

Color blocked

NECKLACES

Combine bright glass beads to create new classic strands that are so happy together

by **Kelsey Lawler**

Color blocking is in this season and I've been dying to bead this trend. When I stumbled upon the "New Classic" color palette by Lenzing Leading Fiber Innovation (an Austrian fiber manufacturer), I knew I had to create something with these fresh, fun shades. I took the name of the palette into my inspiration bubble. I imagined bright blocks of color punctuated with black: new. I imagined a long, layered, draped look: classic. Worn alone or together, these pieces are noticeably new yet still classic.

“Lenzing describes their palette best: 'Nothing loud, just enough to make you startle.'”

Supplies

strung necklace 42 in. (1.1 m)

- ◆ 68–80 10–15 mm beads, in six colors
- ◆ 24 6 mm rondelles
- ◆ 3 g 11° seed beads
- ◆ flexible beading wire, .014 or .015
- ◆ 2 crimp beads
- ◆ chainnose or crimping pliers
- ◆ diagonal wire cutters

chain necklace 27 in. (69 cm)

- ◆ 12–16 10–15 mm beads, in six to eight colors
- ◆ 19–25 in. (48–64 cm) chain, 6–7 mm links
- ◆ 36–48 in. (.9–1.2 m) 22-gauge wire
- ◆ chainnose and roundnose pliers
- ◆ diagonal wire cutters

Beads from Midwest Beads,
262.781.7670, midwestbeads.com.

1

strung necklace •

Cut a piece of beading wire (Basics). String a 1½-2-in. (3.8-7.6 cm) section of beads in one color, separated by 11° seed beads.

Tip

For the strung necklace, eyeball the beaded sections. Experiment with the number of beads in each section and your use of seed beads. The important thing is to have four of each colored section so the colors will line up when you wear the necklace doubled.

3

Repeat the patterns in steps 1 and 2, alternating the colors of the beaded sections, until you have strung four sections of each color.

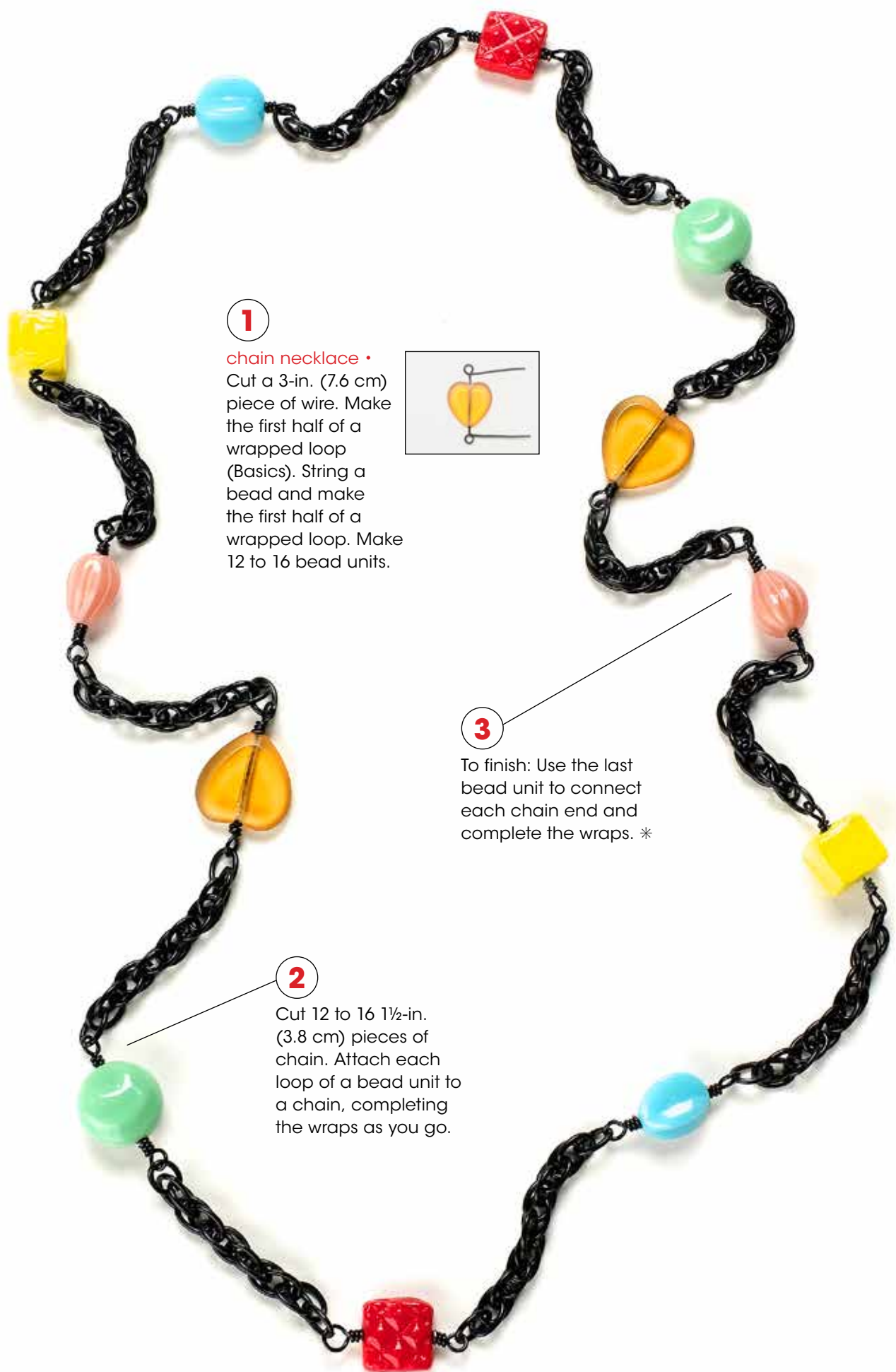
4

To finish: On one end, string a crimp bead. On the other end, string a crimp bead and a spacer. String each end through the beads in the opposite direction. Tighten the wire and crimp the crimp beads (Basics). Trim the excess wire.



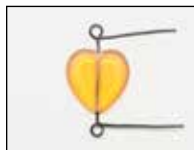
2

String an 11°, a rondelle, and an 11°.



1

chain necklace •
Cut a 3-in. (7.6 cm) piece of wire. Make the first half of a wrapped loop (Basics). String a bead and make the first half of a wrapped loop. Make 12 to 16 bead units.



3

To finish: Use the last bead unit to connect each chain end and complete the wraps. *

2

Cut 12 to 16 1½-in. (3.8 cm) pieces of chain. Attach each loop of a bead unit to a chain, completing the wraps as you go.