



When the weather warms up enough to lure us outdoors, we feel drawn back to nature. The following projects use some of nature's most magnificent creations — shell, mother-of-pearl, wood, and linen — to celebrate the beauty of the season with necklaces, earrings, and a bracelet.



BACK TO NATURE



Sea charms

A necklace and earrings overflow with a glorious array of pearls, crystals, and gemstones

by **Shannon Reeves**

Get swept away by this necklace and earrings in colors reminiscent of a day at the beach. Patience is required when attaching these precious bits, but like the cultivation of a beautiful pearl, luxury is the reward. Your opulent collar will enchant throughout the summer.



1 **necklace** • Cut a 3-in. (7.6cm) piece of wire. String a top-drilled pearl and make a set of wraps above it (Basics, p. 104). Make the first half of a wrapped loop (Basics) above the wraps. Make 30–40 top-drilled units.



2 String a bead on a head pin. Make the first half of a wrapped loop above the top bead. Make 100–120 bead units. Include small beads or seed beads on some of the units.



3 Determine the finished length of your necklace. (The pink necklace is 15 in./38cm; the blue necklace, 18½ in./47cm.) Cut a piece of chain to that length. Attach a top-drilled pearl unit to the center link. Complete the wraps.



4 On each side of the center unit, continue attaching bead units to the chain until the beaded section is within 6 in. (15cm) of the desired length. Attach two to four bead units per link.



5 Cut a 2½-in. (6.4cm) piece of wire. Make the first half of a wrapped loop on one end. String a 5–6mm bead and make the first half of a wrapped loop above the bead. Repeat to make a second double-loop unit.



6 Check the fit, and trim chain from each end if necessary. On each end, attach a double-loop unit to an end link of chain and half of the clasp. Complete the wraps.



SupplyList

necklace

- 15–19 20–30mm stick pearls or mother-of-pearl shards, top drilled
- 15–21 6–15mm beads, top drilled
- 100–120 3–20mm crystals, gemstones, and pearls
- 2g 11° seed beads
- 8–11 ft. (2.4–3.4m) 24-gauge half-hard wire (for top-drilled beads)
- 16–19 in. (41–48cm) chain, 4–5mm links
- 100–120 2-in. (5cm) 24-gauge head pins (for vertically drilled beads)
- toggle clasp
- chainnose and roundnose pliers
- diagonal wire cutters

earrings

- 2 20–30mm stick pearls or mother-of-pearl shards, top drilled
- 2 6–15mm beads, top drilled
- 8–14 3–20mm crystals, gemstones, and pearls
- 6–18 in. (15–46cm) 24-gauge half-hard wire
- 1¼ in. (3.2cm) chain, 4–5mm links
- 8–14 2-in. (5cm) 24-gauge head pins
- pair of earring wires
- chainnose and roundnose pliers
- diagonal wire cutters



1 a earrings • On a head pin, string one or two beads. Make the first half of a wrapped loop (Basics, p. 104) above the top bead.

b Cut a 3-in. (7.6cm) piece of wire. String a top-drilled bead and make a set of wraps above it (Basics). Make the first half of a wrapped loop above the wraps. Repeat steps 1a and 1b to make six to nine bead units.



2 Cut a ½-in. (1.3cm) piece of chain. Open the loop of an earring wire and attach the chain. Close the loop. Attach the longest bead unit to the top link and complete the wraps.



3 Attach the remaining bead units to different links. Make a second earring to match the first. ♣

DESIGN GUIDELINES

- Make sure the largest beads you use are long or tube shaped.
- To save time, attach one type of bead, such as a chip unit, intermittently along the chain. Repeat with another type of bead unit, and so on.
- Allow 6–7 in. (15–18cm) for finishing. Leaving chain open on the sides will create a less bulky, more comfortable necklace.

Contact Shannon at thereeves@aol.com.