

Curl and Twirl Tanzanite and Fuchsia Tigertail Necklace by Vicky

Sometimes the simplest ideas really are the best. Using just a few beads and a little clever planning Vicky has made a stunning necklace and earring set for very little money.



Recipe

1.5 metres Soft Flex Extreme 0.019 medium
11 x CB640 6mm Tanzanite AB crystal bicones
8 x CB415 4mm Fuchsia bicones
FN028 7mm Boltring fastener
1 x FN064 5mm jumpring
13 x FN062 French crimps
1 pair SS105 Sterling silver fishhooks

To Make the Earrings

Cut 20cm of Soft Flex. Thread on 1 x fuchsia bicone - 1 x tanzanite bicone - 1 x fuchsia bicone. Bring the two ends of Soft Flex together through a French crimp. Adjust the loop until it is the length you prefer and secure the crimp. Trim one end of the Soft Flex, then thread on a tanzanite bicone and a French crimp. Turn the end of the Soft Flex into a loop back through the French crimp just added, secure the crimp, trim the end of the Soft Flex back and tuck the end into the tanzanite bicone. Attach a fishhook to this top loop. Repeat to make the other earring

If you have not worked with Soft Flex before you may find it useful to read the Threading with Beading Wires download from the Techniques page of the website before you start on this project

To Make the Necklace

It is easiest to start this necklace from the centre so you can adjust the length and curves as you go.

(1) Thread on 1 x fuchsia bicone - 3 x tanzanite bicones - 1 x fuchsia bicone and 1 French crimp. Cross over the Soft Flex through the French crimp, creating the central loop on the necklace. When you are happy with the size of the loop secure the crimp.

Now work out to the sides starting on one side of the necklace.

(2) On one side of the loop formed in (1) thread on 1 x French crimp and 1 x tanzanite bicone. Form a loop in the Soft Flex, slipping it through the loop formed in (1) and then through the crimp just added in the same direction as before. Adjust the loop just formed so that it is slightly smaller than the first and secure the French crimp.

(3) Now for the smallest loop on this side. Thread on one crimp and one fuchsia bicone, curl the Soft Flex round, slipping it through the loop formed in (2) and bring it back through the crimp in the same direction. Secure the crimp when you are happy with the proportions of the loop.

(4) Repeat steps (2) and (3) on the other side of the necklace.

(5) On each side thread on 1 x crimp - 1 x tanzanite bicone - 1 x crimp. Loop the Soft Flex back through the end crimps and adjust the length on both sides of the necklace until it is the correct size for you. Secure the end crimps. Trim back the Soft Flex. Bring the tanzanite bicones up to cover the ends of the Soft Flex and secure the crimps on the other sides.

(6) To complete the necklace attach the 5mm jumpring and the bolt ring to the end loops with the two 4mm jumprings.