

Simple Link Necklace by Nina Meng

For the Halloween orange and black theme Nina made this really simple linked necklace. Using pre-formed metal link beads it took only a few minutes to make to give a little splash of colour to an outfit.



It just takes a few inexpensive ingredients to make this quick and easy necklace.

30cm FN131 grey black chain
4 x FN141 4mm grey black jumprings
12 x FG418 black 4mm fire polished faceted beads
13 x FG475 orange AB 4mm fire polished faceted beads
5 x FN014 silver eyepins
1 x FN023 grey black small lobster fastener
1 x FN142 grey black 6mm jump ring
6 x MB139 black glass centre link bead

If you have not made links before you may find the sheet on 'Loops and Linking' that you can download free from the Techniques page useful

Nina has not arranged the links symmetrically in her necklace - you may prefer to have the links with orange at either end either all at the front, OR one central and the other two closest to the chain, with the more dominantly black links in the other spaces

To Make

Onto an eyepin thread one orange, one black, one orange, one black and one orange 4mm facet. Trim and loop. Make 2 more the same.

Onto an eyepin thread one black, one orange, one black, one orange and one black 4mm facet. Trim and loop. Make one more the same.

Link the MB139 black links with the eyepin links in the pattern shown above in the photograph or alter the pattern to make it more, or less, symmetrical as you prefer.

Using the 4mm jumprings attach the chain to the end loops and then cut the chain in half. Try the necklace for size now and trim the chain back a little if you prefer a shorter finished length. Finally attach the 6mm jump ring and fastener to the centre of the chain using the remaining two 4mm jump rings

For more impact why not ...

Hang tassels of beads from the points where the links meet;

Attach lengths of chain between the links for a draping effect;

Create a second row of links to run inside the first row for a fuller effect;

Make three or even four rows of links for a really chunky necklace, or add in some full length strands of chain to give extra texture;

Make a matching bracelet using a mix of chain and links in multiple strands for a really stunning piece. A bracelet will sit better if the links are a little shorter - try and keep them to a maximum of 3 beads so that the bracelet remains flexible, and for maximum wearability it will last longer if you finish the links with wrapped loops - see the Loops and Linking download for full instructions. Wrapped loops can take a little time to learn how to do properly but they are worth the effort - they are both more secure than a standard link and they add an extra decorative effect to your jewellery.

Design some matching earrings using a mix of chains and linking - anything from a single short length of chain with one bead as an accent to a really outrageous pair - there are so many ways this design can be adapted why not have some fun with it and see what you can do?