



Vintage Elegance Melinda Barta

Pearls and chain aren't just for weddings when you combine them in this old-is-new-again design. By combining a potpourri of brass findings, charms, and chain widths, this necklace achieves a very contemporary look.

FINISHED SIZE: 20"**Materials**

3 g gray AB size 15° seed beads
 1 black diamond 6mm crystal round
 1 burgundy 5mm crystal pearl round
 1 clear 8mm crystal rhinestone ball
 1 crystal and brass 10×17mm filigree drop charm
 40 white 3mm potato pearls
 38 white 4.5mm button pearls
 67 white 6mm drop pearls
 36 white 6.5mm potato pearls
 18 white 8mm potato pearls
 2 antique brass 15×20mm 1-to-3-hole connectors
 2 antique brass 13×14mm 1-to-2-hole connectors
 1 antique brass 15×16mm flower link
 1 antique brass 15×30mm flower charm with open center

1 antique brass 9mm filigree bead cap
 1 antique brass 20mm filigree flower bead cap
 1 antique brass 8×9mm filigree bead cone
 2 antique brass 22-gauge 2" head pins
 10 antique brass 4mm jump rings
 1 antique brass 7mm 18-gauge jump ring
 12 gold-filled 2mm crimp tubes
 1 antique brass 12mm spring-ring clasp
 13" of antique brass 1.5mm round chain
 13" of antique brass 2×4mm oval chain
 16" of gold-filled 24-gauge wire
 4½' of .019 gold flexible beading wire

Tools

Wire cutters
 Chain-nose pliers
 Round-nose pliers
 Crimping pliers

1: Focal chain. Use pearls, findings, charms, and wire to make the necklace's centerpiece:

Pearl chain: Cut the gold-filled wire into eight 2" lengths. Form a wrapped loop at one end of 1 wire that attaches to the 1-loop side of a 1-to-2 connector. String one 8mm pearl; form another wrapped loop to make the first link. *Form a wrapped loop at one end of a second piece of wire that attaches to one of the previous link's loops. String one 8mm pearl; form another wrapped loop. Repeat from * to add 1 more 8mm link, one 6mm link, and the flower charm. Set aside. Repeat this step, this time making the chain with three 8mm pearl links and the flower link. Use one 4mm jump ring to connect the flower link to the flower charm. Set aside.

Crystal drop: Attach the crystal drop to the jump ring on the pearl chain.

Crystal flower: Use the remaining piece of gold-filled wire to string the crystal rhinestone ball; slide the bead to the wire's center. Bend the wire along the side of the bead so the ends touch; pass the ends through the 20mm bead cap from inside to outside. Form a double simple loop that attaches to the pearl chain's 6mm pearl link between the pearl and the jump ring.

Crystal dangle: Use 1 head pin to string the black diamond crystal. Form a wrapped loop

that attaches to the wrapped loop between the 8mm and 6mm pearl links.

Flower charm: Use 1 head pin to string the burgundy pearl and the flower charm's center (front to back). Wrap the end of the head pin around the flower stem to secure; trim any excess.

2: Pearl strands. String strands of pearls and seed beads to create the straps:

Strand 1: Use 9" of beading wire to string 1 crimp tube; pass through the first loop on one 1-to-3 connector, back through the tube, and crimp. String {three 6.5mm pearls and one 8mm pearl} six times. Use 1 crimp tube to attach the other end of the wire to the first hole of one of the 1-to-2 connectors.

Strand 2: Use 9" of beading wire to string 1 crimp tube; pass through the second loop on the same 1-to-3 connector, back through the tube, and crimp. String {1 drop pearl and 1 seed bead} thirty-two times. String 1 drop pearl. Use 1 crimp tube to attach the other end of the wire to the second hole of the same 1-to-2 connector used before.

Strand 3: Use 9" of beading wire to string 1 crimp tube; pass through the third loop on the 1-to-3 connector, back through the tube, and crimp. String {1 seed bead, one 3mm pearl, and one 4.5mm pearl} nineteen times.

String 1 seed bead, one 3mm pearl, and 1 seed bead. Use 1 crimp tube to attach the other end of the wire to the second hole of the 1-to-2 connector.

Repeat entire step to create mirror pearl strands for the other side of the necklace.

3: Chain strands. Attach lengths of chain between the connectors:

Chain 1: Cut the 2×4mm chain in two equal pieces. Use one 4mm jump ring to connect one end of 1 of the chains to the first loop of the first 1-to-3 connector worked. Wrap the chain once around pearl Strand 1. Use one 4mm jump ring to connect the chain's open end to the first loop of the first 1-to-2 connector worked.

Chain 2: Cut the 1.5mm chain in two equal pieces. Use one 4mm jump ring to connect one end of 1 of the chains to the third loop of the same 1-to-3 connector. Wrap the chain once around pearl Strand 2. Use one 4mm jump ring to connect the chain's open end to the second loop of the same 1-to-2 connector.

Use the remaining chain to repeat entire step, creating mirror strands on the other side of the necklace.

4: Clasp. Attach the 18-gauge jump ring to the single loop on one of the 1-to-3 connectors. Attach the spring-ring clasp to the opposite connector by opening and closing the loop attached to the clasp as you would a jump ring. ♦

Melinda Barta is managing editor of *Beadwork* and *Stringing*. She is the author of *Hip to Stitch: 20 Contemporary Projects Embellished with Thread* (Interweave, 2005) and *Custom Cool Jewelry: Create 200+ Personalized Pendants, Charms, and Clasps* (Interweave, 2008). Melinda has made appearances on TV programs, including *Uncommon Threads*, *Scrapbooking*, and *Craft Corner Death Match*.

RESOURCES

Check your local bead shop or contact: Bead cap, drop charm, and flower link: AD Adornments, www.adornments.com. Crystal pearl, crystal round, beading wire, gold-filled wire, and crimp tubes: FusionBeads.com, (888) 781-3559. Seed beads: Orr's Trading Co., (303) 722-6466, www.orr.com. Similar pearls: Austin Gem and Bead, www.austingemandbead.com. All other beads and findings: Ornamentea, www.ornamentea.com.