

Gray



inspiration



decorative art

Interlocking loops add interest and dimension to a crystal bracelet

I lifted the high-contrast palette for this sparkling bracelet right off a contemporary picture frame. Crystals in jet hematite and crystal satin combine with silver findings in a simple, achromatic palette. But don't equate achromatic with plain; high-contrast pairings make dramatic jewelry. And, if you look closely, you'll see flashes of color reflecting off the crystals' faceted surfaces.

Loops of crystals cross at right-angles to create a substantial bracelet in this simple adaptation of a cross-needle bead-weaving technique.



1 Cut four 1-yd. (.9m) pieces of beading wire. String a small crimp bead over all four strands, 2 in. (5cm) from the ends. Crimp the crimp bead (see Basics).



2 String a cone, a large crimp, and half the clasp over the tail end of the wires, covering the small crimp. Go back through the large crimp, tighten the loop, and crimp the crimp bead. Trim the tails close to the crimp.



3 String a color A bicolor crystal over all four wires and slide it into the cone.



4 Divide the wires into two pairs. Working with one pair of wires, string the following on each wire: Japanese cylinder bead, A, cylinder, A, cylinder. Cross these wires through another A to complete the first ring.



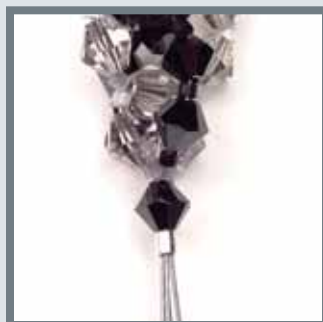
5 Repeat step 4 using the same pair of wires and A crystals until you have a total of 12 rings. Tape the ends.



6 Using the second pair of wires, string the following on each wire: cylinder, B, cylinder. Cross the wires through a B. Pass the wire closest to the first color A ring through that ring.



7 Bring that same wire back through the next color A ring to start the next ring. On each wire, string: cylinder, B, cylinder, B, cylinder. Cross the wires through a B. Pass the wire closest to the next color A ring through that ring.

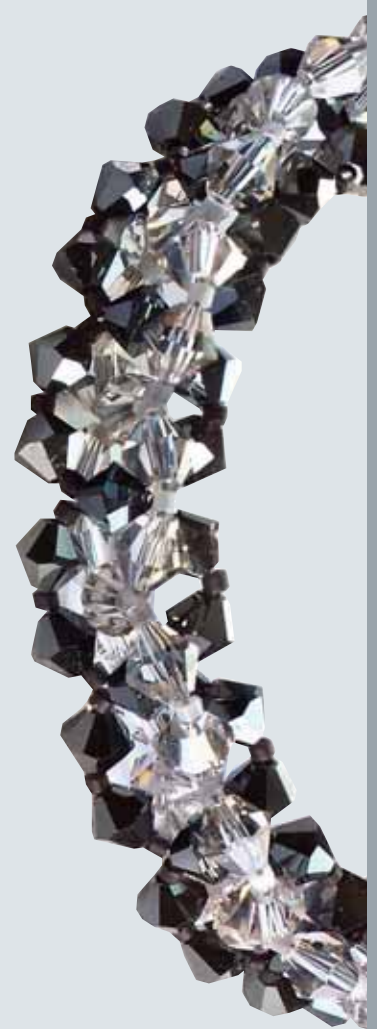


8 Repeat step 7 ten more times, then string a cylinder, a B, and a cylinder on each.



9 Remove the tape from the other pair of wires, gather the four strands together, and string an A and a small crimp bead over them. Crimp the crimp bead.

10 String a cone, a large crimp bead, and the other clasp half over all four strands. Take the ends back through the large crimp. Crimp the crimp bead and trim the tails close to the crimp. – A.N. *



materials

bracelet 8 in. (20cm)

- 61 5mm bicolor crystals, color A
- 60 5mm bicolor crystals, color B
- 1g Japanese cylinder beads, color A
- 1g Japanese cylinder beads, color B
- 2 medium cones
- toggle clasp
- 2 small crimp beads
- 2 large (mighty) crimp beads
- flexible beading wire, .014–.015
- diagonal wire cutters
- crimping pliers
- mighty crimping pliers