Pair gemstone nuggets with gold accents for a quick necklace, bracelet, and earrings

by Betsy Baker

A classic choker looks contemporary when strung with irregularly shaped gemstone nuggets. Any gemstone with golden highlights will dazzle: try shells, turquoise, citrine, carnelian, or stick pearls. Sprinkled with vermeil accents in smooth and textured finishes, the necklace’s sophisticated style belies its simple stringing. And since the necklace is choker length, you’ll get extra mileage from a 16-inch strand of nuggets—enough for a choker, a bracelet, and a pair of earrings.

1. **Determine the finished length of your necklace.** (My necklaces are 15 ½ in./39.4 cm.) Add 6 in. (15 cm) and cut a piece of beading wire to that length.

2. **Center a nugget on the wire.** On each end, string a textured vermeil bead and a nugget, repeating until the necklace is half the desired length. End with a vermeil bead.

3. **String a nugget and a vermeil spacer on each end, repeating until the necklace is within 2 ½ in. (6.4 cm) of the desired length.** String two 6 mm round beads on each end.

4. **On each end, string: round spacer, crimp bead, round spacer, soldered jump ring.** Go back through the beads just strung and tighten the wire. Check the fit, and add or remove beads if necessary. (If desired, check the fit, then string a ¼-in./6 mm piece of bullion between the spacer and the jump ring. Tighten the wire so the bullion forms a loop.) Crimp the crimp beads and trim the excess wire.

**Editor’s Tip**
For a more traditional necklace, select geometric shapes such as rectangles, ovals, or rounds.
Supply List

**necklace**
- 16-in. (41cm) strand gemstone nuggets, approximately 15 x 18mm
- 6–10 5–7mm textured vermeil beads
- 8–12 5mm vermeil spacers
- 4 6mm round beads
- 4 3mm round spacers
- flexible beading wire, .014 or .015
- 2 crimp beads
- bullion wire (optional)

**bracelet**
- 5–7 gemstone nuggets, approximately 15 x 18mm
- 2–4 5–7mm textured vermeil beads
- 4 5mm vermeil spacers
- 4 6mm round beads
- 4 3mm round spacers
- flexible beading wire, .014 or .015
- 2 crimp beads

**earrings**
- 2 gemstone nuggets, approximately 15 x 18mm
- 2 5–7mm textured vermeil beads or 6mm round beads
- 2 2-in. (5cm) head pins
- pair of post earrings with loops
- chainnose and roundnose pliers
- diagonal wire cutters

**bracelet**
Determine the finished length of your bracelet, add 5 in. (13cm), and cut a piece of beading wire to that length. Follow steps 1b and 2 of the necklace instructions. To finish, follow step 3, substituting a lobster claw clasp for one of the soldered jump rings.

**earrings**
String a nugget and a round or vermeil bead on a head pin. Make a wrapped loop above the top bead.

Open the loop on a post earring and attach the dangle. Close the loop. Make a second earring to match the first.