

1403-4

Marlene Blessing creates 1 Necklace 3 Ways by customizing charms.

Please see page 2 for project instructions.



Guest:



Marlene Blessing

Beads, Baubles, & Jewels: Series 1400



MARLENE BLESSING:

Riveted Steel Mesh Bail

This simple technique for creating a riveted bail can be used on materials other than metal mesh. Try a stiff fabric, such as canvas or felt; decorative paper; leather; or even flexible plastic. What's really fun is switching out bails on the same necklace to create different styles!

FINISHED SIZE: 1½" x 3½"

TECHNIQUES: Hole punching, riveting, jump rings

TOOLS & MATERIALS:

Fine steel mesh
3 metal 8 mm jump rings (this project uses 1 gunmetal, 1 brass, and 1 silver)
3 jewelry long, narrow charms of choice
3 metal 1/8mm rivets
Metal-edged ruler or seam gauge
Pattern paper
Marking pen
Hole punch and rivet setter
Sheet metal shears
Claw hammer
Self-healing mat
Chain-nose pliers
Flat-nose pliers

STEPS:

1. With ruler and pencil, draw and cut out a 2 x 4" rectangle template on pattern paper (plain bond will work, too). Holding the template against the metal mesh, cut a rectangle with the metal shears.
2. Fold lengthwise edges in ¼", then press the metal edge of the ruler or a metal seam gauge along the fold to make a crisp edge. Next, fold the short edges in ¼" and press edges neatly. (All folds will be on the inside of the bail.)
3. On one short end of the bail, lay out your charms to see how much space to allow between rivets. Next, use a jump ring to see the best placement for the rivet on the bottom edge (you need to allow the correct space for the jump ring to hang freely). Mark 3 dots with your pen accordingly.
4. Fold the mesh in half gently (you don't want to make a crease) until the two short ends meet. Place these ends onto a self-healing mat, holding them together so the edges continue to meet perfectly. Next, place the 1/8mm hole punch on one of the dots and strike firmly with the hammer to punch a clean hole through all layers. Continue until all three holes are punched.
5. Push the tube end of 1 rivet completely through the first hole on the left; turn the piece over so the tube end sticks up; and place the rivet setter on the edge of the tube (it should align). Hammer the rivet setter firmly. The tube end should splay out and be almost flush with the back of the bail. Repeat 2 times to complete.
6. Using jump rings, connect each of the 3 charms to the rivets.

RESOURCES

Steel mesh: giovannaimperia.com. Charms and jump rings: Michaels.