

Brazos Collection

www.brazoscollection.com

Austin

254-947-9222

512-763-1700

Online Beading Class
Earrings

The Necklace

- This will be a 16 inch necklace so you will need to cut your wire at 20 inches (explain later).
- Use a good pair of wire cutters, or you could cut the wire with the very back of a pair of scissors.
- IF you are right handed then typically you would hold the wire with your left hand and put everything on with your right, or visa versa.
- Now put your crimp tube on followed by the clasp.



The Necklace



- After you put the clasp on, loop the wire back through the crimp tube.
- Push the wire through so that you have a small tail.
- Then, grab the main part of the wire with your left hand and the tube with your right hand, then gently pull the wire so it makes the loop smaller.
- *Note: if you pull the loop so small that it grips tight to the clasp this will cause friction, and the necklace will eventually break. Keep enough slack so that the clasp has room to move.

The Necklace

- Now, grab your crimper tool in your right hand. The crimp tool has two gaps that are meant to be used. The gap at the back of the tool is not used. Look at the tool and make sure the inside gap looks like a “U”, if it looks like a “N” turn your tool over. This allows you to rest the crimp tube in the gap. Squeeze the tool until there is not more give in the tube. This will create a the “U” shape in the tube.
- *Note: If you are used to using a pair of pliers be careful no to mash to hard or the crimper tool will break, and a part of the tool will fly off and possibly hit you in the face (that is what it did to me)!



The Necklace



- After the first step you release the crimp bead, if you look at it closely it will look as if it is laying down or in a “U” shape. Turn it so that it is standing up or in the “C” shape.
- Move it forward to the front gap and with the crimp tube in the “C” shape mash down (again not terribly hard, it will reach a point in which it will not crimp any further).
- Now the crimp tube will be folded. This is where most people stop their crimping and if you do so you could run into some problems. Notice, if you look at the crimp tube it is rounded and you can see a gap in the tube where there is air. This makes it vulnerable to come undone.



The Necklace

- With the fold facing outward like a squished “C” move it forward to the flat edge of the crimper tool. Make sure to have the crimp tube and tool lined up evenly. Give a firm and quick squeeze on the tube.
- This will flatten the tube to where it sinks into and grips the wire.
- If you follow these instructions I am confident you will not need two crimp tubes on each side.
- Also, notice your crimp tubes, if they are not sterling they will probably crack, and many sterling crimps are to wimpy. Buy some of our crimp tubes and compare them with others and you will see a huge difference. You could be doing everything correctly but if you have a bad crimp bead or tube it will still fall apart.



The Necklace



- After you do the last step of crimping you will need to cut off the extra wire. Some people feed the wire through the beads. I think they do this because they think it might make it more stable. However, if you crimp properly there will be no need for this.
- Some people probably don't cut the tail because it frays every time, but if you use a good pair of wire cutters or scissors you will not have this problem. Use the back of the scissors, it will give you more leverage and make a cleaner cut.
- I assure you as long as you do all the steps correctly you will have no problem with the wire coming out.

The Necklace

- Now is time to string on your beads. Normally, we start with a metal spacer first. Our opinion is that it finishes off the piece of jewelry nicely, however, there truly is no wrong so make it how you like it.
- *Note: Again, if you are right handed it seems easier to hold the wire with the left hand and string on the beads with your right.



The Necklace



- As you string on your beads it is always nice to move along quickly, especially when your time isn't free. If you are using big beads then you put them on one at a time, however, like these above you could grab three or four at one time. This makes the process go by much faster.
- ***Warning***: In this situation it would be devastating if you pulled all the beads off of the nylon cord and then picked the beads up individually to string them. Mark my words it **WILL** take you two to three times as long. Remember, even if you only grab two at a time, two is twice as much as one!

The Necklace

- So, what do you do when you get done stringing your necklace and you notice that you forgot to put your spacer on the end? You certainly don't restring it! Well, this is why you cut your wire longer than your necklace length is.
- You would at this point put the other end of your clasp on the wire and do the crimping process again, using the least amount of wire as possible.
- Move all the beads down, cut the clasp off on the side with the missing spacer, put the spacer on and now you are ready to finish the necklace
- Relief now sets in as you realize you don't have to restring the whole thing. Remember, the wire is cheaper than your time!



The Necklace



- Now you go through the crimping process again. Make sure you have enough slack so your necklace isn't too tight. This is also another reason that necklaces and bracelets both break.
- However, don't have an excessive amount of slack because it isn't that attractive when you have all that wire showing. Just enough!
- *Note: If you use square beads you will need more slack.
- This time when you crimp it is a little bit tricky because you have to have enough slack in the necklace and also in the loop.
- Now all you have to do is cut the excess wire.
- Your finished!

The Necklace

- If you have any problems give us a call at either store we would be happy to help. Also, keep in mind that the only difference between a necklace and a bracelet is the length. Bracelets are trickier because 7 & 7 & 1/2 are a huge difference and the size of the beads change things too. Work with it you will catch on.
- Salado - 254-947-9222
- Georgetown - 512-763-1700
- We also have other sections teaching:
 - Earrings & Pendants
 - Stretchy bracelets
 - Multi-strands



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