

recycled-
bag
necklace

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FINISHED SIZE: 21"
(WITH 2" PENDANT)

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Create your own eco-friendly pendant by fusing leaf shapes cut from plastic grocery bags together into a feathery-looking focal. Add chain and a glass pearl for a simple necklace.

techniques [CUTTING + FUSING PLASTIC + SIMPLE LOOPS + STRINGING]

tools & materials

- [] 1 gray 13mm glass Baroque pearl
- [] 1 brass 10mm lobster clasp
- [] 1 copper 1½" eye pin
- [] 2 brass 5mm jump rings
- [] 21" of 1.5×2mm brass chain
- [] 4 plastic grocery bags
- [] Round-nose pliers
- [] Chain- or flat-nose pliers
- [] Scissors
- [] Sewing needle
- [] Pen (or marker)
- [] Utility lighter

tip

Try using plastic bags in different colors and thicknesses and cutting out different shapes, such as circles or flowers.

MAKE THE PENDANT

- 1. Cut the bags:** Lay the bags flat, on top of each other, on a smooth surface and fold them in half so there are more layers. Use the pen to draw about 10 leaf shapes in sizes varying from 1 × 1¼" to 1½ × 2" on the top layer of bags. Don't worry about drawing precise shapes; they don't have to be perfect (fig. a). Holding all the layers together, cut out the leaves with the scissors (fig. b).
- 2. Cluster the plastic leaves:** Use the needle to string the plastic leaves about ¼" from the end of each, working from smallest to largest to smallest again (fig. c).
- 3. Fuse the plastic leaves:** Push the cluster of leaves toward the end of the needle. Use the chain- or flat-nose pliers to hold the other end of the needle. Ignite the lighter, then move the flame slowly all across the piece, bottom and top (fig. d). Turn off the flame when you have achieved the desired amount of fusing. *Note:* Be careful when using the lighter! The plastic will burn if you hold the flame too close to it for too long; instead, hold the flame so it doesn't touch the plastic and continuously move it. Allow to cool before removing the plastic from the needle.





- 4. String the pearl:** Use the eye pin to string the pearl and the cooled fused plastic; form a simple loop (fig. e).

ASSEMBLE THE NECKLACE

- 5. Add the chain:** Attach the eye of the eye pin to one end of one 10" piece of chain by opening and closing the eye loop as you would a jump ring. Repeat using the simple loop formed in Step 4 for the other half of the necklace (fig. f).
- 6. Attach the clasp:** Attach 1 jump ring to the free end of one of the chains. Use 1 jump ring to attach the clasp to the free end of the other chain (fig. g). ✦

resources Check your local bead shop or contact: Pearl, findings, and chain: Mrs. Jahns Treasures, www.Jwlrysupply.etsy.com.

derya aksoy is originally from the beautiful city of Istanbul, Turkey. She currently lives in Orange County, California, where she has been designing jewelry for the past six years. Derya is passionate about creating unique wearable pieces that are not only pretty accessories, but also tell a story. View more of her designs at www.jewelera.etsy.com.

