

HOMEMADE: THE HEART AND SCIENCE OF HANDCRAFTS
CAROL ENDLER STERBENZ

Vieux Nice: A Charm Bracelet



Inspired by a bracelet I saw at a French market, my *Vieux Nice* design is hung with charms composed of beads and findings that are threaded onto head pins in unique combinations. The head pins are made into single wrapped-wire loops and secured to a silver chain using jump rings. Each “charm” contains four or five beads and three to five bead caps. The list of materials provides a wide choice of alternatives so that beads and bead caps can be arranged according to your taste, with pieces left over for another project.

MATERIALS AND TOOLS

- 5 round beads, 16 mm
 - 1 faceted crystal, in clear pink
 - 2 opaque quartz, in orange and rose
 - 1 dyed jade, in robin’s-egg blue with crazing
 - 1 jasper, in rust brown and red with whorls
- 1 round carnelian, 6 mm, in rosy pink
- 5 fused-glass rondelles with vertical stripes, 16 mm × 12 mm
 - 1 raspberry and lime green
 - 1 deep rose and medium pink
 - 1 medium rose and pale pink
 - 1 pale pink and pale leaf green
 - 1 white and medium sky blue
- 2 fused-glass lampwork rondelles,
 - 14 mm diameter × 8 mm thick, in raspberry and mint green
- 1 fluorite rectangle, 14 mm wide × 20 mm long × 6 mm thick, in icy blue
- 1 carnelian rectangle, 13 mm wide × 18 mm long × 5 mm thick, in tobacco brown
- 1 long oval, axis-drilled, 18 mm wide × 25 mm long × 4 mm thick, in opaque cream
- 60 assorted crystals
 - 30 Swarovski bicone crystals, 3 mm, in fuchsia, leaf green, turquoise, and orange
 - 30 faceted crystal rondelles, 6 mm, in pale green, blue, lavender, purple, and rose
- 30 seed beads in colors, as desired
- 2 sterling silver charms with flat backs
- 20 filigree bead caps, antiqued silver, 16 mm diameter
- 36 filigree bead caps, antiqued silver, 8 mm diameter
- 15 spacer beads, silver, 4 mm diameter
- 15 ball-tipped head pins, sterling silver, 3" (7.6 cm) long
- 15 open jump rings, sterling silver, 4 mm
- 7½" (19.1 cm) round-link chain, 16-gauge, sterling silver, 4 mm links
- Spring-ring clasp, sterling silver, 14 mm diameter
- Closed jump ring, sterling silver, 10 mm
- Instant glue (cyanoacrylate)
- Chain-nose pliers
- Bent-nose pliers
- Round-nose pliers
- Wire cutters
- Emery cloth, medium-grit (#400)
- Flat-weave cotton towel

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Step 1

Arrange the beads for each charm.

Place all the beads on a flat covered surface. Arrange 15 groups of beads and bead caps in a row, placing one large focal bead in each group. To each group, add 2 large filigree bead caps, 2 small filigree bead caps, 2 crystal rondelles, and 2 bicone crystals. Combine the smaller accent beads and findings with the large focal beads, alternating bead colors and shapes. Pair long bead caps with the fluorite rectangle and the carnelian rectangle. Use instant glue (cyanoacrylate) to adhere one metal charm to the center of the carnelian rectangle and one charm to the center of the cream oval. Let the glue dry.

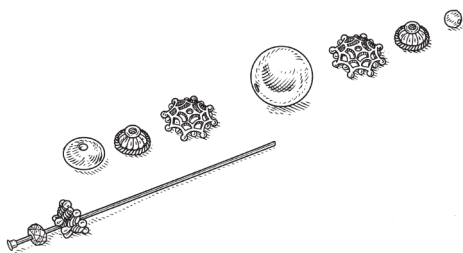
Step 2

Attach a clasp to the chain.

Drape the sterling silver bracelet on your wrist to ensure that it fits comfortably. If the bracelet is too big, use wire cutters to remove one or more links. Attach the spring-ring clasp directly to one end link on the bracelet; use the chain-nose and bent-nose pliers to open the link, insert the clasp, and close the link. Attach the large jump ring to the opposite end link in the same manner.

Step 3

Thread the beads on the head pins.



Insert a head pin through the beads arranged in step 1. Repeat to make 15 stacked bead-and-cap head pins. Make certain that no configuration is longer than 1½" (3.8 cm).

Step 4

Make the first bend.

When you are satisfied, carefully lift one bead-stacked head pin. Use chain-nose pliers to grip the wire stem approximately ¼" (0.3 cm) above the top bead. Rotate the pliers, bending the wire at a 90-degree angle.

Step 5

Shape the loop.

Use round-nose pliers to grip the wire ¼" (0.3 cm) away from the bend. Rotate the pliers toward the bend to begin shaping the loop. When your wrist can no longer rotate comfortably, stop. Do not remove the pliers, but use your fingers on the opposite hand to wrap the head pin wire around the jaw of the round-nose pliers until it crosses in front of the head pin wire and completes a round loop.

Step 6

Wrap the wire around the stem.

Use the chain-nose pliers to grip the wire loop. Use your fingers to wrap the wire tail around and down the stem of the head pin until it touches the top of the bead. Be sure to make tight, even wraps. As the wire stem shortens, the wraps get harder to make: use the bent-nose pliers instead of your fingers to make the last few wire wraps, if necessary.

Step 7

Finish the wrapped-wire loop.



Trim away the excess wire using the wire cutters. Then use an emery file to smooth the wire end, being careful not to scratch the beads. Use bent-nose pliers to gently squeeze the cut wire end flush against the stem. Repeat steps 4–7 to add wrapped-wire loops to the remaining head pins.

Step 8

Attach the charms to the bracelet.

Lay the bracelet on a flat work surface and arrange the charms along its length. Use a jump ring to attach each charm to a link in the bracelet, spacing the charms at even intervals.

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