Wrapped
in gold

A basic wire-wrapping technique forms a choker to show off an art glass bead.

by Linda Augsburg

A cylindrical glass bead sparked the inspiration for this easy wirework choker. You might choose any large bead—round or oblong, glass, ceramic, or metal—and add a cluster of complementary smaller beads. The choker shown here has a 1⅝-inch (40mm) focal bead, two ⅜-inch (1cm) sections of crystals, and two 8-inch (20cm) coils. Follow the steps below to make your own version.

[1–2] Coil the wire. Using the wire cutters, cut a 6-foot (1.8m) length of the twisted wire. Bend it in half. Place the 16-gauge wire against the fold in the twisted wire and hold it in position with your recessive hand. With your dominant hand, use your fingers to wrap the twisted wire in a tight coil around the 16-gauge wire. When you reach the end of the first half of the twisted wire, turn the piece around and wrap the other half. When finished, slide the coil off the 16-gauge wire. Repeat with the remaining 6-foot length of twisted wire.

[3] Make the crystal dangles. Slide each crystal bead on a head pin. With chainnose and roundnose pliers, make a wrapped loop (see Primer, *page 90*) large enough to accommodate 16-gauge wire above each crystal.

String the necklace. Center the glass bead on the 16-gauge wire, then string an equal number of crystal dangles on each end. Slide a coil of wire on each end. Curve the wire to fit your neck, determine the desired finished length, and trim an equal length from each coil as necessary. Do not cut the 16-gauge wire at this time.

[4–7] Form the hook. Slide everything to one end of the 16-gauge wire. Hammer the opposite end against a bench block or anvil to form a 5mm paddle shape. With roundnose pliers, turn the end to form a small loop. Make a hook about ¾ inch (2cm) from the loop. Hammer the top of the hook to harden it. Form a second small loop in the opposite direction on the wire just beyond the small loop on the opposite side (see detail photo, *below*) and hammer it slightly to harden it. This loop will keep the coil in place.

[8] Form the eye loop. Slide the coils and beads to the hook end. Applying slight pressure to the coil, mark the 16-gauge wire for cutting 2 inches (5cm) beyond the end of the coil. Cut the wire. Form a ⅜-inch-diameter loop perpendicular to the hook in the shape of a lollipop, with a ¼-inch (6mm) tail at the bottom. Hammer the loop slightly, pressing the coil away from the loop while you hammer. Slide the coil over the tail.
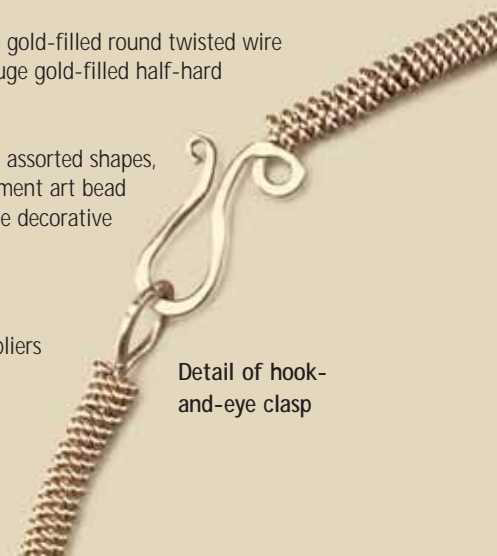
Finish. Try on the necklace; shape it to your neck. **AJ**

materials

- 12 feet (3.7m) of 22-gauge gold-filled round twisted wire
- 18 inches (46cm) of 16-gauge gold-filled half-hard round wire
- 40mm glass art bead
- 36 or more crystal beads in assorted shapes, sizes, and colors to complement art bead
- 36 or more 22- or 24-gauge decorative head pins

tools

- Wire cutters
- Chainnose and roundnose pliers
- Bench block or anvil
- Hammer

Detail of hook-and-eye clasp