



**Photo of Designer's Original Bracelet**  
(with vintage and "leftover" beads and locket from her grandmother)

**1112-1**

**Project Theme: Recycling & Creating Interchangeable ("Euro" Style) Bracelets**

**By: Denise Couling**



**Photo of Project for Beads, Baubles & Jewels**  
 (using left over and vintage beads and charms)

## “Spill Proof” Charm Bracelet – Material List and Instructions



### Materials List

- 6½”\* length of chain (3mm links or smaller)
- 1 Toggle Set (1 ring plus 1 bar)
- 1 Lobster Clasp
- 2 jump rings
- Small pliers



### Instructions

1. Open both jump rings by twisting half-way with pliers.
2. On first jump ring, slip on toggle ring and one end of the chain. Twist jump ring closed with pliers.
3. On second jump ring, slip on toggle bar and lobster clasp. Twist jump ring closed with pliers. Now, the detachable toggle bar becomes a “stopper” for your new “Spill Proof” charm bracelet.



### **To Use Your “Spill Proof” Bracelet:**

Thread large-hole beads, charms and slides on to open end of chain. Attach lobster clasp to close chain. Wear as you would any traditional toggle bracelet.

Add new beads and charms as inspiration strikes. Enjoy making and collecting your own unique charms.

*\*Makes a 7 ½” (average) bracelet using and average-sized toggle set. For a Slide-Charm necklace, substitute 15 – 17” length of chain.*

## Charms for “Spill Proof” Bracelet – Material List and Instructions



Above, Left: A locket from Denise’s grandmother; old pendants, charms & beads from broken jewelry. Above, Right: vintage crystal and leftover charms from her collection.

### Materials List

Beads, Charms and Crystals

1 large 6-7mm jump ring, toggle ring or bails (for each charm)

Large Hole Beads and Spacers (if desired)

Head pins

Jump rings

Bead caps (optional)

Small flat nose pliers, needle-nose pliers and wire cutters

### Instructions

*For charms and pendants:*

Open a small jump ring by twisting it half-way with pliers. Add a charm and one large jump ring (or a toggle ring or bail) onto the open jump ring. Twist jump ring closed with pliers.

*For beads:*

Thread headpin through the bead or crystal. Using standard wire wrapping technique, twist the top end of the headpin into a small loop just above the bead, using small needle-nose pliers. Add your large jump ring (or toggle ring or bail) before closing loop. Close loop using standard wire-wrapping technique and clip off any excess wire from base of loop, using wire cutter.

**Examples of the variety of Spill Proof Bracelet, using various beads, charms, slides and findings:**



**Above:** A finished collection of charm featuring a locket from Denise's grandmother.



**Above:** When no matching pairs of cane glass beads were left for earrings, they were transformed into charms. Slipped onto a Spill Proof Bracelet with color glass "doughnut" beads and Bali spacers, these "leftovers" take center stage in an exuberant, bright charm bracelet.



**Above:** Charms on rings add personalized flair to popular "Euro" bracelets



**Above:** High-tech licorice!



**Left:** While the above charms were created using lost the wax casting process, DIY jewelry-makers using metal clay can create their own charms for Spill Proof bracelets. Coin-shaped charm accented with colorful dangling gemstones make a sound that is almost as distinctive as the look of this collection of handmade charms.

## THE GIFT OF CHARM: DON'T FORGET THE PRESENTATION!

*On a personal note, I always think it's a shame when so much care has gone into creating a charm, and then it is presented in a box, rolling around loose on a piece of cotton filler. You're usually giving a greeting card anyway when presenting a gift – so why not tie the charm onto an inspiring card or incorporate it into another part of the celebration? Using an ordinary greeting card (or your own handmade or recycled stationery), a gift of your handmade jewelry can convey all of the care and meaning you put in to its creation. Here are a just few ideas for inspiration.*



**Left:** A pendant-charm created from a single earring is displayed with a handmade note care, using simple card stock and scrapbooking stickers. Imagine the impact when the recipient opens the gift box to find this lovely present inside!



**Left:** A handmade charm that is large enough to make a show-stopping pendant is tied onto handmade stationery.

**Right:** A simple single star charm is tied onto a bookmark, personalized with a simple rubber stamp.



**Above:** Think about turning an heirloom into part of the event. Your handmade charms (maybe from great-grandma's crystals?) become part of the celebration with a Charm Cake. Pulling charms from a cake is a trend that started in Victorian England and is still popular in some parts of the southern USA even today. Members of a bridal party pull ribbons from a cake before it is served. The charms make wonderful, memorable gifts and, when attached to tiny notes of thanks or "fortunes", are sure to delight.

#### **Other Gift Giving & Display Ideas:**

- Attach charms with ribbon to greeting cards, embellished card stock, gift tags, or bookmarks
- Tie charms atop a Christmas ornament
- Tie charms on ribbon around a bundle of candles
- Perfect place setting – tie charms on place card holders or around the base of a wine glass
- Tie charm on a gift box or favor bag