

Publication: September 2007

Create Jewelry Pearls: Luxurious Designs to Make and Wear

by Marlene Blessing and Jamie Hogsett, editors of *Beadwork* magazine

Pearls have captured the imagination for centuries for their beauty, rarity, and seemingly magical origins. In **CREATE JEWELRY—PEARLS: LUXURIOUS DESIGNS TO MAKE AND WEAR** (Interweave Press, September 2007, \$22.95), the editors of *Beadwork* magazine combine stories of this irresistible gem with gorgeous designs to inspire and delight the modern jewelry maker.

More than 20 stunning, wearable designs draw on a wide range of exciting materials, colors, and shapes; projects incorporate natural, freshwater, and imitation pearls, offering something for everyone. *Create Jewelry—Pearls* is divided into three main sections: “The Classics” include traditional pearl stringing, like a multistrand mother-of-pearl necklace; “Special Occasions” features striking pieces, including a lariat suitable for a bride, and “Fashion Forward” designs showcase dramatic designs for day or night, like a hammered silver chain mixed with white, black, and real pearls. Gorgeous jewelry photos are accompanied by step-by-step photos and instructions that are easy to follow so readers can easily create their own designs.

Projects include:

- **Dark Beauties:** A long Tahitian-like strand of beads that can be worn as a single rope strand or doubled for a matinee-length piece
- **Cuff Deluxe:** Burgundy seed beads form the base of this cuff and complement the spectrum of colors in the side-drilled coin pearls
- **Champagne Necklace:** This bib-style necklace features scattered pearls wrapped with wire to sparkling ribbon, appearing to bubble up like champagne in a glass flute
- **Pearl Fusion:** This combination of peach pearls, turquoise nuggets, and sterling silver clasp complements the handcrafted pendant
- **Midnight Tassel:** A dangling handstitched tassel of seed beads and black pearls punctuates this spectacular necklace, which alternates oval and top-drilled pearls separated by wavy jump-rings.
- **Very Berry:** Tiny pink pearls stitched into berrylike clusters are the impetus for these “oh so very” dangling chain earrings.

Accompanying the projects are chapters pearl basics, including how to choose and care for pearls and pearl jewelry, and sidebars and photographs on the history, science, and culture of pearls that provide intriguing context for the iconic gem. Quotes, anecdotes, and images of pearls through the years round out this informative and entertaining book.

**CREATE JEWELRY—PEARLS:
LUXURIOUS DESIGNS TO MAKE AND WEAR
by Marlene Blessing and Jamie Hogsett**
Interweave Press • September 2007 • \$22.95
8½ x 10¼ • Paperbound • 128 pages
100 color photographs • 15 illustrations • 5 charts
ISBN 978-1-59668-023-4

Distributed to the book trade by Independent Publishers Group

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Linda Ligon founded the company in the 1970s when she began publishing *Handwoven* and *Spin-Off* magazines. Since then, the company has grown to employ more than 100 people throughout the country, with corporate headquarters located in Loveland, Colo. For more information on Interweave Press, please visit www.interweave.com or call (970) 669-7672.