

"Rhythm & Blues" Necklace

As seen in the Rings & Things 2006 Super Supplement



Created by: Mary Morton

Suggested Materials:

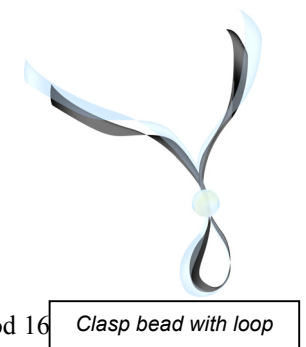
<u>Qty.</u>	<u>Stock</u>	<u>Stock Item</u>
36"	#61-630-100-55	Organza ribbon, aquamarine
36"	#61-630-100-02	Organza ribbon, black
21	#43-009-3	Figure 8 wire connectors, silver plate
9	#21-001-105-02	Large-hole gemstones, labradorite
6	#21-000-105-36	Puffed briolette gemstones, labradorite
4	#21-000-105-35	Tip-drilled faceted marquise gemstones, labradorite
6	#21-000-105-34	Tip-drilled briolette gemstones, labradorite
2	#21-889-099-01	14mm round gemstones, aquamarine
6	#21-887-099-01	12mm round gemstones, aquamarine
6	#21-886-099-01	6mm round gemstones, aquamarine
2 doz.	#37-805	Eye pins, sterling silver
1 doz.	#37-573	Ball-end head pins, sterling silver
4	#48-280-3	Fold-over cord end
8	#20-673-015	Freshwater corn pearls, light blue
32	#20-228-433-1	Toho Japanese seed beads, blue ceylon

Tools:

Battery operated bead reamer, such as product #69-058
Non-serrated chain-nose pliers, such as product #65-336
Round-nose pliers, such as product #65-206
Craft or Bead Fix™ glue such as product #60-242
Scissors

To make this design:

1. Cut two strips of ribbon, one black, one aquamarine, both 36" long. Fold the ribbons in half so all ends are touching. Then trim the ends to form needle-like ribbon tips.
2. Following the directions on your bead reamer, ream two 14mm aquamarine gemstones and four 12mm gemstones. You'll want a hole-size of 2.5mm or larger.
3. Carefully thread all four ribbon ends into one of the 14mm reamed beads. You may find this easier if you use a big eye needle. Once you have the bead strung, slide it all the way to the end of your ribbon, leaving a loop of about an inch and a half long. This is called your clasp bead. See illustration.
4. You now have four ribbon strands to work with. Get creative! String your 12mm beads and large-hole labradorite beads in any pattern you like along these four strands. They will all lay together around the wearers neck, so spacing nicely is important. See step 5 for a pattern if you're stuck. Other wise, skip to step 6. TIP: Put all four strands together and around your neck to see how your pattern will look. Take up a good 16
5. To follow the pattern on the "Rhythm and Blues" necklace, string beads on two ribbons held together, one black and one blue ribbon, in the following order: one 12mm aquamarine bead, one large-hole labradorite bead, one 12mm aquamarine bead, and one final large-hole labradorite bead. The order is then reversed for the second set of two ribbons. You should be able to slide the beads up and down the ribbon until you are happy with the spacing. Don't worry about stretching the organza! It actually creates a nice textured look (and organza is tougher than you might think).
6. On all four ribbons, string one 14mm aquamarine bead. This bead will be your "nesting" bead. Once the necklace is finished, and you are ready to put it on, the two 14mm beads serve as a "clasp" for a lariat type of necklace. You'll slide the "clasp" bead up and down the ribbon to open and close the organza loop. See open and closed example images at the top of this page & refer to instruction "How to wear" tip on the reverse.



“Rhythm and Blues” Necklace
Designer Tip Sheet, cont.

7. You should now have a lovely start to a lariat type necklace, with four remaining ribbon sections approximately 2 to 3” in length, measured from your last aquamarine bead. String one large-hole labradorite bead on each ribbon. For now, push those beads so they are flush against the last 14mm aquamarine bead (and out of your way).

8. Trim each ribbon straight across, so you have one ribbon that is an 1.25” long, another 1.5”, another 1.75”, and the final ribbon at 2.25” long.

9. The next step requires four fold over ends, your glue and your chain-nose pliers.

TIP: It may be useful to practice this step on an extra piece of ribbon and an extra fold-over crimp end before attempting it on the actual necklace!

10. Lay your fold-over crimp end with the open side up and the loop portion facing to your right. Carefully fold a small portion of the end of one ribbon and place inside the fold-over crimp end, keeping your loop so it will end up in a downward position. Add a drop of glue to the inside of the crimp, over your ribbon end, and quickly fold the crimp closed with your chain-nose pliers. If you mess up- don’t worry, you can trim off the goof and start again. Once you have your fold-over tip in place, pull your large-hole labradorite down until it rests above the end. This is a good place to ‘hide’ any fraying ends or an ‘over-glued’ section of ribbon.

11. Add your figure-eight connectors by attaching the small end to the loop of the fold-over cord end. Keep adding connectors until each section is at your desired length. The pendant section of the Rhythm and Blues necklace hangs at almost five full inches below the nesting bead. This is too long for many people, and too short for others, so your personal taste will come into play here.

12. Using the illustration at right, with your round-nose pliers and a ball-end head pin, wire wrap your remaining aquamarine gemstones. Add a blue pearl to the ball-end head pin before wrapping each bead.

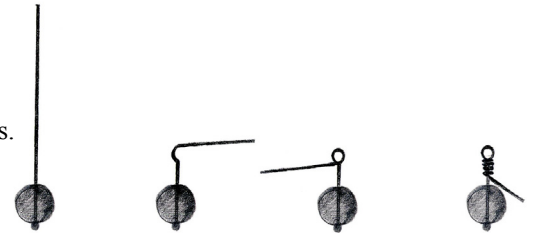
You can either wrap directly onto the figure-eight connector, or use jump rings to connect these to your necklace center. Using flush cutters, trim any excess wire.

13. For the “Rhythm and Blues” necklace, attach in the pattern shown in the above right image, adding more beads to the longer sections and less to the shorter sections.

14. For the briolettes and marquise shaped beads, you’ll want to wire wrap with an eye pin. First, put two Toho beads onto the pin. Then slide the pin through the tip-drilled hole. Bring excess wire up and around the bead, and wrap it around the straight portion of the eye pin. Trim excess wire.

TIP: Because eye pins are easy to open and close, you will not need to wrap directly onto your connectors, or use a jump ring.

15. Once you have all of your labradorite gemstones wrapped, you can begin attaching them to fill out your necklace center. You can attach in the pattern shown in the above right image, adding more gemstones to the longer strands, and less to the shorter ones. Or you can use your personal taste and arrange them (and rearrange them) however you like.



How to Wear

TIP: Yes, there is even a section on how to wear your new piece of artwork. You’ll want your nesting bead to stay pretty much where it is at all times. Use your very first 14mm aquamarine round (the clasp bead) to open and close this necklace by sliding it up and down the ribbon to open and close the organza loop. Once open, take the opposite end of your necklace (the end with all the pretty hanging beads) and slip it completely through your organza loop. Move the loop until it is resting just below your nesting bead, and close the necklace by sliding your clasp bead until your loop is closed securely around your ribbon centerpieces. If this is done correctly, both your nesting bead and your clasp bead will rest side by side, in perfect Rhythm and Blues harmony.



Closed Necklace