"Tide Pools" Bracelet

As seen in the 2009 Summer Supplement

Easy
A Rings & Things Designer Tip Sheet

Created by: Rings & Things Staff

This design is made with
CRYSTALLIZED™ – *Swarovski Elements*.

Suggested Materials:

Qty.	Stock #	Name
1	49-940-04-AG	TierraCast® scalloped oval picture-frame charm with vine pattern, antiqued gold
1	49-947-16-AG	TierraCast 3-D abalone shell charm, antiqued gold
1	49-947-17-AG	TierraCast3-D starfish charm, antiqued gold
1	06-000-11-02	CRYSTALLIZED™ 11mm tip-drilled teardrop pendant, crystal/aurora borealis
9	37-136-2	5mm round jump rings, yellow
1	39-248-4	12x22mm lobster clasp, gold plate
7"	40-099-15-4	3.9mm rollo chain, gold plate
1 kit	82-500-08	EasyCast epoxy
1		Copyright-free image

Tools and supplies: cutters, round-nose pliers, chain-nose pliers, resin mixing supplies (#82-599),
Castin'Craft Opaque Pigment - Pearlescent (#82-511-91), Mod Podge® or Elmer's Glue-All®

To make this design:
1. Cut image to size using the oval frame as a template.
2. Seal both sides and edges of the image with Mod Podge or Elmer's Glue-All.
3. Once dry, glue image to frame, and let it dry.
4. Add a small amount (2-3 drops) of pigment to the resin.
5. Follow manufacturer's instructions and add the EasyCast resin to the bezel cup, and allow it to cure thoroughly.
   (See the tips for working with epoxy resin on back.)
6. Cut 7" of chain.
7. Use jump rings to attach the charms, crystal and lobster clasp, as shown.

TIP: Shake the pigment dye well before adding to resin.

TIP: Wear as a bracelet, or use to embellish a purse, or beach bag!

Jump-ring hint:
When you open and close jump rings, twist sideways instead of "ovalling" them.
This keeps their shape better, which makes them easier to close all the way.

Twist ends *away*
from each other

Don't pull apart
sideways
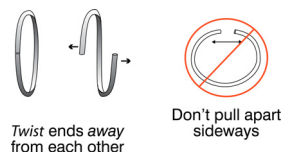
Tips for Working with Epoxy Resin

Tools and supplies: EasyCast Epoxy (#82-500-08), resin mixing supplies (#82-599), Castin'Craft jewelry molds (#82-580), Castin'Craft mold release (#82-541-04), Castin'Craft pigments & dyes (#82-510 & 82-511), *EasyCast Resin Jewelry* book (#62-129), Mod Podge® or Elmer's Glue-All®, spray sealer such as Krylon®, scissors, waxed paper, glitter, candy sprinkles, dried flowers

Epoxy resins come in two parts: the resin and the hardener. When the two parts are mixed together, a chemical reaction occurs that changes the epoxy from a liquid to a solid. Small amounts are mixed together, usually in one to one proportions. Curing time (the amount of time needed for the epoxy to completely harden) varies depending on the type of epoxy you choose and climate conditions. For proper curing, the resin needs to be mixed thoroughly in the correct proportions. Epoxies also have different "working times". This is the amount of time you can work with the epoxy before it starts to thicken. Be sure to read and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Safety
- Read and follow manufacturer's instructions and safety precautions.
- Work in a clean and well-ventilated area.
- Depending on materials used, consider wearing a respirator, rubber gloves and eye protection.
- Follow manufacturer's recommendations for clean up. Dispose of all waste materials in accordance with local regulations.

Tips for work area
- Cover the work area with wax paper or freezer paper. Most resins don't stick to wax paper.
- Prepare a level surface for items to dry on that will not be disturbed.
- Create trays for curing items. For rings, turn a cardboard box over and poke holes in the box with a pen or other sharp object.
- Cover the curing resin so dust does not ruin the finish. Use an inverted box for multiple items or cups for individual items, leaving space for air to circulate.

Tips for paper images
- To prevent discoloration, seal both sides and edges of the image with Mod Podge or Elmer's Glue-All. This is especially important if the image is printed on an ink-jet printer. Allow the glue to dry completely before covering the images with resin.
- Glue image to surface to prevent "floating". Let adhesive dry completely before adding resin.
- Resin magnifies images and makes them surprisingly clear. Imperfections become noticeable, so be careful.

Tips for other embedded items
- Flowers and other vegetation need to be dried before use. Moisture can prevent the resin from curing, and cause cloudiness.
- Seal dried flowers, candy sprinkles, etc., with a spray sealer such as Krylon to prevent discoloration.
- Do not use glitter or sand near resin that you do not want glitter or sand in.
- If using dyes or pigment, add a small amount (2-3 drops) at first. Add more only as needed.
- Do not apply Mod Podge or other sealer over the top of embellishments with facets. It will form over the facets and reduce the sparkle.

Resin pouring tips
- Apply the resin a little bit at a time. Depending on the resin, it can pour quickly. Pouring from a smaller cup is easier to control.
- Pour extra resin in a cap of some kind so you can use it to check for dryness. This way you don't stick your finger in and ruin your work.
- Use a blow dryer or rubber stamping heat gun to get rid of air bubbles. If the hair dryer is too strong, hold it further away to keep from blowing the resin out of the bezel cup or container.
- EasyCast epoxy works best in a form with edges, such as our bezel cups (#46-301) and finger rings with cup (#51-201).