



Jet was rare in France during the Victorian era, so French women imported black glass beads from Germany.

Classic styling makes this jet set a tribute to its heritage

by Linda J. Augsburg

Queen Victoria brought jet into vogue when she mourned her late husband Prince Albert. While the queen dressed in black, her subjects paid their respects by wearing black jewelry. The demand for jet turned Whitby, North Yorkshire, into a thriving mining center. Though jet is still available, faux jet — sometimes called French jet — is common. Additionally, crystals come in jet, and their opaque coloring and multiple facets mimic the jet beads from times past.



1 necklace • Cut a piece of beading wire (Basics, p. 75) for the shortest strand of your necklace. (Mine is 16½ in./41.9cm.) Cut two more pieces, each 1½ in. (3.8cm) longer than the previous piece.

On the shortest wire, center 48 4mm crystals.



2 On each end, string 4mm glass beads until the strand is within 2 in. (5cm) of the desired length.



3 On the middle wire, center 36 6mm crystals.



4 On each end, string 6mm jet beads until the strand is 1½ in. (3.8cm) longer than the shortest strand.



5 On the longest wire, string an 8mm crystal, a 5mm bicone crystal, a briolette, and a 5mm. Repeat eight times. String an 8mm crystal. Center the beads on the wire.



6 On each end, string three 8mm crystals. String 8mm jet beads until the strand is 3 in. (7.6cm) longer than the first strand.



7 On each end of each strand, string a 4mm glass bead, a crimp bead, and the corresponding loop of half of the clasp. Check the fit, and add or remove beads from each end if necessary. Go back through the beads just strung and tighten the wire. Crimp the crimp bead (Basics) and trim the excess wire.

SUPPLY NOTE

Jet and black glass beads are available from Eclectica, (262) 641-0910, eclecticabeads.com.

England



1 bracelet • Cut two pieces of beading wire (Basics, p. 75).

On each wire, center a 6mm crystal, an 8mm crystal, and a 6mm crystal.



2 On each end of each wire, string an 8mm jet bead and a 6mm jet bead, repeating until the strand is within 2 in. (5cm) of the desired length.



3 Repeat step 7 of the necklace to finish. ➤

SUPPLY LIST

necklace

- 9 9 x 11mm black briolettes
- 16-in. (41cm) strand 8mm jet beads
- 16-in. (41cm) strand 6mm jet beads
- 16 8mm round crystals
- 36 6mm round crystals
- 48 4mm round crystals
- 18 5mm bicone crystals
- 16-in. (41cm) strand 4mm glass beads
- flexible beading wire, .014 or .015
- 6 crimp beads
- three-strand clasp (Fire Mountain Gems, 800-355-2137, firemountaingems.com)

- chainnose or crimping pliers
- diagonal wire cutters

bracelet

- 16–24 8mm jet beads
- 16–24 6mm jet beads
- 2 8mm round crystals
- 4 6mm round crystals
- 8 4mm glass beads
- flexible beading wire, .014 or .015
- 4 crimp beads
- two-strand box clasp
- chainnose or crimping pliers
- diagonal wire cutters