pearl. For this, put one drop of glue on to the pin and slide the pearl over.





Polar circle



Materials

Choker

11 natural mother-of-pearl rondels with a hole

11 × 5mm silver jump rings

1 silver wire choker

Flat nose pliers and round nose pliers

Earrings

 4×10 mm natural mother-of-pearl rondels with two holes

 2×15 mm natural mother-of-pearl rondels with one hole

4 × 5mm silver jump rings

4 × 4mm silver jump rings

2 silver earring supports

Flat nose pliers



 13×10 mm natural mother-of-pearl rondels with two holes

 1×15 mm natural mother-of-pearl rondel with one hole

18 × 5mm silver jump rings

4 × 4mm silver jump rings

1 silver snap hook

Flat nose pliers

Earrings

Fasten the rondels together with 5mm jump rings, with the large rondel at the end.

Fasten the pendant to the support with two 4mm jump rings so that it is correctly lined up.



Choker

Begin by assembling a ring on each rondel then thread the rings on to a wire choker.



Bracelet

Fasten all the 10mm rondels together with 5mm jump rings.

On one side, fasten a snap hook and on the other, assemble a small chain alternating the two ring sizes. End with the large rondel.





Siam



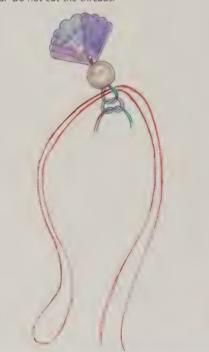
String



Cut 20cm (7¾ in) of cotton. Separate and keep three strands only. Fold in two and pass the loop towards the right side through the hole of a fan-shaped piece of mother-of-pearl. Pass the two ends through the loop then through the large pearl.



Cut 1.7m (67in) of stranded cotton for the mounting thread (keep the six strands together), fold in two and knot the pendant in the middle of the doubled-over thread. Do not cut the threads. Cut 2m (79in) for the working thread, and make a simple knot with this thread around the mounting thread and the pendant thread against the knot.









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Macramé. Make a set of simple knots over approximately 4cm (1½in) (see drawings and steps 1 and 2 for the bracelet opposite).

Cross the mounting threads and the working threads through the two holes of a button.



Carry on with the macramé knots over 4cm (1½ in) and add a button in the same way. Repeat knots for 4cm (1½ in) and add the last button. After this one, make two simple knots one on top of the other.

Wedge a piece of card 3cm (1½in) wide against the knot, make two simple knots one on top of the other and remove the card. Wedge it against the new knot and repeat until this motif is obtained three times. Put aside.

Cut a second working thread and make the other half of the necklace in the same way.

Knot the eight threads together. Put a drop of glue on the knot and cut the threads 1cm (½in) from the knot.



Earrings

Materials

Earrings

2 mauve fan-shaped pieces of

2 mauve fan-shaped pieces of mother-of-pearl

 2×6 mm lavender cultured pearls

2 × 5mm silver jump rings

1 silver pin

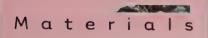
1 pair of silver earring fasteners
Wire cutters, flat nose pliers and round
nose pliers

Assemble the parts with the help of the drawing.





Bracelet





 1×15 mm lavender mother-ofpearl button

Matching stranded cotton

Cut 1m (39% in) of stranded cotton (keep the six strands together) for the mounting thread and 2m (79in) for the working thread. Fold the mounting thread in two and knot the working thread above in the middle.

Slip the knot on to the mounting thread in order to slide the button through the loop that has been made. Place on a piece of card or a cushion and fasten the top loop with a pin. Make a first simple knot as shown in the drawing.

Repeat as many times as is necessary for the length of the bracelet. When the macramé is the correct length, pass the mounting threads through the button. Knot the threads at the back of the button. Wedge a pencil against this knot and make two other knots one on top of the other, tightening the second. Remove the pencil.

Tassel. Cut 1.5m (59in) of cotton thread. Wind around a piece of card 4cm (1½in) wide then knot the strands with those of the bracelet.



Remove the card and knot a small piece of cotton around the tassel. Cut the strands on the free side.







Versatile

With the changing of the seasons,
desires and occasions, a woman
often changes too.
A daring match of felt and
mother-of-pearl, iridescent pastels,
flowers and ribbons saturated with
colour, brilliant metals... the changing
tones of femininity can be expressed
through jewellery.



Felt jewellery



Bracelet



 13×8 mm to 10mm white

3 irregular pieces of mother-of-pearl

1 piece of fine beige felt

2 silver crimp beads

freshwater pearls

8 × 4mm silver jump rings

8 × 5mm silver jump rings

1 silver snap hook

0.25mm nylon thread

Beading needle

Flat nose pliers

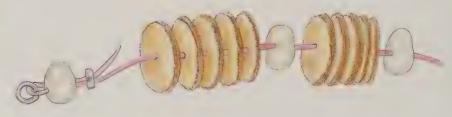
Cut out sixty discs of felt with a diameter of 10mm to 12mm (approx. ½in). Cut 50cm (19¾in) of thread. At one end, thread a beading needle.

Thread one crimp bead, one freshwater pearl and one 4mm jump ring. Pass the thread back in the opposite direction through the freshwater pearl and the crimp bead. Pinch the crimp bead.

Pricking the middle of the discs, thread five discs, one freshwater pearl, five discs, etc.









After the twelfth section of felt, thread one crimp bead, one freshwater pearl and one 4mm jump ring, pass back through the pearl and crimp bead in the opposite direction.

Gently pull on the thread to tighten the felt discs and pinch the crimp bead.

Charm finish. Assemble 5mm jump rings on the large pieces of mother-of-pearl. Join the three rings together with 4mm jump rings and continue to make a small chain alternating the two sizes of rings. Fix this chain to the ring on one of the ends of the bracelet.

On the other side, fix a snap hook on to the jump ring.





Brooch

Materials Brooch 1 × 8mm white freshwater pearl Natural novelty mother-ofpearl spangles Small natural novelty mother-of-pearl tubes (2mm to 4mm) 3 irregular pieces of natural mother-of-pearl

Small natural novelty mother-of tubes (2mm to 4mm)

3 irregular pieces of natural mother-of-pearl

1 piece of fine beige felt

4 × 5mm silver jump rings

4 × 4mm silver jump rings

1 × 3cm silver brooch support

Beading needle

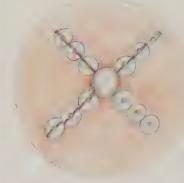
Matching polyester thread

Flat nose pliers

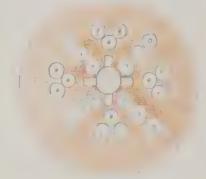
Serrated scissors



Cut out two circles of felt approximately 8cm (3½in) in diameter (they are cut again later). In the centre of one of them, sew a freshwater pearl. Then sew four rays of three spangles.



Sew the tube beads between the spangles in the centre and make triangles of three spangles (the two outer spangles of the triangles and the outer spangles of the rays are in the same circle).



Pin the two felt circles together, padding slightly. Sew the two layers together using long stitch around the motif.

Strengthen the stitching by concealing with tube beads. Fasten the thread off on the back and cut. Cut again as close as possible to the motif using serrated scissors.

Assemble a charm on a small chain as for the bracelet. Attach to the back of the brooch, passing a ring through a sewing stitch. Sew a brooch fastener to the back of the jewel.





Materials

Earrings

2 openwork natural novelty mother-of-pearl rondels

2 × 8mm white freshwater pearls

2 silver pins

2 × 4mm jump rings

1 pair of earring fasteners

Wire cutters, flat nose pliers and round nose pliers

Earrings

Mount the freshwater pearls on the pin forming a loop at each end. On one side, attach the mother-of-pearl rondel using a jump ring. Connect the other end directly to the earring fastener.









Iridescent



Materials

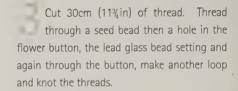
Bracelet

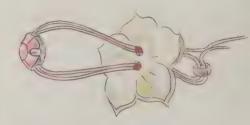
- 38 × 4mm white cultured pearls
- $38 \times 4 \text{mm}$ powder pink cultured pearls
- 23 × 6mm powder pink cultured pearls
- 53 × 2mm white cultured pearls
- 41 × 4mm mauve bicone beads
- 1×20 mm natural mother-of-pearl flower button
- 1 pink round lead glass bead
- 1 white or transparent seed pearl through which a jump ring can pass
- 4 silver crimp beads
- 5 × 5mm silver jump rings
- 5 × 4mm silver jump rings
- 1 silver snap hook
- 0.25mm nylon thread
- Beading needle
- Flat nose pliers

Bracelet

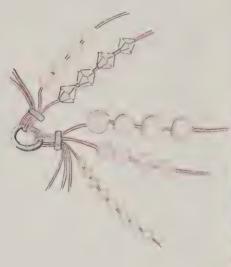
Cut five lengths of thread measuring 30cm (11 $\frac{1}{4}$ in). On to each, simply thread approximately 14cm (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ in) of each type of pearl.

Slide one crimp bead on to three threads at the same time, pass the threads through a 4mm jump ring then, in the opposite direction, through the crimp bead and a few pearls. Pinch the crimp bead. Block the other two threads using a crimp bead and finish on the other side in the same way.





Thread a 5mm jump ring through the seed bead then assemble a small chain alternating the two ring sizes. Attach the chain to one end of the bracelet. On the other side, attach a snap hook on to a jump ring.







Necklace

Materials

Necklace

120 × 4mm powder pink cultured pearls

5 × 6mm powder pink cultured pearls

 1×20 mm natural mother-of-pearl flower button

1 × 5mm pink round lead glass bead

4 silver crimp beads

1 silver headpin

4 × 5mm silver jump rings

4 × 4mm silver jump rings

1 silver snap hook

0.25mm nylon thread

Wire cutters, flat nose pliers and round nose pliers



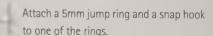
Cut 50cm (19¾in) of thread. At one end, add one crimp bead then thread one small pink pearl, one large and eleven small. Thread through one of the holes of the button towards the top, thread through the setting of the lead glass bead then through the other hole of the button and pass the thread back in the same direction through the last small pink pearl.

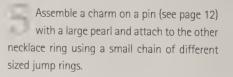


Put aside and cut another length of thread. Add one crimp bead in the same way, then thread one small pearl, one large and seven small pearls. Pass this new thread through the last small pearl on the other thread. Follow the same path through the button, the lead glass bead and the small pearl again.



Pull gently on the two threads to close the gaps between the pearls. Then continue to thread 18cm (7in) of small pink pearls on to each thread. Next thread a large pearl, a crimp bead, a small pearl and a 4mm jump ring on to each thread. Pass the thread back in the opposite direction through the small pearl, the crimp bead, the large pearl and a few pearls. Pinch the crimp bead.







Earrings

Materials



- 2 × 6mm white cultured pearls
- 2 × 6mm powder pink cultured pearls
- 2 × 25mm natural mother-of-pearl flower buttons
- 2×5 mm mauve bicone pearls
- 2 × 4mm iridescent white bicone pearls
- 2 × 5mm pink round lead glass beads
- 6 silver headpins
- 2 × 4mm silver jump rings
- 1 pair of silver earring supports for glueing
- Jewellery glue
- Wire cutters, flat nose pliers and round nose pliers



Mount the bicones and powder pink pearls as charms on a pin (see page 12).

Assemble the white pearls on a pin with a jump ring on either side. Assemble the earrings as shown in the drawing.

Glue the flowers on to the earring supports then the lead glass beads to hide the holes.







- 1 × 20mm natural mother-of-pearl flower button
- 1 × 5mm pink round lead glass bead
- 1 silver ring support for glueing

Jewellery glue or contact glue

Ring

Glue the lead glass bead on to the holes of the flower button then glue the assembly on to the ring support.



Flowery







Material

Necklace

- 3 × 28mm fuchsia round buttons
- 10 × 15mm violet round buttons
- 5 × 18mm red round buttons
- 2 × 20mm violet flower buttons
- 2 × 20mm red flower buttons
- 1 × 20mm yellow flower button
- 1 × 15mm fuchsia flower button
- 2 × 15mm red flower buttons
- 2 × 15mm yellow flower buttons
- 2m (79in) of matching 6mm ribbon Contact glue

Necklace

Fold the ribbon in two and knot the two strands to create a loop large enough for a 28mm button to pass through. On to one of the strands, thread a 15mm violet button and knot the two strands together approximately 5cm (2in) from the first knot.

Repeat twice, leaving less space between the knots.

Arrange the buttons on your table in a pretty sequence over a length of 32cm (121/2 in), then thread on to each strand one or two buttons and knot the strands together. Finish with three single violet buttons between the knots as for the start.



For the clasp, thread one violet button on to one strand and one large fuchsia button on to the other. Knot the strands together and cut the rest of the ribbon 1cm $(\frac{1}{2}in)$ from the knot.



Place one drop of contact glue on to the knot to harden. When the glue is dry, slip the large button on to the knot.











Thread a small red button on to the end of the ribbon and make a knot as close as possible to the button. Thread the other buttons on to the ribbon and make three loops around your wrist to measure the exact size required. Knot the ribbon at the other end in order to make a loop through which the first button can pass.

Slide the buttons on to the ribbon so that they are in the correct position when you wear the bracelet.









Materials

Ring

- 1×25 mm lavender or matt khaki button
- 1×20 mm yellow or violet flower button
- 1×15 mm fuchsia or yellow flower button
- 1 ring support for glueing
- 1 matching ribbon remnant
- Contact glue

Ring

Stack the three buttons from the largest to the smallest. Thread the ribbon through all the holes and knot at the back. Glue the assembly to the ring support with the contact glue.







Charms







Choker

Materials

Choker

8 × 6mm sky blue cultured pearls

7 × 6mm white cultured pearls

7 × 6mm grey-green cultured pearls

 7×4 mm sky blue cultured pearls

8 × 4mm white cultured pearls

7 × 4mm grey-green cultured pearls

40cm silver chain

44 silver headpins

3 × 5mm silver jump rings

4 × 4mm silver jump rings

1 silver snap hook

Wire cutters, flat nose pliers, round nose pliers

Mount all the pearls as charms on pins (see page 12). Try on the chain to determine the exact size of the necklace. Fold the chain in two to find the middle, attach one 6mm white charm to the link in the middle, and then attach the other charms on every other link on either side. Follow two sequences: white, blue, green and 4mm, 6mm, that is, starting with the white pearl in the middle, attach one small blue one, then one large green one, then one small white one, one large blue one, etc. Use the photos to help you.

Assemble a chain alternating 4mm and 5mm jump rings, and end with one 6mm blue pearl mounted as a charm on a pin. Attach the chain to one side of the necklace and, on the other, attach one snap hook to a 4mm jump ring.









Variant: grey, yellow and white necklace

Make this necklace in the same way as the grey, blue and white one. Only the sequence and colours of the pearls are different: place one 10mm apricot cultured pearl in the middle of the chain. Then, on each side, mount the charms on the chain, following two sequences: one 4mm pearl, one 6mm pearl, one 4mm pearl, etc., and three grey, one white, three grey, one yellow, three grey, etc. Continue this process, alternating the three grey pearls and one yellow or white pearl until a fairly large motif is obtained.









Brooch



Mount the other pearls as charms on a pin.

Arrange them to ensure a balance and attach.



Assemble the largest pearl as a charm on a pin (see page 12) and attach to the ring closest to the opening of the pin. On the second ring, attach one end of the chain with a 4mm jump ring. Attach the other end to the last ring on the pin.



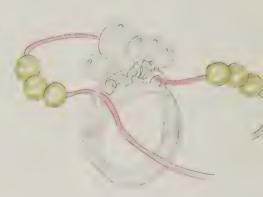
Ring

Assemble three green pearls, the white pearl and the yellow pearl as charms on pins. Attach the yellow charm and the white one to one of the central links of the support and the three green pearl charms to the other central link.

Cut 30cm (11%in) of thread and thread through one of the outer links of the ring. Add three green pearls, pass the thread through the other outer link of the ring and add another three green pearls.

Knot the threads, pass back through several pearls and cut.







Materials

Ring

9 × 6mm grey pearls

 1×6 mm white pearl 1×10 mm apricot pearl

0.35mm nylon thread

round nose pliers

1 silver ring support with 4 links

Wire cutters, flat nose pliers and







Nymph

Daughter of the oceans, mother-of-pearl goes naturally with the treasures of the sea: coral, but also rope, 'gold' pieces and precious stones.

A mermaid opens her jewellery box for a lesson in seduction tinged with fantasy!



Mermaid



Necklace

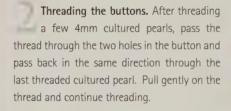
Materials



Approx. 325×4 mm white cultured pearls Approx. 125×6 mm white cultured pearls

- 1×12 mm champagne cultured pearl
- 1×12 mm powder pink cultured pearl
- 11 natural mother-of-pearl rondels pierced in the middle
- 1×40 mm natural mother-ofpearl button
- 4 small natural mother-of-pearl buttons
- 2 openwork natural mother-ofpearl plates
- 1 white shell
- 1 small foot button in age-hardened metal
- 2 × 16mm age-hardened metal beads
- 1 age-hardened metal fish bead
- 1 coin
- 10 gold crimp beads
- 3 × 5mm gold jump rings
- 1 multiple row age-hardened metal clasp
- 0.35mm nylon thread
- Flat nose pliers

For each of the five rows, cut 60cm $(23 \ensuremath{V_2}\xspace$ in) of thread. Simply thread the 4mm pearls, interspacing 6mm pearls from time to time and distributing three to six large pearls or buttons on each row. Position the large button at the start and balance the composition around it.









- Attach each row to the clasp, trying on the necklace to adjust the length.
- At the end of each row, thread one crimp bead and one 4mm pearl. Pass the thread through a ring of the clasp, then pass it back in the opposite direction through the 4mm pearl, the crimp bead and a few pearls. Pinch the crimp bead after closing the gaps between the pearls.
- Add the openwork plates and the coin (previously pierced) using a ring.



Hairpin



Hairpin

 1×35 mm natural mother-ofpearl button

1 old foot button in age-hardened metal

1 × 8cm tortoiseshell hairpin

0.35mm nylon thread

Epoxy glue

Wire cutters

- Sew the mother-of-pearl button securely to the hairpin, knotting the threads on the right side of the button.
- With wire cutters, cut off the foot of the age-hardened metal button.
- Glue on to the mother-of-pearl button to hide the holes and the knot.





Materials



 1×35 mm natural mother-ofpearl button

1 × 12mm ivory cultured pearl

1 pierced coin

Old gold seed beads

0.25mm nylon thread

Ring

Base. Cut 60cm (23½in) of thread. In the middle, thread the cultured pearl then, on to the two threads, thread the pierced coin. Pass each thread through a hole in the mother-of-pearl button and cross through two seed beads.

Ring. On to each strand, thread three seed beads then cross the strands through two seed beads. Make enough loops to go round your finger then thread three seed beads on to each thread, pass one of the strands back through the first two seed beads and knot. Pass the threads back through several pearls and cut.



On the beach



Necklace

Materials

Necklace

Approx. 80 natural mother-of-pearl chips (assorted colours)

2 × 6mm bronze jump rings

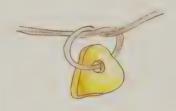
1 bronze round clasp

Fine linen cord

Contact glue

Flat nose pliers

Cut 80cm (31½in) of cord. Thread one chip 15cm (6in) from the end and make a simple knot above it.

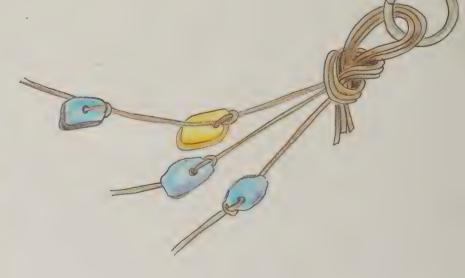


Continue in the same way, adding a chip every 1cm to 2cm (V_2 in to V_4 in) over a length of approximately 33cm (13in). Make three rows or more. Try it on to adjust the length of the necklace.

Pass the three strands through a ring and knot. Do the same on the other side of the necklace and strengthen the two knots with a drop of contact glue. Cut the strands.

Attach one part of the clasp to each ring.









Materials



 1×8 mm anthracite cultured pearl 6 natural mother-of-pearl chips (assorted colours)

Brown seed tubes or pearl tubes in shell

0.35mm nylon thread

Bracelets

Α

 15×8 mm anthracite cultured pearls 15 natural mother-of-pearl chips

(assorted colours)

Lead grey seed beads

В

 15×8 mm anthracite cultured pearls

15 natural mother-of-pearl chips (assorted colours)

Lead grey seed beads

Lead grey seed beads

C

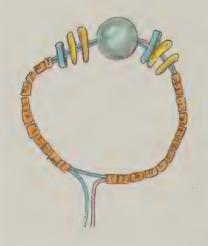
 5×8 mm anthracite cultured pearls Approx. 45 natural mother-of-pearl chips (assorted colours)

Elastic thread

Ring

Cut 40cm (15% in) of thread. In the middle, thread the anthracite pearl then, on either side, three mother-of-pearl chips. Continue on each strand with shell tubes.

When the ring is long enough, thread one of the strands back through all the pearls. Knot the threads. Strengthen the knot with a drop of contact glue. Cut the strands short when the glue is dry.

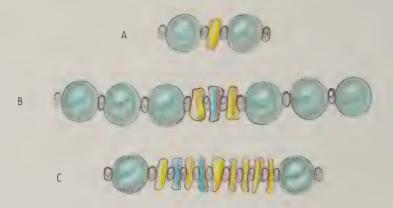




Bracelets

Cut 40cm (15¾in) of elastic thread and thread simply in line with the drawings.

Knot the threads. Strengthen the knot with a drop of contact glue. Cut the threads short when the glue is dry.















Coral reef



String

Materials

String

 129×8 mm white round freshwater pearls

11 × 6mm coral red cat's eye beads

21 × 4mm iridescent green bicone beads

Blue diamanté seed beads

0.35mm nylon thread

Adhesive tape

Cut 1.5m (59in) of thread. At one end, place a piece of adhesive tape to fasten it off.

Thread the beads simply following the pattern in the drawing, repeating this eleven times for a necklace 130cm (51in) long. Knot the threads, pass back through some beads and cut.









Materials

📆 🀌 Bracelet

22 × 5mm white oval freshwater pearls

44 pieces of coral (imitation)

13 × 6mm olive green bicone beads

13 × 4mm iridescent green bicone beads

Blue diamanté seed beads

Green mother-of-pearl fine seed beads

- 1 silver headpin
- 4 × 5mm silver jump rings
- 4 × 4mm silver jump rings
- 1 silver snap hook
- 0.25mm nylon thread

Wire cutters, flat nose pliers and round nose pliers

Bracelet

Cut 80cm (31½in) of thread. In the middle, thread eight green seed beads and one 4mm bicone bead. Cross the threads through the bicone bead. On to one of the strands, thread three green seed beads and on to the other, one green seed bead, one blue seed bead and one green seed bead and cross the strands through one 6mm bicone bead.



Take up the same threading on the left strand. On the other, thread one freshwater pearl and two pieces of coral. Cross the strands through one 4mm bicone bead.





Repeat the same threading reversing right-left and cross the strands through a 5mm bicone bead.



Repeat these two loops nine times. At the end of these nine motifs, finish by making the same loops as at the start, passing the thread back through the pearls in the last loop. Knot the threads, return through several pearls and cut.

Assemble a charm on a pin with a large bicone bead and a blue seed bead. Assemble three 5mm jump rings and three 4mm jump rings alternated to form a chain and attach the charm to the bracelet.

On the other side, attach a snap hook with a 4mm jump ring and a 5mm jump ring.





Coral reef

Ring

Materials

Ring

- 2 × 5mm white oval freshwater pearls
- 1 × 6mm coral red cat's eye bead
- 2 × 5mm olive green bicone beads
- 2 × 4 mm iridescent green bicone beads Blue diamanté seed beads

Green mother-of-pearl fine seed beads

0.35mm nylon thread

Cut 60cm (231/2 in) of thread. In the middle, thread three fine seed beads, one blue seed bead, one fine seed bead, one blue seed bead and one fine seed bead and cross the strands through a last blue seed bead. Begin two loops again in the same way, alternating the sides of the pattern.



On to the strand which passes through all the blue seed beads, thread one small bicone bead, one blue seed bead, one large bicone bead and one blue seed bead.

On to the other thread, thread one freshwater pearl and one blue seed bead. Cross the strands through a 6mm coral red cat's eye bead.



Make a second loop, reversing the pattern. Cross through a blue seed bead.



Take up the small seed bead loops at the start. When the ring is the required size, finish a loop by threading a strand back through the first blue seed bead, knot the strands, pass them back through several pearls and cut.









Mother-of-pearl, with its infinitely varied iridescent hues, can be combined with coral and pearls, crystal and lead glass to produce stunning jewellery that is the very symbol of refinement and femininity.

From classic styles to more daring, contemporary designs, this book contains a fantastic array of bracelets, rings, earrings and necklaces all made with this natural jewel of the sea. Each piece is fully explained with clear, step-by-step instructions and diagrams, a comprehensive list of all the materials and equipment you need, and beautiful, inspiring photographs of the finished piece.





