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Custom Cool Jewelry: Create 200+ Personalized Pendants, Charms, and Clasps **Melinda Barta**

Get out your tools, hammers, stickers, scissors, glue, needles, threads, fabric—just about anything in your craft stash—and begin taking your jewelry to the next level with *Custom Cool Jewelry* by Melinda Barta (Interweave, \$22.95). This exciting new book offers clever ideas for creating boutique-style jewelry projects using common crafting materials in uncommon ways.

Melinda Barta, managing editor of *Beadwork* and *Stringing* magazine, says that for her, “Making jewelry is not just about beads, it’s about the process it takes to get to a finished design. Inspired, personalized jewelry does more than adorn; it can tell stories, garner compliments, and even commemorate bygone times. The beauty of creating jewelry is that it is all about you and the adventure of self-expression. Plus, incorporating handmade components ensures that your jewelry will be 100 percent unique, 100 percent yours.”

In *Custom Cool Jewelry*, Melinda walks readers step by step through the process of making jewelry using basic crafting and stringing techniques. The book is divided into four sections: pendants, charms, clasps, and finished projects, with special technique tutorials interspersed between design ideas.

Readers will learn to bake bead collages with resin in the oven, emboss antique playing cards, roll up some polymer clay, stamp and stitch fabric focal pieces, shrink plastic, and wire-wrap. They’ll also learn to create some of the most surprisingly simple charms out of unsuspected, yet easily accessible materials.

Melinda shows unique alternatives to store-bought beading components using a wide range of jewelry and basic crafting materials, including embossing powder, collage papers, wire, fibers, glass-etching cream, patinas, found objects, fabric, memorabilia, and more.

Each project component is shown in a number of color and design variations, with each partially strung on colorful wire with a few beads to inspire readers to create their own complete jewelry pieces. And each chapter features a gallery of finished pieces, plus sidebars share insider tips. The back of the book features a glossary of basic stringing and wirework techniques, plus a project resource guide and a shopping guide featuring all the products highlighted in the book.

Special Techniques in Custom Cool Jewelry

Bead embroidery~46, 112
Brick stitch~86
Embossing ~42, 50
Eyelet setting ~74
Fabric collage ~38
Glass etching ~14
Hammering ~98
Knotting ~97
Metal cutting ~64
Paper collage ~42
Patinating ~102
Polymer clay ~28
Rub-on transfers~72
Sealing with epoxy and resin ~76
Shrinkable plastic ~20

CUSTOM COOL JEWELRY
CREATE 200+ PERSONALIZED PENDANTS, CHARMS, AND CLASPS
Melinda Barta

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About the author: **Melinda Barta** is the author of *Hip to Stitch* (Interweave), and managing editor of *Beadwork* and *Stringing* magazines. She has a BFA degree in fiber arts and a minor in apparel design from Colorado State University and is the former projects editor of *PieceWork* magazine. She has appeared on several craft television programs, including E! Entertainment's *Craft Corner Death Match* as a celebrity guest judge, *DIY Scrapbooking*, and *Uncommon Threads*. She lives in Fort Collins, Colorado.

About Interweave

Interweave, a unit of Aspire Media, is one of the nation's largest and most respected arts and craft media companies, with businesses in magazine and book publishing, online media, television and video programming, directories, and events. The Interweave Publishing Group features 18 subscription magazines and many more special interest newsstand publications sold on newsstands nationwide. Interweave has more than 250 books in print and annually publishes about 40 how-to books on the same subjects as the company's magazines. Additionally, Interweave produces several major events for fiber and bead, gem, and jewelry making enthusiasts and has an extensive Internet network of more than 30 websites and daily e-mail newsletters. Interweave is the proud sponsor of three craft television series airing on PBS: *Quilting Arts TV*, a fresh, contemporary quilting program, *Beads, Baubles, & Jewels*, public television's only how-to program for beading and jewelry making enthusiasts, and public television's newest show for knitting and crochet enthusiasts, *Knitting Daily TV*.

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, Colorado and other offices in New York, New York, Malvern, Pennsylvania, Santa Fe, New Mexico, San Diego, California and Stow, Massachusetts. For more information on Interweave, visit www.interweave.com or call (970) 669-7672.

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