

# One stone, many ways

by Mindy Brooks

If you like to buy strands of your favorite gemstones when you see them, without a specific project in mind, you probably have an interesting assortment of shapes and sizes in your collection. Here's a project that takes advantage of that mix, emphasizing the stones' color in a textured, multi-strand necklace. Look for a clasp that complements your gemstones. If you're working with red stones around Valentine's Day, you may be tempted to use a heart-shaped clasp, as I did.

## stepbystep

These directions are for an 8-strand necklace, but that number can easily be adjusted to suit your assortment of beads. You can substitute seed beads for 2mm stones, if necessary, or use silver spacers where I used seed beads. The stringing and finishing techniques remain the same.

**1** Determine the finished length of your necklace, subtract the clasp length, and add 5 in. (13cm) for finishing the ends. Cut 8 strands of flexible beading wire to that measurement. I cut 24-in. (61cm) wires to make 19 in. (48cm) beaded strands.

**2** String gemstones onto each wire, using tape to keep the beads from sliding off. Space the larger stones with seed

beads, if desired (**photo a**).

You can also incorporate strands of seed beads with your stones to add fullness and sparkle.

**3** Separate the strands into pairs. Working with one pair of beading wires at a time, string a crimp bead and a silver spacer over both wires. Go through the loop end of the clasp and back through the spacer and crimp (**photo b**). Tighten the wires until they form a small loop around the clasp and crimp the crimp bead (see "Basics"). Hide the wire tails inside a bead or two before trimming them. Repeat with the remaining pairs of wire.

**4** Before you crimp the unfinished wire ends to the toggle, see whether or not it has a chain or other extender attached to it. A toggle needs an extender so it can pivot enough to fit through the clasp loop.

If the toggle has an extender, repeat step 3 to crimp the wires to it. If not, create an extender as follows: Attach a split ring to the toggle's loop and to the end link of chain. Position the toggle so the bar is parallel to the chain (**photo c**). Unless you want the extra length, cut off any links that extend beyond the bar. If the chain links are too small to hold 4 pairs of beading wires, attach a split ring to the end link.

**5** Snug up the beads so no wire shows. Attach the beading wires to the toggle extender as in step 3. Give the necklace a slight twist or two when you wear it. ●

### materials

- 1 36-in. (.9m) Strand small gemstone chips
- 5 16-in. (41cm) Strands 2mm round gemstones
- 3 16-in. Strands irregularly shaped gemstones
- 10g or more Seed beads, size 11° or 12°, to match gemstones
- 8 2.5mm Silver spacer beads
- Toggle clasp (Scottsdale Bead Supply)
- 2 Split rings
- 1-in. (2.5cm) Piece of chain
- Flexible beading wire, .010
- 16 Crimp beads

**Tools:** crimping tool, wire cutters



a



b



c