

Making Everything Easier!™

2nd Edition

# Jewelry Making & Beading

FOR  
**DUMMIES**®  
A Wiley Brand

## Learn to:

- Master wire wrapping, knotting, and bead stringing
- Set up the necessities of a jewelry maker's workshop
- Upcycle found objects for new creations
- Make easy-to-follow projects

**IN FULL COLOR!**

**Heather H. Dismore**

*Author of Jewelry & Beading Designs For Dummies*



# Get More and Do More at Dummies.com®



Start with **FREE** Cheat Sheets

Cheat Sheets include

- Checklists
- Charts
- Common Instructions
- And Other Good Stuff!

To access the Cheat Sheet created specifically for this book, go to [www.dummies.com/cheatsheet/jewelrymakingandbeading](http://www.dummies.com/cheatsheet/jewelrymakingandbeading)

## Get Smart at Dummies.com

Dummies.com makes your life easier with 1,000s of answers on everything from removing wallpaper to using the latest version of Windows.

Check out our

- Videos
- Illustrated Articles
- Step-by-Step Instructions

Plus, each month you can win valuable prizes by entering our Dummies.com sweepstakes. \*

Want a weekly dose of Dummies? Sign up for Newsletters on

- Digital Photography
- Microsoft Windows & Office
- Personal Finance & Investing
- Health & Wellness
- Computing, iPods & Cell Phones
- eBay
- Internet
- Food, Home & Garden

## Find out “HOW” at Dummies.com



\*Sweepstakes not currently available in all countries; visit Dummies.com for official rules.

***Jewelry Making  
& Beading***

FOR  
**DUMMIES**<sup>®</sup>  
A Wiley Brand  
2ND EDITION

**by Heather Heath Dismore**

FOR  
**DUMMIES**<sup>®</sup>  
A Wiley Brand

**Jewelry Making & Beading For Dummies® 2nd Edition**

Published by  
**John Wiley & Sons, Inc.**  
111 River St.  
Hoboken, NJ 07030-5774  
[www.wiley.com](http://www.wiley.com)

Copyright © 2013 by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Hoboken, New Jersey

Published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Hoboken, New Jersey

Published simultaneously in Canada

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning or otherwise, except as permitted under Sections 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act, without the prior written permission of the Publisher. Requests to the Publisher for permission should be addressed to the Permissions Department, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 111 River Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030, (201) 748-6011, fax (201) 748-6008, or online at <http://www.wiley.com/go/permissions>.

**Trademarks:** Wiley, the Wiley logo, For Dummies, the Dummies Man logo, A Reference for the Rest of Us!, The Dummies Way, Dummies Daily, The Fun and Easy Way, Dummies.com, Making Everything Easier, and related trade dress are trademarks or registered trademarks of John Wiley & Sons, Inc., and/or its affiliates in the United States and other countries, and may not be used without written permission. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., is not associated with any product or vendor mentioned in this book.

**LIMIT OF LIABILITY/DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTY: THE PUBLISHER AND THE AUTHOR MAKE NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES WITH RESPECT TO THE ACCURACY OR COMPLETENESS OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS WORK AND SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIM ALL WARRANTIES, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION WARRANTIES OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. NO WARRANTY MAY BE CREATED OR EXTENDED BY SALES OR PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS. THE ADVICE AND STRATEGIES CONTAINED HEREIN MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR EVERY SITUATION. THIS WORK IS SOLD WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE PUBLISHER IS NOT ENGAGED IN RENDERING LEGAL, ACCOUNTING, OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES. IF PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED, THE SERVICES OF A COMPETENT PROFESSIONAL PERSON SHOULD BE SOUGHT. NEITHER THE PUBLISHER NOR THE AUTHOR SHALL BE LIABLE FOR DAMAGES ARISING HEREFROM. THE FACT THAT AN ORGANIZATION OR WEBSITE IS REFERRED TO IN THIS WORK AS A CITATION AND/OR A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF FURTHER INFORMATION DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE AUTHOR OR THE PUBLISHER ENDORSES THE INFORMATION THE ORGANIZATION OR WEBSITE MAY PROVIDE OR RECOMMENDATIONS IT MAY MAKE. FURTHER, READERS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT INTERNET WEBSITES LISTED IN THIS WORK MAY HAVE CHANGED OR DISAPPEARED BETWEEN WHEN THIS WORK WAS WRITTEN AND WHEN IT IS READ.**

For general information on our other products and services, please contact our Customer Care Department within the U.S. at 877-762-2974, outside the U.S. at 317-572-3993, or fax 317-572-4002.

For technical support, please visit [www.wiley.com/techsupport](http://www.wiley.com/techsupport).

Wiley publishes in a variety of print and electronic formats and by print-on-demand. Some material included with standard print versions of this book may not be included in e-books or in print-on-demand. If this book refers to media such as a CD or DVD that is not included in the version you purchased, you may download this material at <http://booksupport.wiley.com>. For more information about Wiley products, visit [www.wiley.com](http://www.wiley.com).

Library of Congress Control Number: 2013932104

ISBN 978-1-118-49782-1 (pbk); ISBN 978-1-118-49774-6 (ebk); ISBN 978-1-118-49780-7 (ebk); ISBN 978-1-118-49781-4 (ebk)

Manufactured in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

## *About the Author*

**Heather Heath Dismore** is a veteran *For Dummies* author and editor. Her published works include such titles as *Jewelry & Beading Designs For Dummies*, *Running a Bar For Dummies*, and *Running a Restaurant For Dummies*. Find her on twitter at @heatherdismore.

Heather graduated from DePauw University with majors in political science and English composition. She started making jewelry for friends and family during college as a way to give beautiful gifts on a limited budget, and she has kept it up for the last 20 years, even though her budget has increased (slightly).

Heather lives in the Midwest with her husband, Andrew Dismore, their daughters, and a puggle named Gus.



# *Dedication*

I dedicate this book to my grandmother, Anna Mae Dyess, who started my love of jewelry with a bottomless box of costume jewelry, open to all her grandchildren to create what they would. You are loved and missed, but not forgotten.

# *Author's Acknowledgments*

Thanks to my amazing acquisitions editor, Tracy Boggier, who worked through seemingly never-ending obstacles to get this gorgeous, glossy book into your hands.

To my team of project editors, Joan Friedman (for running the ball to end zone) and Kelly Ewing (for launching the Hail Mary pass), thank you for keeping this project on track despite many stops and starts; too many graphics, pictures, and illustrations to count (okay, about 300); the first-ever *For Dummies* DVD; and other inevitable challenges along the way.

To my husband, Andy, for the gorgeous photography in this book. Thanks also to Matt Bowen and his team for providing some beautiful additions.

Thank you to everyone at Wiley, including Alicia South, Carmen Krikorian, Kristin Ferguson-Wagstaffe, Paul Chen, and many other behind-the-scenes folks in the editorial, media development, and production departments. As always, thanks for the opportunity to work with the best in the business.

Thank you to everyone at Wiley who made the first edition of this book such a success, including Diane Steele, Laura Moss, Maridee Ennis, Barbara Moore, Lynsey Osborn, and Brian Drumm.

Thanks to Tammy Powley for her work on the first edition of this book. A few of her timeless projects still grace its pages.

And finally, thanks also to my incredible family for their patience and support during the never-ending writing schedule.

## **Publisher's Acknowledgments**

We're proud of this book; please send us your comments at <http://dummies.custhelp.com>. For other comments, please contact our Customer Care Department within the U.S. at 877-762-2974, outside the U.S. at 317-572-3993, or fax 317-572-4002.

Some of the people who helped bring this book to market include the following:

### ***Acquisitions, Editorial, and Vertical Websites***

**Project Editor:** Kelly Ewing, Joan Friedman

*(Previous Edition: Tere Stouffer Drenth)*

**Acquisitions Editor:** Tracy Boggier

**Assistant Editor:** David Lutton

**Editorial Program Coordinator:** Joe Niesen

**Technical Editor:** Jill Tucker

**Vertical Websites:** Paul Chen, Melanie Orr

**Senior Editorial Manager:** Jennifer Ehrlich

**Editorial Supervisor:** Carmen Krikorian

**Editorial Assistant:** Alexa Koschier

**Art Coordinator:** Alicia B. South

**Front Cover Image:** © Lilli Day / Jupiterimages

**Back Cover Images:** © Matt Bowen

### ***Composition Services***

**Project Coordinator:** Patrick Redmond

**Layout and Graphics:** Carrie A. Cesavice,  
Joyce Haughey, Jennifer Henry, Erin Zeltner

**Proofreaders:** Lindsay Amones, Judith Q. McMullen

**Indexer:** Ty Koontz

---

### **Publishing and Editorial for Consumer Dummies**

**Kathleen Nebenhaus**, Vice President and Executive Publisher

**David Palmer**, Associate Publisher

**Kristin Ferguson-Wagstaffe**, Product Development Director

### **Publishing for Technology Dummies**

**Andy Cummings**, Vice President and Publisher

### **Composition Services**

**Debbie Stailey**, Director of Composition Services



# Contents at a Glance

---

<b><i>Introduction</i></b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b><i>Part I: Getting Started with Jewelry Making and Beading</i></b> .....	<b>5</b>
Chapter 1: An Insider's Look at Jewelry Making and Beading .....	7
Chapter 2: Tricks and Tools of the Trade.....	19
Chapter 3: Making Magic with Beads, Crystals, Pearls, and Stones .....	43
Chapter 4: Creating Your Jewelbox: Setting Up Your Workshop .....	71
<b><i>Part II: Discovering Simple Jewelry-Making Techniques</i></b> .....	<b>83</b>
Chapter 5: Uncovering the Simple Secrets of Stringing and Knotting.....	85
Chapter 6: Winding It Up with Wire Wrapping.....	109
Chapter 7: Stamping Custom Metal Jewelry.....	131
Chapter 8: Combining Other Crafts with Jewelry Making .....	145
<b><i>Part III: Implementing Design Ideas, Trends, and More</i></b> .....	<b>169</b>
Chapter 9: Creating Fun, Funky Jewelry for Everyday Wear .....	171
Chapter 10: Designing High-End Jewelry .....	201
Chapter 11: Making Jewelry for Men .....	221
Chapter 12: Upcycling: Breathing New Life into Scraps and Vintage Pieces .....	235
<b><i>Part IV: Building on Your Jewelry-Making Hobby</i></b> .....	<b>257</b>
Chapter 13: Decorating with Jewelry and Beads .....	259
Chapter 14: Making Jewelry with Kids .....	277
Chapter 15: Hosting a Jewelry-Making Party .....	297
Chapter 16: Turning Your Hobby into a Business .....	309
<b><i>Part V: The Part of Tens</i></b> .....	<b>331</b>
Chapter 17: Ten (or So) Online Resources for Materials, Supplies, and More .....	333
Chapter 18: Ten Common Jewelry-Making Mistakes to Avoid.....	337
Chapter 19: Ten Great Ways to Make Money Selling Your Creations .....	341
<b><i>Index</i></b> .....	<b>351</b>



# Table of Contents

***Introduction* ..... 1**

About This Book .....	1
Conventions Used in This Book.....	1
Foolish Assumptions.....	2
How This Book Is Organized .....	2
Part I: Getting Started with Jewelry Making and Beading.....	2
Part II: Discovering Simple Jewelry-Making Techniques .....	3
Part III: Implementing Design Ideas, Trends, and More.....	3
Part IV: Building On Your Jewelry-Making Hobby .....	3
Part V: The Part of Tens.....	3
Icons Used in This Book .....	4
Where to Go from Here.....	4

***Part 1: Getting Started with Jewelry Making and Beading* ..... 5**

**Chapter 1: An Insider's Look at Jewelry Making and Beading..... 7**

Why Make Jewelry Yourself? .....	7
Finding ways to inspire your creativity .....	8
Deciding whether to set up a separate workspace .....	9
Discovering Jewelry-Making Designs and Techniques .....	10
Stringing and knotting.....	10
Wire wrapping.....	10
Putting a few techniques to use.....	11
From Antique to Funky: Creating Innovative Jewelry.....	13
Taking Your Hobby to the Next Level.....	16

**Chapter 2: Tricks and Tools of the Trade..... 19**

Stringing You Along with Thread, Cord, and Wire.....	19
Unraveling thread .....	19
Getting caught up in cord.....	21
Getting strung out on wire.....	26
Tackling Jobs with Pliers.....	29
Must-have pliers.....	29
Nice additions to your jewelbox.....	30
Understanding the Importance of Measurements and Weights.....	32
Putting It Together: Choosing and Using Findings.....	33
Connectors .....	33
Clasps .....	36
Connection to clasps: Clamshells, bead tips, and end caps .....	39



**Chapter 3: Making Magic with Beads, Crystals, Pearls, and Stones . . . . . 43**

Bead Basics .....	43
Identifying man-made beads .....	44
Getting familiar with bead shapes .....	47
Understanding bead sizes.....	50
Using Crystals .....	51
Designing crystal jewelry.....	51
Selecting the best crystals for your budget .....	54
Cracking the crystal code.....	55
Wisdom on Pearls.....	56
Faux pearls.....	57
Cultured pearls.....	57
Freshwater and saltwater pearls .....	57
Pearl quality.....	58
Working with Stones .....	59
Identifying stones and gems.....	60
Choosing stone components.....	63
Sourcing Your Beads, Pearls, and Stones.....	65
Finding beads in stores .....	66
Buying in bulk via the Internet.....	66
Going to bead and gem shows .....	68

**Chapter 4: Creating Your Jewelbox: Setting Up Your Workshop . . . . . 71**

Selecting and Preparing a Workshop Space.....	71
Getting ready to move in .....	73
Taking lighting into account.....	73
Seeking out the perfect chair .....	74
Choosing a desk or table.....	75
Making sure you're covered: Thinking about flooring.....	76
Staying Clean and Tidy .....	76
Containing Gems and More.....	77
Investing in plastic bags, totes, and tackle boxes .....	77
Buying a bead board organizer.....	77
Shopping for sorting trays.....	78
Practicing Safety First .....	79
Babying your eyes .....	79
Taking other precautions .....	80
Is Your Home Ready? A Checklist .....	81

***Part II: Discovering Simple Jewelry-Making Techniques . . . . . 83***

**Chapter 5: Uncovering the Simple Secrets of Stringing and Knotting . . . . . 85**

Stringing: The Basics.....	85
Knotting: Getting Started.....	87
Using knotting materials .....	87
Identifying knotting tools.....	88
Understanding knotting techniques.....	88
Incorporating knotting as a design element.....	92
Knot just the end, but the beginning, too.....	96

Using Crimps .....	103
Attaching a crimp .....	104
Other crimping options.....	105
To Glue or Not to Glue .....	106
The pros of gluing.....	106
The cons of gluing.....	106
Which glue for what?.....	107
<b>Chapter 6: Winding It Up with Wire Wrapping . . . . .</b>	<b>109</b>
Choosing the Right Wire for the Job .....	109
Using memory wire.....	109
Selecting wire for wrapping.....	111
Identifying optional wire-wrapping tools.....	116
Getting Familiar with Wrapping Techniques .....	117
Creating “S” scrolls.....	117
Trying your hand at tight coils .....	119
Creating an eye loop.....	120
Wrapping loops.....	121
Creating wrapped beads.....	122
Incorporating Wire-wrapping Techniques in Jewelry Design.....	123
Gettin’ Jiggy with It: Wire Jig Projects .....	124
Making Your Own Clasps.....	127
Hook and eye clasp.....	127
“S” hook clasp .....	128
<b>Chapter 7: Stamping Custom Metal Jewelry. . . . .</b>	<b>131</b>
Identifying Special Equipment .....	131
Bench block.....	132
Metal stamps .....	132
Hammers.....	133
Metal hole punches .....	133
Metal files.....	134
Polishing tools.....	134
Creating Stamped Components .....	134
Practicing on paper .....	135
Using copper sheets .....	135
Moving up to metal blanks .....	135
Exploring Finishes .....	142
Oxidizing .....	142
Highlighting .....	143
Polishing.....	143
Avoiding Common Problems .....	143
<b>Chapter 8: Combining Other Crafts with Jewelry Making . . . . .</b>	<b>145</b>
Tapping into Scrapbooking Techniques.....	145
Rubber stamping custom components.....	146
Repurposing paper for jewelry designs.....	149
Using photos for one-of-a-kind pieces.....	151
Finding Inspiration in Fiber Arts.....	154
Sewing It All Together .....	159

***Part III: Implementing Design Ideas, Trends, and More ..... 169*****Chapter 9: Creating Fun, Funky Jewelry for Everyday Wear ..... 171**

Earring Essentials .....	171
Identifying the hottest earring trends .....	172
Pausing for practicality .....	173
Nifty Necklaces .....	178
Noticing necklace nuances .....	179
Necklace necessities .....	180
Brilliant Bracelets .....	187
Identifying design trends .....	188
Employing practical considerations .....	188
Making Other Fun Stuff .....	194

**Chapter 10: Designing High-End Jewelry ..... 201**

Understanding the Basic Design Process .....	201
Designing for the Evening .....	202
Making the Bride Beautiful .....	207
Drawing Inspiration from Your Favorite Designers .....	212
Mimicking materials, textures, and colors .....	212
Simulating shapes and forms .....	218

**Chapter 11: Making Jewelry for Men ..... 221**

Identifying Men's Design Trends .....	221
Understanding Why Materials Matter .....	226
Considering Scale and Color .....	229

**Chapter 12: Upcycling: Breathing New Life into Scraps and Vintage Pieces .... 235**

Finding Thrift Store Flourishes .....	235
Cleaning vintage pieces .....	237
Salvaging parts from broken pieces .....	239
Using Specialty Findings .....	240
Tapping into Steampunk Style .....	243
Using Found Objects in Jewelry Pieces .....	250

***Part IV: Building on Your Jewelry-Making Hobby ..... 257*****Chapter 13: Decorating with Jewelry and Beads ..... 259**

Experimenting with Embellishing .....	259
Using Jewelry Techniques to Decorate Your Home .....	262
Beading Your Way to Home Beauty .....	266
Displaying Jewelry as Art .....	269

**Chapter 14: Making Jewelry with Kids ..... 277**

Setting Up a Kid-Friendly Workspace .....	277
Stocking up on the right supplies .....	277
Making cleanup easy .....	278

Choosing Projects for Kids .....	279
3–4 year olds.....	279
5–6 year olds.....	280
7–10 year olds.....	280
11–13 year olds.....	280
Working with Clay .....	281
Basic clay bead techniques .....	282
Advanced clay bead techniques .....	284
Crafting Jewelry from Paper.....	286
Making recycled paper beads .....	287
Decoupage components .....	289
Making Necklaces .....	292
Decorating Hair Accessories.....	294
<b>Chapter 15: Hosting a Jewelry-Making Party.....</b>	<b>297</b>
Choosing the Right Party Scenario.....	297
Opening your bead bar .....	297
Paying as your guests go .....	298
Organizing Your Party .....	300
Inviting guests .....	300
Coming up with creative snacking ideas .....	301
Choosing the Projects.....	302
Considering your guest list when choosing projects.....	302
Managing your time constraints .....	303
Gathering Tools and Supplies: Begging, Borrowing, and Stealing .....	304
Tables .....	304
Tools and equipment .....	305
Supplies.....	306
Setting Up Your Tools and Supplies.....	306
Planning a Kids’ Jewelry-Making Party .....	307
<b>Chapter 16: Turning Your Hobby into a Business .....</b>	<b>309</b>
Identifying Legal Issues.....	309
Getting your papers in order.....	310
Calling your local zoning office .....	310
Setting up your business structure .....	311
Registering your business name.....	312
Getting Help from the Small Business Administration .....	313
Pricing Your Pieces .....	314
Covering your materials cost .....	314
Tracking your time .....	315
Factoring in overhead .....	315
Setting your prices.....	316
Selling Your Creations Face to Face.....	316
Working arts and crafts shows .....	316
Setting up home jewelry parties .....	321
Selling to boutiques and shops.....	322
Leasing space in an established shop.....	323
Getting to know the consignment process.....	323

Selling Your Jewelry Online.....	325
Selling via an Etsy store .....	325
Selling via eBay or another auction site .....	326
Selling through your own website .....	328

## ***Part V: The Part of Tens*..... 331**

### **Chapter 17: Ten (or So) Online Resources for Materials, Supplies, and More ..... 333**

Fire Mountain Gems and Beads .....	333
Rio Grande.....	334
Beaducation .....	334
Craftsy.....	334
ArtBeads.com.....	334
Etsy.....	334
Jewelry Making Journal .....	335
Jewelry Making at About.com.....	335
The Ganoksin Project.....	335
Wire-Sculpture.com.....	335
JewelryMakingMagazines.com.....	335
YouTube .....	336

### **Chapter 18: Ten Common Jewelry-Making Mistakes to Avoid..... 337**

For Quality Jewelry, Use Quality Supplies.....	337
Read the Directions.....	337
Use Quality Tools .....	338
Never Cut Memory Wire with Your Good Wire Cutters .....	338
Keep Your Supplies Organized .....	338
Use Crimping Pliers for Crimps .....	338
Recognize That There's No Right Way to Try New Techniques.....	339
Be Willing to Practice.....	339
Share Your Knowledge.....	339
Don't Worry Too Much About Copyrighting Your Exclusive Designs.....	339

### **Chapter 19: Ten Great Ways to Make Money Selling Your Creations ..... 341**

Teach Jewelry-Making Classes.....	341
Host Jewelry-Making Parties .....	341
Make Traveling Jewelry Ditty Bags .....	342
Run a Booth at Arts and Crafts Shows.....	342
Run a Booth at Not-So-Traditional Shows .....	343
Sell Jewelry on Consignment .....	343
Set Up an Etsy Store.....	343
Auction Your Items on eBay .....	343
Sell Jewelry Wholesale to Shops and Boutiques .....	344
Sell Jewelry Patterns and Tutorials.....	344

## ***Index*..... 351**



# Introduction

---

**J**ewelry making and beading is not only for the professionals. It's a terrific way to express your artistic and creative side, quickly and easily. In practically no time, you can make simple, elegant jewelry.

Jewelry making is a hobby for anyone. Whether you're a painter, accountant, or stay-at-home mom, you can participate in and excel at jewelry making and beading. If you can string a single bead, you can make jewelry. And after you get started, you can stick with the basics or improve your skills further. In fact, in a short time, you can move from hobby to business.

You can't find any better way to spend an afternoon than sorting and sifting through containers of beads, vintage jewelry components, threads, cord, and other fun materials. Find your local bead store (see Chapter 3 for tips on doing so) and decide for yourself.

## About This Book

I wrote this book to show you how easy and fun jewelry making and beading is. This book introduces all the basic jewelry-making techniques, such as stringing beads, knotting thread, wrapping wire, and working with polymer clay, giving you hands-on projects along the way. I give you easy-to-follow instructions, complete with illustrations and pictures where you need them.

I also spend some time discussing design principles so that you can develop your own unique projects. With many of the projects, I give you suggestions for varying the designs and components so that when you're ready, you can make each piece your own.

## Conventions Used in This Book

To help you navigate through this book, I use the following conventions:

- ✓ *Italics* are used for emphasis and to highlight new words or terms that are defined.
- ✓ `Monofont` is used for website addresses. Note that when this book was printed, some web addresses may have needed to break across two lines of text. If that happened, rest assured that I haven't put in any extra characters (such as hyphens) to indicate the break. So, when using one of these addresses, just type in exactly what you see in this book, pretending the line break doesn't exist.

- ✔ Sidebars, which look like text enclosed in a shaded gray box, give you information that's interesting to know but not necessarily critical to your understanding of the chapter or section topic.
- ✔ Projects are numbered for your convenience, using the chapter number and relative number of the project in the chapter. So, for example, Project 3-2 is the second project in Chapter 3.
- ✔ The word *findings* is used quite a bit in this book and refers to jewelry-making elements that help you connect, embellish, finish, and start projects. Check out Chapter 2 to get the full scoop on findings and other jewelry-making necessities.

## *Foolish Assumptions*

Despite the well-known pitfalls of making assumptions, I've made a few of my own while writing this book. If any of these describe you perfectly or hit close to home, this book may be just what you're looking for:

- ✔ You like jewelry and own a few of your own pieces.
- ✔ You've made jewelry as gifts for friends or family members and want to discover some new techniques and tricks to jazz up your next gift-giving season.
- ✔ You're looking for a relaxing, creative hobby.
- ✔ You have a little extra cash and want to trade it in for plastic boxes full of beads.
- ✔ You want to wear trendy, hip jewelry but don't have the bank account to support it.

## *How This Book Is Organized*

This book is organized into several different parts, just like my bead organizer, and the book's DVD provides videos of 30 additional techniques and projects to put your newfound skills to use. (If you're reading these words in an electronic format, go to <http://booksupport.wiley.com> for access to the additional content.) Here's what's in each compartment.

### *Part I: Getting Started with Jewelry Making and Beading*

In this part, I introduce you to the world of jewelry making and beading. I give you a general overview of the tools and supplies you need to get started, with tips on what to buy now and what to buy later. I give you the lowdown on setting up your jeweler's toolbox and help you decide where to set up your workspace. I make sure you're in the know about the differences among all the wires, cords, threads, and other materials available in jewelry-supply outlets today. I also show you basic bead shapes and styles and include tips on how to put them together. And I get you going with several starter projects.

---

## ***Part II: Discovering Simple Jewelry-Making Techniques***

In Part II, I focus on showing you the ropes (well, actually cord, thread, chain, and wire) of many jewelry-making techniques, like stringing and knotting, working with wire, and metal stamping. I break up the part into chapters focused on different techniques, and each chapter includes several great projects to practice the specific technique as you go. But you can skip around any time you want, especially if one particular technique catches your fancy.

## ***Part III: Implementing Design Ideas, Trends, and More***

In this part, I build on the techniques I show you in Part II. This part is full of projects with complete step-by-step instructions, illustrations, and photos to show you how to create these beautiful pieces on your own. I give you tips for varying the projects based on your budget and preferences.

I break up the chapters by themes. Work through them in whatever order seems to interest you. Look here for chapters on special-occasion jewelry and great trendy, everyday designs. I include an entire chapter on creating jewelry for those special men in your life. And don't miss the chapter on adding touches to your designs using your other crafty pursuits.

## ***Part IV: Building on Your Jewelry-Making Hobby***

Look to this part when you're ready to start thinking about the next steps for your fun new hobby. Here, I give you ideas for using jewelry-making techniques for decorating your home. I also show you how to host a jewelry-making party and how to make jewelry with kids. And I show you how to start a jewelry-making business, whether you want to sell just a few pieces or open your own full-fledged shop.

## ***Part V: The Part of Tens***

This part gives you just the facts, ma'am. I give you my ten favorite online resources for jewelry making. I also give you a heads-up about ten common mistakes to avoid while still enjoying your new hobby. And finally, I show you ten great ways to make money with your new talent because, hey, even if you break even, you still get to bead for free!

## Icons Used in This Book

Icons are the fancy little pictures in the margins of this book. Here's the guide to what they mean and what the icons look like:



This icon lets you know there's a video on the DVD that corresponds to the technique or project being discussed. If you're reading this book in an electronic format, go to <http://booksupport.wiley.com> for access to this video content.



This icon marks suggestions that can make a technique or project a bit easier. The tips are usually hands-on ways to improve your designs and finished projects.



This icon points out ideas that sum up and reinforce the concepts I discuss. In fact, if you're in a time crunch and can't read an entire section, go straight to this icon.



I use this icon to alert you to potential pitfalls and to give you a heads-up on what mistakes to avoid. Pay particular attention when this icon rears its head; it could save you time and money.



Think of this icon as bonus material — the info by this icon gives you some background about the subject that's not critical. I think it's interesting, so I include it, but you don't have to read the material to understand the techniques and projects.

## Where to Go from Here

If you're like me, when you see projects that interest you, you just have to stop, grab your pliers, and make something. (In fact, the hardest part of working on this book is putting down the pliers to write down all the fun stuff I'm working on.) Or, you may sit in a comfortable chair and read this book from cover to cover.

One of the great things about a *For Dummies* book (among the hundreds that I can count) is that you don't have to read it word for word, front to back, cover to cover. If you're more interested in one particular topic than another, that's fine. Check out the corresponding part, chapter, or section and read up on that technique or project. You can find out about it without first having read the information that precedes it — get-in-and-get-out convenience. Interested in tips to make jewelry with kids? Turn to Chapter 14. Need help honing your wire-wrapping technique? Check out Chapter 6. Want the full story on setting up your workspace? Chapter 4 has your name written all over it.

You can jump around, start wherever you want, and finish when you feel like it. So grab your pliers and get going.

## Part I

# Getting Started with Jewelry Making and Beading



Visit [www.dummies.com](http://www.dummies.com) for great Dummies content online.

## *In this part . . .*

- ✔ Get familiar with the craft of jewelry making and discover various techniques you can use to create jewelry.
- ✔ Identify the basic tools and supplies you need to have in your toolbox. Figure out which tool does what, which ones you can skip, and what you simply must have to do the job right.
- ✔ Learn the basics of bead shapes and sizes, and get the lowdown on stringing materials including threads, cords, and fibers.
- ✔ Set up a space in your home dedicated to the fine art of making jewelry. Find great tips for organizing equipment and supplies, lighting the room, and making the most of the space you have.

## Chapter 1

# An Insider's Look at Jewelry Making and Beading

---

### *In This Chapter*

- ▶ Deciding whether jewelry making is for you
  - ▶ Introducing jewelry-making techniques
  - ▶ Choosing your projects
  - ▶ Making more from your jewelry-making hobby
- 

**A**lthough I could spend time explaining how rewarding, creative, and fun jewelry making and beading are, I want to show you instead. Look at the beautiful photos in this book, which are filled with handmade jewelry pieces. Just flip through the chapters, look at some of the projects, and come on back to this chapter when you're ready. Go ahead, I'll wait.

Like what you see? Great! Intimidated? I hope not. Don't worry. I spend the rest of the book giving you details on how to make each and every piece you see in the pages of this book.

In this chapter, I give you an overview of the topics and projects that I cover in the book, and I help you start making jewelry on your own using a variety of techniques that you can apply to the projects throughout this book. I also give you plenty of tips for taking these techniques and adapting them to create your own designs. And finally, I give you ideas for making money with your newfound hobby. While reading, feel free to take a break at any time, whip out your pliers, and bead something.

## *Why Make Jewelry Yourself?*

The best reason to make jewelry yourself is pure enjoyment. Pouring your artistic energy into a new creation is incredibly satisfying. But this creativity has a practical side, too: You produce something to wear. You can make very simple pieces to wear today, or you can create complicated designs that take hours or even days to complete. You're in charge and limited only by your imagination.

Here are a few of my other favorite reasons for making jewelry:

- ✔ You can create one-of-a-kind pieces that no one else has.
- ✔ You can make inexpensive, beautiful gifts for your family and friends.
- ✔ You want to spend hours culling through strings, strands, and bins of beautiful beads.
- ✔ You have tons of divided plastic containers and don't know what to do with them.
- ✔ You can't fathom giving the Kardashians (or their Kardashian Kollection jewelry line) any more fame or fortune.
- ✔ You can start a low-cost home-based business.
- ✔ You can always find a new technique, stitch, or pattern that you haven't tried, which means you can't reach the end of everything there is to know about this hobby.

## ***Finding ways to inspire your creativity***

Where you go with your newfound hobby is entirely up to you. You choose where your interest lies, what techniques and pieces to develop, and what to do with your pieces when you're done. Let your creativity be your guide.

If you're looking for ways to get the creative juices flowing, consider the following:



TIP

- ✔ **Go to your library or bookstore.** Look at any jewelry-making books you can find. Even if a particular book focuses on a technique you don't think you'll ever try, it's worth spending time looking at it. You can get countless ideas from looking at what other people have done.

Check to see whether your local library has an online catalog at its website. Some search terms for jewelry-making inspirations include jewelry making, jewelry trends, bead, beading, bead making, embellish, bead weaving, fashion, jewelry design, design, home décor, and crafts.



REMEMBER

- ✔ Don't look only in the adult section (and I don't mean the smutty one!) at your library or bookstore. Check out the kids' craft areas, too, where you can find great resources that can provide inspiration.

- ✔ **Browse social media curation websites.** Pinterest ([www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com)), Pearltrees ([www.pearltrees.com](http://www.pearltrees.com)), and The Fancy ([www.the.fancy.com](http://www.the.fancy.com)) are *social media curation* websites that let users create virtual pin boards of images of designs, projects, and ideas that inspire them. You can find high-end designs and DIY projects all in one place. Create your own boards full of whatever you love. Many jewelry pictures link back to full instructions for making the items. Clicking through the images is a great way to find new blogs and websites of crafty people making beautiful things.



WARNING!

If you haven't been to a site like Pinterest before, I warn you it's addictive. You can spend hours looking at projects, but remember that the real fun is in making them.



- ✔ **Search the Internet.** Look up different styles of jewelry, search for ancient inspirations and the hottest trends, or look up specific terms like “wrap bracelet” or “steampunk style,” and you’re sure to get some inspiring pictures, techniques, and tutorials. Also take a look at celebrity “news” sites like [www.eonline.com](http://www.eonline.com) to see what the stars think is hot. Look at fashion sites like [www.instyle.com](http://www.instyle.com), [www.baublebar.com](http://www.baublebar.com), or [www.shopbop.com](http://www.shopbop.com). Look at their accessories sections to zero in on jewelry inspiration.
- ✔ **Subscribe to a jewelry-making or beading magazine.** A library is a great place to get a sampling of jewelry-making magazines, but getting your own copy in the mail on a regular basis is a boon to your creative energy.
- ✔ **Order a catalog from a large bead and jewelry-supply house.** Having a catalog is like carrying a bead store with you! My personal favorite is from Fire Mountain Gems and Beads; I like its catalog because it has plenty of project ideas mixed with fantastic full-color photos. Every time I pick up the catalog, I want to make several somethings. Visit Fire Mountain’s website at [www.firemountaingems.com](http://www.firemountaingems.com) and click Free Catalog, or call the customer service number (800-355-2137) to request a free 500+-page catalog.
- ✔ **Spend a few hours in a craft or bead store.** Ultimately, there’s no better way to get inspired right now than to walk into your local bead store. Feel the beads. Hold them in your hand. Walk around with them. Hold them next to other beads. Lay them out on a bead board. Some stores actually have tools you can use to make your pieces right there. Check out Chapter 3 for design tips and ideas on pairing beads together.

If you’re like me, you’ll never spend just a short time in a bead store, so allow plenty of time to wander, explore, and create.



## *Deciding whether to set up a separate workspace*

Should you set up a separate jewelry-making workspace? In a word: probably. How’s that for definite? But seriously, setting up a workspace just for making jewelry has many benefits. Here are just a few of them:

- ✔ **You control the noise level.** If you like to work to music, blare it. If you prefer silence, don’t even keep a radio in your space. By having your own workspace, you can also keep other people from making noise in your space when you want a quiet atmosphere.
- ✔ **You control the light level.** If you’re trying to make jewelry in the same room where someone else is trying to meditate, read, or do homework, your lighting needs may not take priority. In your own space, you’re the boss.
- ✔ **You control the activity level.** You may have difficulty being creative and satisfied when people are milling around and asking you questions or if the phone is ringing. Or maybe for you, having activity around you isn’t a problem. You can locate your workspace outside (or inside) the flow of everything else going on in your home.

- ✔ **You can leave a half-finished project on a bead board (covered, of course) without being in anyone's way.** Because jewelry making is fun for everyone, you'll have no shortage of curious onlookers. Accidents can happen when they look, though, and a separate workspace keeps unfinished projects with loose beads away from prying eyes and exploring hands.
- ✔ **You can lock your door.** A little added security may be just what you need to complete your masterpiece. You decide what you need in your space. Just having a door is helpful, but a lock is that much safer.

Are you sensing a pattern here?



Ultimately, having a separate studio or office for making jewelry is ideal. But don't let the fact that you don't or can't have one right now keep you from getting started. Check out Chapter 4 for tips on making the most out of whatever space you do have.

## Discovering Jewelry-Making Designs and Techniques

I intersperse design tips and tricks throughout this book, and I offer many color photos to illustrate my suggestions. For many of the projects I present, I also give you ideas for making them your own.

The following sections briefly explain a few simple jewelry-making techniques. You can get the lowdown on each in Part II.

### *Stringing and knotting*

*Stringing*, threading beads onto a cord or thread, is the first technique most jewelry makers start with. In fact, you can get started with stringing in this very chapter in Project 1-1. Techniques for stringing beads and connecting jewelry findings are used in some way or another in almost every piece of jewelry.

*Knotting*, tying knots between beads, is traditionally used to separate fine gemstones, like pearls, on simple elegant strands. But you can make trendy pieces like the Tin Cup Necklace (see Project 5-2 in Chapter 5) using this technique as well.

### *Wire wrapping*

*Wire wrapping* involves twisting and bending wire into shapes or around beads. This technique is exciting because you can do just about anything with it. Create delicate chains, beautiful wrapped beads, or easy dangle earrings. Look to Chapter 6 for exciting and easy designs using this technique.

## Putting a few techniques to use

Project 1-1, an Eternity Knot Pendant on Leather Cord, gives you a chance to try some simply jewelry-making techniques.

### Project 1-1: Eternity Knot Pendant on Leather Cord

You use a simple sterling silver eternity knot pendant in this design. If you have a different favorite pendant (like a wolf, bear, arrowhead, or cross, for example), feel free to substitute. And if leather isn't your thing, a hemp or silk cord can also display a beautiful single pendant. Take a look at Chapter 2 if you need help with any of the tools or supplies. Check out Figure 1-3 to see the finished project.



I used a prepackaged clasp set to finish this necklace. It came with two coil ends, and one end already had the lobster claw attached. If you'd rather use the individual findings than a set, you need two coil ends, a lobster claw, and a jump ring to attach the lobster claw to one of the coil ends.

#### Tools and Materials

Chain-nose pliers

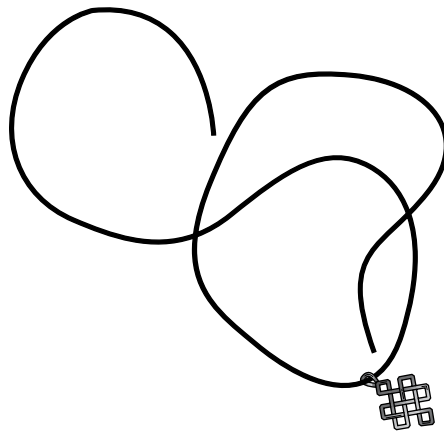
Eternity pendant, sterling silver

2 feet black leather cord, 2mm round

1 clasp set with 2 coil ends and a lobster claw, silver

#### 1. String the pendant onto the cord.

Yours should look something like Figure 1-1.

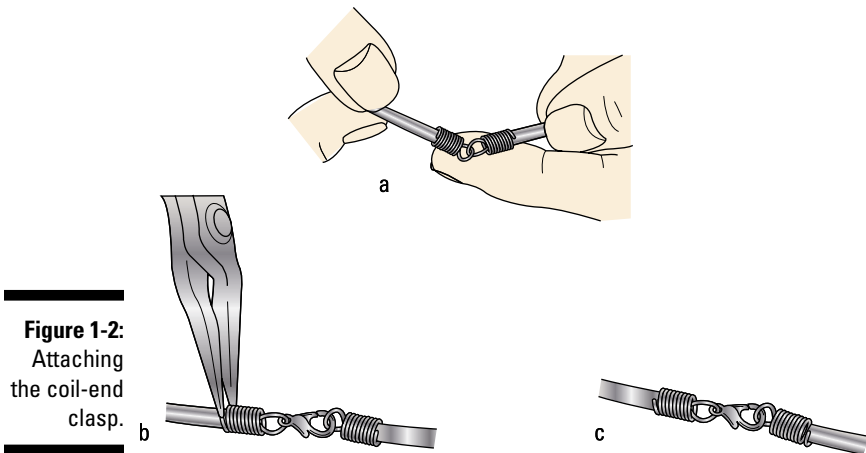


**Figure 1-1:**  
Sliding the  
pendant  
onto your  
cord.

*Illustration by Wiley, Composition Services Graphics*

#### 2. Holding your cord (with pendant attached) in one hand, take the clasp in the other; insert the end of your cord into one coil end of your clasp.

Take a look at Figure 1-2a.



**Figure 1-2:**  
Attaching  
the coil-end  
clasp.

*Illustration by Wiley, Composition Services Graphics*



- 3. Using the chain-nose pliers, pinch the coil end around your leather cord, as shown in Figure 1-2b.**

Use your pliers to bend the last coil in the clasp, instead of trying to mash the entire end of the clasp flat.

- 4. Repeat Steps 2 and 3 to finish the other side of your clasp.**

The finished clasp should look like Figure 1-2c.



**Figure 1-3:**  
Eternity  
Knot  
Pendant  
on Leather  
Cord.

*Photograph by Andy Dismore*

## From Antique to Funky: Creating Innovative Jewelry

Jewelry isn't just for special occasions. Whatever your style and interest, with more than 70 projects in this book, you can make pieces that you can wear or use every day. The tough part is deciding which projects to make first.

Here are a few suggestions for how to prioritize your project list:

- ✔ **Wrap bracelets:** Long bracelets that wrap two or three times around the wrist, closing with a chunky clasp, are extremely popular right now. You can find versions of this bracelet with different bead and cord combinations in Chapter 9 (Project 9-9) and Chapter 11 (Project 11-3). Take a look at Figure 1-4 to see each project.



**Figure 1-4:**  
Wrap  
bracelets.



*Photographs by Matt Bowen and Andy Dismore*

- ✔ **Customized rings:** Chunky rings are a great way to add personality to your look. Making them yourself is a great way to add to your collection on the cheap. Take a look at the Wire-wrapped Ring in Chapter 9 (Project 9-11) and Button Rings in Chapter 12 (Project 12-4) and check out Figure 1-5. After you get the technique down, you can create one for every outfit.
- ✔ **Chunky statement necklaces:** Large, colorful baubles are hot, hot, hot. I create a few in this book, including the Fabric Pom Pom Bib Necklace in Chapter 8 (Project 8-6), the Layered Charm Necklace in Chapter 9 (Project 9-4), and the Turquoise Bib Necklace in Chapter 10 (Project 10-8). Check them out in Figure 1-6.
- ✔ **Hip, simple earrings:** Try the Wrapped Beaded Earrings in Chapter 6 (Project 6-4) or the Steampunk Chandelier Earrings in Chapter 9 (Project 9-3), both shown in Figure 1-7. I include several earring projects in their very own section in Chapter 9.





**Figure 1-5:**  
Fashionable  
rings.



*Photographs by Matt Bowen and Andy Dismore*



**Figure 1-6:**  
Statement  
necklaces.

*Photographs by Matt Bowen*