

February: Amethyst

If you celebrate a February birthday and are passionate about purple, consider yourself lucky – amethyst is February’s birthstone. From lucid lavender to vivid violet, amethyst’s colorations are varied. Take advantage of the gemstone’s breathtaking hues and moderate cost, and make an easy-to-string necklace. Proclaim the power of purple. – Paulette Biedenbender



A

necklace • 1. Determine the finished length of your necklace. (Mine is 17 in./43cm.) Add 6 in. (15cm) and cut a piece of beading wire to that length.

String a bead cap, the focal bead, and a bead cap and center the beads on the wire.



B

2. On each side of the focal bead, string a rondelle, a spacer, a rondelle, and a round. Repeat this pattern until the necklace is within 1 in. (2.5cm) of the desired length.





3. On each end, string a 2mm round spacer, a crimp bead, a spacer, and half the clasp. Go back through the beads just strung, tighten the wire, and check the fit. Add or remove an equal number of beads from each end if necessary. Crimp the crimp beads (Basic Techniques) and trim the excess wire.



earrings • 1. String a 4mm round and a 2 x 4mm spacer on a head pin. Make a plain loop (Basic Techniques) above the spacer. Make two more dangles.



2. Cut pieces of chain in the following lengths: 1½ in. (2.9cm), 1¼ in. (3.2cm), and 1½ in. (3.8cm). Open the loop (Basic Techniques) on an eye pin and attach the chain segments, beginning with the longest. Close the loop.



3. String a cone on the eye pin, covering the uppermost portion of the chain. String a 3mm round bead and make a wrapped loop (Basic Techniques) above the bead.

SupplyList

necklace

- faceted amethyst focal bead, approx. 16 x 20mm (Eclectica, 262-641-0910)
- 16-in. (41cm) strand 6 x 9mm faceted amethyst rondelles
- 16-in. strand 4mm amethyst rounds
- 18-22 2 x 4mm spacers
- 2 7mm bead caps
- 4 2mm round spacer beads
- flexible beading wire, .014 or .015
- 2 crimp beads
- toggle clasp
- chainnose or crimping pliers
- diagonal wire cutters

earrings

- 6 4mm amethyst rounds
- 2 3mm round spacer beads
- 6 2 x 4mm spacers
- 2 4 x 12mm cones
- 8 in. (20cm) fine-gauge cable chain
- 6 1½-in. (3.8cm) 24-gauge head pins
- 2 2-in. (5cm) 22-gauge eye pins
- pair of earring wires
- chainnose and roundnose pliers
- diagonal wire cutters



4. Open the loop on a dangle and attach it to the end link of a chain segment. Close the loop. Repeat on each chain segment with the remaining dangles.



5. Open the loop on an earring wire and attach the wrapped loop. Make a second earring to match the first. ♣