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Having Your Own Jewelry Business

By George Williams

Jewelry is worn before clothing. Primitive people made jewelry from feathers, wood, stones, shells berries, bones and teeth. In Pharaoh's day, gold was the main medium. Not only was it soft and easy to shape into a variety of designs, but it lasted a lifetime too. Over the years, many craftsmen have earned a living from making jewelry.

Making jewelry becomes a hobby for many people. This type of hobby is one of the most satisfying occupations of all. You can choose your own design, color and materials and finish up with a unique piece for yourself or your friends. All you need is a steady hand, a good eye and plenty of patience - and a few trusty tools. So how do you start?

It depends on the kind of jewelry you want to make. It can be as simple as threading beads onto a nylon thread, or taking classes to learn something a little different, like wire wrap jewelry

Basically, wire wrap jewelry - as its name suggests - involves using certain tools to bind and twist wires together into a chosen design. The tools needed are all relatively cheap and readily available. They are...

· Pliers of various kinds, eg, bent nose, flat nose round nose, etc. · Wire cutters. · Ring mandrel. · Pin vise. · Swiss pattern file. · A scale.

The wire itself comes in a variety of shapes, eg round, square, triangle and many more. It is made of brass, copper, fine or sterling silver, gold or gold filled with brass. Different gauges are available, from thick (8 gauge) to thin (26 gauge). Copper wire is so soft it is one of the best for beginners to use. It can be coated with transparent acrylic to prevent discoloring. Once your skill has increased you could try using what is called gold filled wire. This is not wire filled with gold, as the name seems to suggest. It consists of gold tubing filled with a base metal, usually jewelry's brass, and is available in many gauges, shapes and patterns. There is also a choice of three colors; white, yellow and rose gold. It is so durable it will last a lifetime. In fact, 17th century jewelry made from gold filled wire has been passed down through the generations and still exists in good condition today.

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Special care needs to be taken to avoid scratching gold filled wire because it is so soft. You must carefully file down all the sharp edges and corners of your pliers - not too much, but just enough to round them off slightly. Keep the finished jewelry in a cotton padded box so it is not damaged by other pieces.

The basic techniques in making wire wrap jewelry include twisting, wrapping, crimping, scrolling and shaping. These skills are easy to learn and the turnaround time for each piece is short. Design variations are endless as all kinds of gemstones can be incorporated. It is the ideal jewelry to make at home because you don't need complicated machinery, fire or chemicals. Once you have become skilled at creating wire wrap jewelry, you might even find a ready market for it.

George Williams maintains many website about fashion, including

<http://www.wholesalehandbagsecrets.info>

and

<http://www.wholesalehandbagsguide.info>

. Find more

interesting articles and links about the latest fashion in his Websites.

An Introduction To Jewelry Making

By Steve Gargin

I think that one of my favorite crafts is jewelry making. Beads should be part of any well-equipped jewelry making kit. I love the choice of styles that jewelry making allows you to try. The range of materials that you can use for jewelry making also means that their possible uses are limited only by my imagination. Even though I was not a particularly experienced craftsperson I soon found that I enjoyed jewelry making and created wonderfully original jewelry. Of course, I now wish that I was capable of far more intricate jewelry making but at least I am always improving on the ones I made before!

I enjoy jewelry making using a variety of different materials. It is fun to look at what I have handy that I can convert into pretty jewelry. One of my favorites is using strips of colored paper for paper mache jewelry. My kids love tearing pictures out of glossy magazines and we try jewelry making together, well, almost! They prefer to move straight to the decorating stage and I have found that dried macaroni makes an ideal bead. The tubes of pasta have a ready made hole for threading and can be painted easily. We also use clay quite a lot when jewelry making, probably because kids enjoy molding the shapes. I have to take over the baking part but once that is done they can decorate and varnish their creations and continue with their jewelry making.

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Of course jewelry making is made more fun if you can give the jewelry to other people to wear. I like creating necklaces and earrings to give as gifts. People often appreciate handmade goods more than shop-bought ones, but more importantly I save a fortune with my crafty offerings! My kids like making friendship bracelets for their mates and have recently got into using lettered jewelry to make up people's names on necklaces. A lot of kids wear them round here and also have become interested in jewelry making too!

I use a lot of different materials as a base for my jewelry making. It would probably be impossible for me to remember all of them but I like using leather cord and jewelry metal the most. I have tried almost anything that I could thread a bead onto probably! Nowadays I do not have the time to dedicate to jewelry making that I once did, in fact I probably haven't made anything for over a year due to our latest addition but when she is older I may well teach her the basics too.

Steve Gargin is the administrator of

<http://fine-fashion-jewelry.helper-guru.com>

a website dedicated to

bringing you the latest jewelry news and information.



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