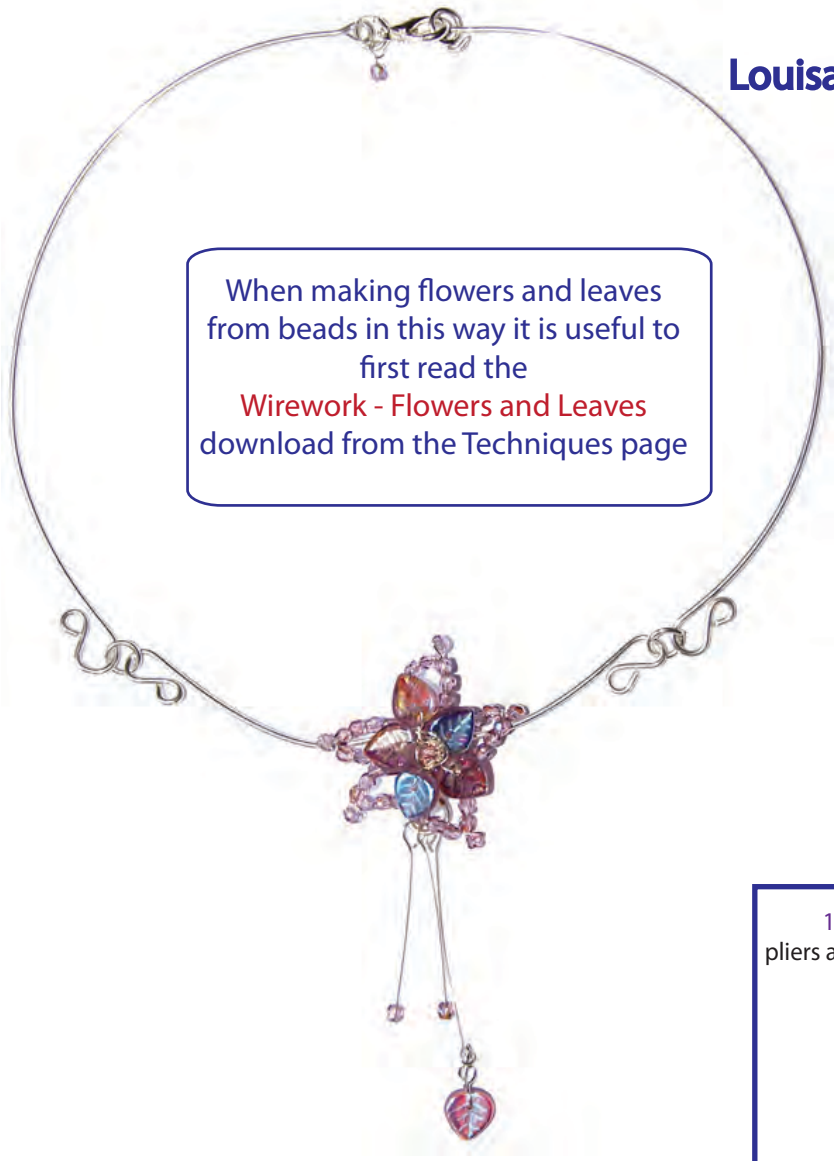
Louisa's Double Layer Flower Necklace



When making flowers and leaves from beads in this way it is useful to first read the Wirework - Flowers and Leaves download from the Techniques page

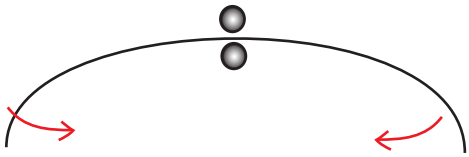
Ingredients

1m JW106 1.2mm half hard silver wire
2 FN068 7x5mm silver oval jump rings
2 FN066 8mm silver jump rings
1 FN032 5mm silver split ring
1 FN024 medium silver lobster fastener
3 FN016 silver headpins
2 FN014 silver eyepins
6 GL1202 purple AB heart shaped leaves
59 FG332 3mm purple AB facets
3m JW112 0.4mm soft silver plated wire

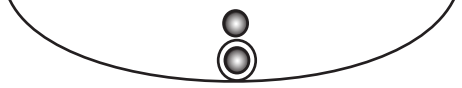
First make the torque. Follow the instructions on the Wirework - Torques - download from the Techniques page to make an articulated torque using the 1.2mm silver wire, linked with the 8mm jump rings and finished with the oval jump rings to attach the split ring and fastener.

When you make the central front section of the torque, in the very centre make a double loop of wire which will support the flower decoration when it is applied following the instructions on the right

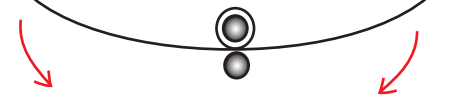
1 start with the wire curve ponting downwards and the pliers at the centre - hold the pliers still and bend the wire as shown



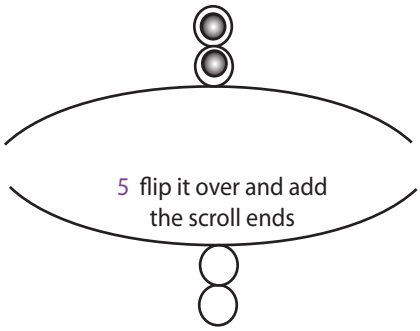
2 to give you an upwards curve and a central loop around the bottom jaw of the pliers



3 move the pliers so the top jaw is in the loop and bend again as shown



4 to give you a downwards curve with the second circle around the bottom jaw of the pliers



5 flip it over and add the scroll ends

The floral decoration on this necklace is made in four stages. The leaves at the back are made in 4mm facets, the front flower made with heart shaped leaves, these two brought together to create a layered flower and then the dangles underneath added.

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To make the layer of leaves for the back of the design
Cut 2m of 0.4mm wire. Thread 6 facets onto the wire, leaving about 10cm from the end (you will need a bit of a tail later). Fold the wire around the bead closest to the long end of the wire and make a little twist to create the tip of the leaf. Thread five more beads onto the long end of the wire. Bring the two rows of five beads parallel to one another. Pinch the wires together at the base of the rows and twist twice. Tease the parallel rows apart to create the leaf shape. Thread six beads onto the long end of the wire and push up to the first leaf - pull the last bead threaded back by a few millimeters and make a twist below it to create the tip of the second leaf. Thread on 5 beads and complete the second leaf as for the first. Continue with this method to complete five leaves in a row. To finish bring the tail left at the start, with the end of the wire together and twist to form the leaves into a circle.

Alternatively you could make the simple leaf shapes on the Wirework - Flowers and Leaves download from the Techniques page which has a slightly different take on forming the leaves from small beads.

The top flower is made from the heart shaped leaf beads and the remaining length of 0.4mm wire. The technique for creating this is that covered in the Top Hole Beads section on page one of the Wirework - Flowers and Leaves download on the Techniques page.

To start - thread on one leaf bead and hold about 10cm from the end of the wire. Pinch the wire together close to the bead and twist twice. Thread on the next leaf bead, leaving about 0.5cm of wire between the bottom of the twist just made and the bead. Now twist the wire again a few times. Repeat until 5 leaves have been added. To bring them together, gently form them into a circle and use your remaining wire to secure. Now, using the long end of your wire thread on a 3mm facet. Draw the wire across the centre of your flower to place the facet in the central space and conceal the wiring underneath.

Finish the motif by taking the wire ends from the back of the flower through the centre of the the faceted leaf circle and attach onto the top loop at the centre front of the torque.

To complete: Cut both headpins down to 35mm long. Thread a facet onto the bottom of each and loop the tops attaching the loops to the bottom loop at the centre front of the torque. Take an eyepin and loop it through the last leaf bead to make a small dropper (see the Wrapped Loops and Bails download if you have not done this before - it is done in the same way as the closed bail with wire, just using an eyepin instead of 0.6mm wire). Now attach this dropper to the other eyepin and loop the top of the eyepin onto the same loop on the torque as the two headpins just added. Finally thread the remaining facet onto a headpin. trim and loop. Attach this to the jump ring attaching the fastener to the torque.

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