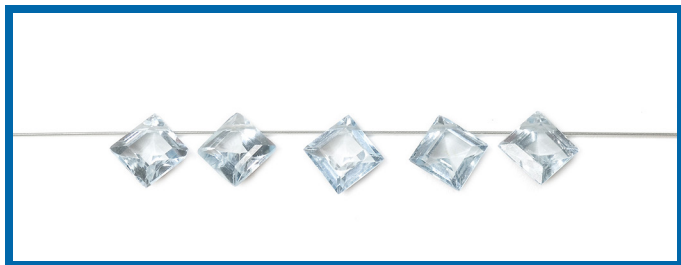




November: Blue topaz

It's hard to find blue topaz beads, so these square-cut beauties are a real score. Cluster them in a simple bracelet to bring out your own edgy brilliance, then add a pair of earrings. — Naomi Fujimoto



1 bracelet • Cut a piece of beading wire (How-Tos). String blue topaz beads until the bracelet is within 1 in. (2.5cm) of the finished length. As you string the beads, they will cluster together.



2 On each end, string a spacer, a crimp bead, a spacer, and half of a clasp. Check the fit, and add or remove beads if necessary. Go back through the beads just strung and tighten the wire. Flatten the crimp bead (How-Tos) and trim the excess wire.



1 earrings • Cut a 3-in. (7.6cm) piece of wire. String a blue topaz bead and make a set of wraps above it (How-Tos). Make a wrapped loop (How-Tos).

2 Open the loop of an earring wire (How-Tos). Attach the bead unit and close the loop. Make a second earring to match the first. ❖

SupplyList

bracelet

- 8-in. (20cm) strand
- 6–7mm square-cut blue topaz beads, corner drilled (Chelsea's Beads, 847-433-3451, chelseasbeads.com)
- 4 3–4mm spacers
- flexible beading wire, .010 or .012
- 2 1mm crimp beads
- toggle clasp
- chainnose pliers

- diagonal wire cutters
- earrings**
- 2 6–7mm square-cut blue topaz beads, corner drilled (Chelsea's Beads, 847-433-3451, chelseasbeads.com)
- 6 in. (15cm) 26-gauge half-hard wire
- pair of earring wires
- chainnose and roundnose pliers
- diagonal wire cutters



EDITOR'S TIP

Finish the bracelet with faceted spacers and a modern clasp. Try The Earth Bazaar (theearthbazaar.com) or Saki Silver (sakisilver.com) for toggle clasps.