

NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON BEAD SOCIETY

JULY 2024

June Follow-up Notes

Don't forget, I still want before and after pictures from the May meeting's "Repurposing Costume Jewelry" workshop. I haven't done anything with the materials I took, but when I do, I'll share pictures.

The earrings made at the June meeting were pretty simple and didn't take long, but I hope those who attended were inspired and went home with some good ideas. The July meeting will be similar; we'll work on something simple but is a jumping off point to more complex possibilities.

The board decided to renew the website for one more year. Since we haven't done a show in years and we stopped charging dues, this will be the last year for the website. We'll take this time to transition to another medium for communication (email only? a social media site?). TBD

Bead Clusters: Monday, July 22, 2024

Location: Sequoya Library, 4340 Tokay Blvd.

Time: 6:30 to 8:30, p.m. (Planning meeting 6:00-6:30, all are welcome to attend)



Supplies (basic): size 3 to 8mm beads (any shape) (5 to 21 per earring depending on size and personal preference); head pins (at least 1.5" for wrapped loops); ear wires of your choice; jump rings (smaller for tighter cluster, larger for longer cluster); side cutter; pliers (needle nose and round nose); bead mat

We'll start with a basic bead cluster earring (or pendant), pictured to the left. I'll bring patterns for more advanced cluster configurations that you try at the meeting or take home.

I found instruction for cluster earrings on the Rings & Things site (<https://blog.rings-things.com/2011/09/how-to-make-cluster-earrings>).

For a little variety, consider one larger bead on the end of the cluster, or use eye pins and have a smaller bead dangle from the end of the headpin.

I have 15 diagrams of different cluster (or cluster-like) earrings, bracelets, and necklaces. I think some of the earring patterns could easily be modified into a pendant or lariat-style necklace too. After going through the images, here are some of the materials needed for the advanced patterns.

Advanced pattern supplies (beads, various sizes): bicone crystals, briolette crystals, flower-shape (or bead cap) and bead that would fit inside, round (6mm and under), top-drilled long beads (like a leaf shape or briolette cut), pearls of different sizes and shapes, top-drilled round or teardrop shaped beads, and small charms

Advanced pattern supplies (other materials): jump rings (lots and in various sizes), headpins (lots and in various sizes), small lengths of chain (with enough space to add cluster pieces), ear wires of your choice, clasp (for necklace or bracelet), longer lengths of chain to finish a necklace, pliers (needle nose and round nose), bead mat

You can probably tell that this project can go in all kinds of directions. You can keep it simple and use up materials from your stash or go all out to make something special.

I'll go through the MBS stash and what's left of the consume jewelry donation we received to find materials for the more advanced patterns.



Necklace based on one of the advanced patterns with beads from the MBS stash

Happy beading!

Pat Reichert, editor