

NECKLACE OF PEARL BUTTONS & SILVER SPIRALS



Materials necklace Approximately 18 inches (46 cm)

- 1 ea. approximately 1 5/16-in. (3.3 cm) two- or 4-hole button
- 4 ea. approximately 1 3/16-in. (3 cm) four-hole buttons
- 23 in. (57.2 cm) 18-gauge twisted wire
- 22 in. (50.8 cm) 22-gauge twisted wire
- 1 1/2 in. (3.8 cm) 18-gauge round wire (18-gauge patterned wire was used here)
- 6 1/2 in. (16.6 cm) chain
- silver blackening solution such as Silver Black or liver of sulfur
- anvil
- hammer
- chain-nose pliers
- round-nose pliers
- wire cutters
- hand file
- polishing pad

NOTE: Sterling silver twisted wire is made by twisting two round wires together. The gauge is determined by the individual constituent wires and not the resulting overall diameter of the twisted pair. For instance, "18-gauge" twisted wire is composed of two 18-gauge round wires twisted together which results in a larger diameter than a single wire of the same gauge. Extra wire has been allowed here in case slightly larger buttons are used.

Assemble tools and supplies

Silver components

1. Cut 18 gauge wire into four 4 1/2 in. (11.4 cm) pieces for spirals and one 4 1/4 in. (10.8 cm) piece for end component.

2. Cut 22 gauge wire into four 4 1/4 in. (10.8 cm) pieces for 4-hole buttons. If using a 4-hole center button, use one 4 1/2 in (11.4 cm) piece. For a 2-hole center button use one 2 1/2 in. (6.4 cm) piece.

3. Cut 18 gauge round wire into 1 1/2 in. (3.8 cm) for hook component.

4. Cut chain into two 3 1/4 in. (8.3 cm) lengths.

5. File off any rough edges on wires to prevent snagging clothing.

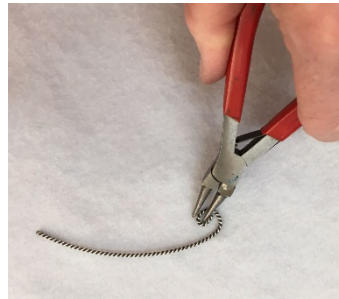
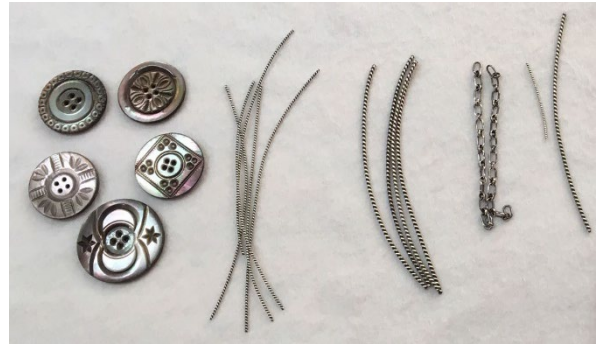


6. Following manufacturer's instructions, carefully apply blackening solution to silver components and rinse.



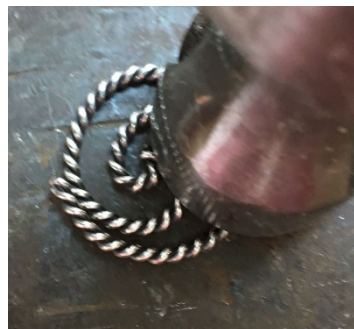
Dry thoroughly, then polish surface to bring out the shine on raised parts.

7. Make 4 spirals from 4 1/2 in. (11.4 cm) pieces of 18-gauge twisted wire. For each spiral, use round-nose pliers and your fingers to form a loose spiral about 7/8 in. (2.2 cm) in diameter, curving the tail close to the outer edge of the spiral.



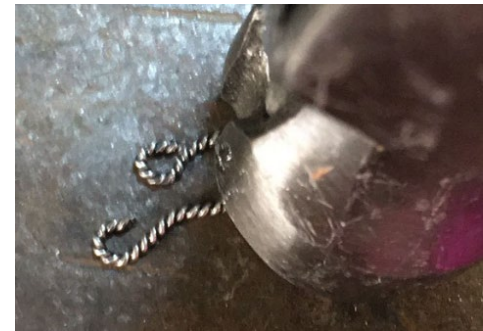
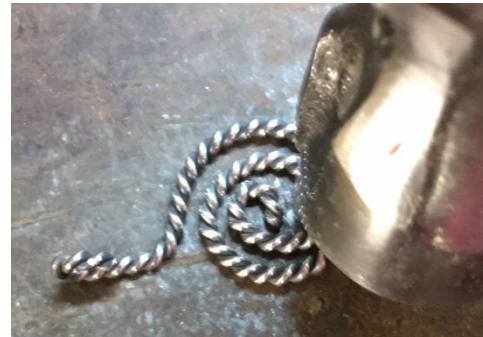
Place each spiral on an anvil and hammer it until the raised surface is slightly flattened

8. Make an end component from the 4 1/4-in. (10.8 cm) piece of 18-gauge twisted wire. Use round-nose pliers and your fingers to form a tight spiral about 9/16 in. (1.4 cm) in diameter, leaving a 1/2 in. (1.3 cm) tail. Use round-nose pliers to turn the tail up and make a small perpendicular hook.



Hammer the spiral part of the end component.

9. Make 1 hook component from the 1 ½ in. (3.8 cm) piece of 18-gauge round wire. Using round-nose pliers, turn up one end, and make a small hook. Bend the wire to make a larger hook, curving it in toward the small hook, and back out again. Make a medium-sized hook at the other end.



Hammer the hook component.

Buttons

1. If using a two-hole button for the center, use the 2 ½ in. (6.4 cm) piece of 22-gauge twisted wire. Bend the wire in half and string both ends of the wire through the button from front to back. Bend to position the ends of the wire on each side of the button. Wire ends should measure approximately 5/8 in (1.6 cm) from the edge of the button. If much longer than that, cut wire ends to 5/8 in. (1.6 cm) and use round-nose pliers to turn a simple loop on each end toward the front of the button. For a four-hole center button use the 4 ½ in (11.4 cm) of 22-gauge twisted wire and follow the directions below.



2. For each of four four-hole buttons, use a 4 ¼ in. (10.8 cm) piece of 22-gauge twisted wire. Bend the wire about 1 ¼ in. (3.2 cm) from one end, (photo P) and string the wire through two diagonal holes of button from front to back.



3. Push the long end of the wire through an adjacent hole. Cross the longer end of the wire over the previous wire and go through the remaining hole.



4. Bend to position the wire ends on each side of the button. Wire ends should measure approximately 5/8 in (1.6 cm) from the edge of the button. If much longer than that, cut wire ends to 5/8 in. (1.6 cm).



Then use round-nose pliers to turn a simple loop on each end toward the front of the button. (photo T)



Assembly

1. Lay out components in order.



2. Gently pull away the tail of a loose spiral and slip it into a loop of the center button component.

Slide the spiral around to position the tail at the bottom and slip it into the loop of a side button component. Press the tail close to the spiral. Connect a spiral and button component to the other side of the center button. Add the remaining button components and spirals opposite each other.

3. With chain-nose pliers, attach a 3 1/4 in (8.25 cm) piece of chain to the loop on the end button component. Close the loop.



Repeat on the other side.

4. Open the loop on the end component and attach the chain. Close the loop.

Repeat with the hook component on the other side.



Here's the finished necklace. Below is another necklace made using this approach.

Bead and Button Magazine suggests using this design "... with any combination of four- or two-hole buttons and wire - for instance, ceramic and colored craft wire, Lucite and copper, or Czech glass and gold - to achieve a funky, casual, or sophisticated necklace."

Bead and Button Magazine, August 2009, pp. 29-30

