

## Gemstones in four shapes and colors unite in a bold multistrand necklace

by **Diana Grossman**

### EDITOR'S TIP

To make a longer necklace from a 16-in. (41cm) strand of beads, use a clasp with an attached chain extender.

You'll cover all the bases in one striking necklace by mixing gemstone shapes, sizes, and colors. Select the most unusual shape first, then more common shapes; different gemstones are not always available in the same cuts. Keep the sizes within a couple of millimeters of the first shape chosen to make the necklace well-balanced. Finally, choose a pendant in proportion with the gemstones' sizes. Follow these basic guidelines to score a colorful and captivating accessory.

# GRAND



- 1.** Determine the finished length of your necklace. (The jewel-toned necklace is 16 in./41cm; the pastel is 18 in./46cm.) Add 6 in. (15cm) and cut four pieces of beading wire to that length.
- 2.** Tape one end of each wire. String each temporarily beaded strand on a beading wire until the necklace is within 1 in. (2.5cm) of the desired length.



- 3.** On one end of each wire, string a 3mm round spacer, a crimp bead, a spacer, and the respective loop on half the clasp. Go back through the beads just strung and tighten the wire. Remove the tape and repeat on the other end. Check the fit. If necessary, add 3mm round spacers to lengthen or remove gemstones to shorten. Crimp the crimp beads (Basic Techniques, p. 108) and trim the excess wire.



- 4.** Open a jump ring (Basic Techniques) and string it through the pendant's loop. Close the jump ring.

# STRANDS







**5.** Thread a beading needle with a 7-in. (18cm) piece of Fireline. String approx. 5 in. (13cm) of 3mm or 4mm beads. Center the pendant on the strand.



**6.** Encircle the necklace with the beaded Fireline. Go back through all the beads, exiting from the last bead strung. To make the pendant detachable, string enough beads on the Fireline to maneuver over the strands and clasp.



**7.** Tie the ends in a surgeon's knot (Basic Techniques). Trim the Fireline to  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. (3mm) and apply glue to the knot. Gently maneuver the knot inside an adjacent bead. ❖

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## SupplyList

- pendant, top drilled
- 4 16-in. (41cm) strands 4-10mm gemstones, four shapes and colors
- 16-18 3mm or 4mm faceted round Czech crystals
- 16 or more 3mm round spacers
- flexible beading wire, .014 or .015
- Fireline fishing line, 6 lb. test
- 8 crimp beads
- 7mm jump ring (optional)
- four-strand clasp
- beading needle, #10
- GS Hypo Cement
- chainnose and roundnose pliers
- diagonal wire cutters
- scissors