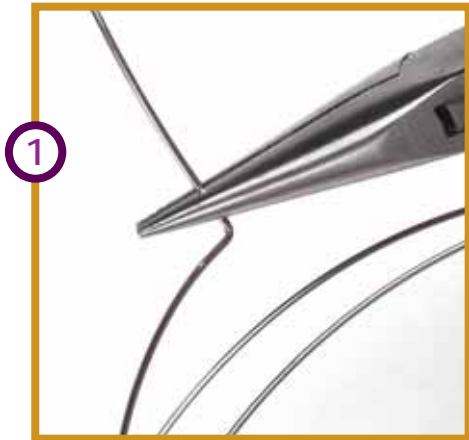


Around the block

by Naomi Fujimoto

Memory wire is a great option for making short necklaces, since it maintains its circular shape and doesn't require a clasp. Choose a gemstone in a clean shape that reveals a range of colors (such as creamy, chocolatey moonkite). Then add definition with crystals that separate the shapes, and complete the geometric theme with round gemstones. You can vary the number of rectangles, but avoid stringing too many or the beads will flip up while you're wearing the necklace.

String a quick memory-wire necklace with gemstones in geometric shapes



1. Wrap a coil of memory wire around your neck. Add 3 in. (7.6m), and cut the wire to that length with heavy-duty wire cutters. If you do not have heavy-duty wire cutters, grab the wire with chainnose pliers and bend it back and forth at one place until it breaks.



2. Alternate a crystal and a gemstone rectangle until you have strung the desired number of rectangles. End with a crystal.



3. String approximately 5½ in. (14cm) of round beads on each end. Tape the ends and check the fit. Add or remove beads if necessary. When the necklace is around your neck, the ends should overlap approximately 2 in. (5cm).



4. Remove the tape from one end. With roundnose pliers, turn a small loop. Cut or break the wire ½ in. (1.3cm) from the last bead on the other end, remove the tape, and turn a loop as before. ❖

SupplyList

- 8–12 10 x 17mm top-drilled rectangular gemstones, moonkite
- 16-in. (41cm) strand 6mm round gemstones, moonkite
- 9–13 4mm bicone crystals
- 1 package necklace-diameter memory wire
- roundnose and chainnose pliers
- heavy-duty wire cutters (optional)

