

Beginner
project

Extend a strand

String an inexpensive
alternative to a three-strand
pearl necklace

by **Jane Konkel**

Colors shown
are dark olive,
metallic violet,
dark amethyst,
and dark navy blue.

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JEWELRY MAKING START TO FINISH

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and your budget



Cultura pearls are glass beads dipped multiple times in a coating that rivals the look of real pearls. These Czech glass pearls resemble more expensive glass pearls in their consistent color and uniform size, yet are considerably less costly. The design is simple — two repeated patterns using beads in four sizes. The magnetic clasp easily allows you to wrap the long strand several times around your neck.



1 necklace • Cut a piece of beading wire (Basics). String: 4 mm pearl, 6 mm pearl, 8 mm pearl, 10 mm pearl, 8 mm, 6 mm. Repeat the pattern three times.



2 String: four 4 mms, three 6 mms, two 8 mms, 10 mm, two 8 mms, three 6 mms. Repeat the pattern three times.



3 String three 4 mms. String the pattern in step 1 five times. String the pattern in step 2 three times. String three 4 mms. String the pattern in step 1 six times. String the pattern in step 2 twice.



4 On each end, string a crimp bead, a 4 mm, and half of a clasp. Check the fit, and add or remove beads from each end if necessary. Go back through the last few beads strung and tighten the wire. Crimp the crimp bead (Basics) and trim the excess wire.

“I couldn’t help but think of Mardi Gras as I strung this colorful strand.”



1 earrings • On a head pin, string: 10 mm pearl, 8 mm pearl, 6 mm pearl, 4 mm pearl. Make a wrapped loop (Basics).



2 Open the loop of an earring wire (Basics) and attach the dangle. Close the loop. Make a second earring to match the first. *

Tips

- My necklace wraps three times around my neck. If you would like to wrap yours four times, string each pattern two more times on each end.
- If you're not sure how long you want your necklace to be, don't cut the wire in step 1. String beads with the beading wire on the spool and decide the length as you go.

Supplies

necklace 57 in. (1.4 m)

- ◆ 22-30 10 mm pearls
- ◆ 66-80 8 mm pearls
- ◆ 84-101 6 mm pearls
- ◆ 60-74 4 mm pearls
- ◆ flexible beading wire, .014 or .015
- ◆ 2 crimp beads
- ◆ magnetic clasp
- ◆ chainnose or crimping pliers
- ◆ diagonal wire cutters

earrings

- ◆ 2 10 mm pearls
- ◆ 2 8 mm pearls
- ◆ 2 6 mm pearls
- ◆ 2 4 mm pearls
- ◆ 2 2-in. (5 cm) head pins
- ◆ pair of earring wires
- ◆ chainnose and roundnose pliers
- ◆ diagonal wire cutters

Cultura Czech glass pearls and magnetic clasp shown from Shipwreck Beads, shipwreck-beads.com. Check your local bead store for supplies.

Design alternative

This subdued design incorporates Swarovski pearls and sterling silver bead caps.

