

Cluster Bangle

MATERIALS

bracelet 8 in. (20cm)

- 10 x 15mm lampworked focal bead*
- 6 6–8mm round silver beads
- gemstone rondelles
- 8-in. (20cm) strand 6mm
- 8-in. strand 4mm
- silver spacers
- 6 4 x 17mm disk*
- 10–12 4 x 9mm*
- 12 3mm daisy (optional)
- S-clasp or 4½ in. (11.4cm) 14-gauge sterling silver wire
- 2 12–14mm bead caps*
- sterling silver wire
- 1 ft. (30cm) 14-gauge
- 1 ft. 18-gauge, twisted
- 5 ft. (1.5m) 28-gauge, dead-soft
- 5 in. (13cm) cable chain, 6–8mm links
- 30 1½-in. (3.8cm) 24-gauge sterling silver head pins
- liver of sulfur (optional)
- permanent marker
- polishing cloth (optional)
- steel wool, very fine (optional)
- chainnose pliers
- roundnose pliers
- flush cutters

* holes must be large enough to fit over 14-gauge wire



Gemstone clusters highlight a lampworked focal bead in this stunning wire bangle.

designed by **Jennifer Cook**

stepbystep

Components

[1] Measure your wrist, add 2¼ in. (5.7cm), and, using flush cutters, cut the 14-gauge wire to this length.

[2] String a 6–8mm round silver bead on a head pin, and make the first half of a wrapped loop (Basics, p. 140 and **photo a**). If the bead's hole is large, string a 3mm daisy spacer on each end, as shown. Repeat with the remaining five 6–8mm beads.

[3] String a 6mm rondelle on

a head pin, and make the first half of a wrapped loop (**photo b**). Make a total of 12 6mm rondelle dangles.

[4] Repeat step 3 using 4mm rondelles (**photo c**).

[5] Cut six three-link pieces of chain.

[6] Attach the loop of a silver-bead dangle to an end link of one chain piece (**photo d**). Finish the wraps. Attach one silver dangle to each of the five remaining chain pieces.

[7] Attach a 6mm dangle and a 4mm dangle to the

same link as the silver dangle. Attach a 6mm dangle and a 4mm dangle to the middle chain link (**photo e**). Repeat with the remaining five chain pieces.

[8] Fold the twisted wire in half, and place the 14-gauge wire in the fold. Wrap one end of the twisted wire around the 14-gauge wire to make a coil (**photo f**). When you've finished coiling one end, repeat with the other end. Remove the coil from the 14-gauge wire. Cut the coil in half.

Assembly

[1] On the 14-gauge wire, string a bead cap, the focal bead, and a bead cap.

[2] On each end, string a 4 x 9mm spacer, a disk spacer, the top link of a dangle chain, a 4 x 9mm, a twisted-wire coil, a 4 x 9mm, a dangle chain, a disk, two 4 x 9mms, a disk, a dangle chain, and a 4 x 9mm (**photo g**).

[3] With the widest part of your roundnose pliers, make a simple loop at one end of the 14-gauge wire (**photo h**). Repeat on the other end.

[4] You'll have a lot of free space on the 14-gauge wire for the gemstone clusters. To determine where they'll go, center the focal bead and bead caps, and arrange the rest of the beads so there is a gap between the pairs of 4 x 9mm spacers on each end. Mark the wire with a permanent marker where the clusters will start and stop.

Gemstone clusters

[1] Cut the 28-gauge wire in half. On one piece, make a bend about 1 in. (2.5cm) from one end. Place the bend on one of the marks, and wrap the 28-gauge wire around the 14-gauge wire several times (**photo i**). Cross over the tail at least once. Trim the tail close to the 14-gauge wire, and press it down with chainnose pliers.

[2] String a 6mm rondelle on the 28-gauge wire, and, holding the bead in place, wrap

the 28-gauge wire around the 14-gauge wire once to the right of the bead, once to the left of the bead (**photo j**), and again to the right of the bead. Repeat, attaching 6mm rondelles until you reach the marked point. Do not trim the wire.

[3] Make a cluster of 6mms on the other side of the

bracelet with the remaining piece of 28-gauge wire.

[4] Continuing with the same piece of 28-gauge wire, string a 4mm rondelle, and, working in the other direction, repeat step 2, interspersing 4mms among the 6mms (**photo k**) and filling any gaps as desired. Secure the 28-gauge wire by carefully

wrapping back toward the cluster a few times. Trim the excess wire, and press the end close to the 14-gauge wire. Repeat on the other side.

Clasp and finishing

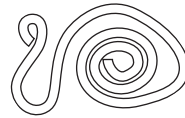
[1] If desired, refer to the template, p. 64, to make a clasp with the 4½-in. (11.4cm) piece of 14-gauge wire.





[2] Open the loop (Basics) on one end of the 14-gauge wire, attach the clasp, and close the loop (photo l).
[3] Gently shape the bracelet to fit your wrist, and try it on. If it's too big, undo the loops, and remove a few beads or snip off a bit of the

coils. Replace any desired beads, and redo the loops.
[4] If desired, add a liver of sulfur patina, following the manufacturer's instructions. Buff with steel wool, and finish with a polishing cloth. ●



TEMPLATE

Jennifer Cook made the beautiful focal bead in the salmon-colored bracelet. Contact her via email at jmc-lampwork@charter.net, or visit her website, jmclassart.com.

EDITOR'S NOTE:
 The gemstone clusters on the bracelet below are closer to the focal bead than to the clasp. To achieve this placement, string the focal bead, bead caps, and the first four components in step 2 of "Assembly." Skip the twisted-wire coil, and string the next four components. String the coil, and complete the stringing sequence.

