Basic Tools Needed for Jewelry Making for Beginners

1) Safety Glasses (Required as we will be cutting metal)
2) Round Nose Pliers
3) Flat Nose Pliers or Chain Nose Pliers
4) Wire Cutters
5) Tape Measure

*Note: I bought my first small tool kit in the craft department at Walmart (Approx $15.00). It’s a cost effective way to get started with the basic tools (pliers and cutters) needed.

Beads, Beads, and Beads

Whatever type, color, style of beads you want to incorporate into your jewelry designs. Be creative. Mix and match metals, glass, gemstones, pearls, charms. Think outside the box and you may come up with some household or old jewelry items you want to “upscale” into a jewelry design. Imagination is key.

Think about what type of jewelry design you want to create (find pictures and bring them with you). This will help you determine approximately how many beads you’ll need for your creations. Our goal is to create at least one pair of earrings, a necklace, a bracelet, and a ring.

Other Supplies

1) Beading Wire (used to string beads. .45mm will work fine). Comes in spool. Depending on necklace and bracelet length will need approximately 30 to 50”. One small spool will be plenty. (Approx $2.00 at Walmart or Craft Store)
2) Jewelry Chain (unfinished or finished (finished means clasp already attached.) For short necklace you’ll need 16 to 18”. For longer, 20 to 34”. For bracelet 7 to 9”. Metal of your choice. An old necklace chain will work, too. Price depends on what type of metal you choose. Walmart and Craft stores will have plated metal which is a base metal colored or coated in silver or gold. Finer chain (Sterling or Gold Plated/Filled) can be found online. My usual go to online sources are Artbeads.com, Limabeads.com and Beadaholique.com. )
3) 18 gauge and 20 gauge wire (copper or brass is a cost effective metal to start with or you can use “Artistic” wire which is a copper wire core with a colored coating). Available in spools or coils. Have a minimum of 15 feet of each gauge. Small spool should be enough. (Approx $3.00 at Walmart or Craft Store. Can also be found online)
4) Earring Findings. Either earring wires or posts and backs. Pierced or clip on. These are the ear pieces we’ll use to dangle beads and wire from to make your earrings. Metal and design of your choice. Price range from $1.00 and up per pair. I recommend a better quality earring finding which can be found on the online sources listed. Sterling Silver and Brass are my metals of choice for earrings.

Michaels, Hobby Lobby, JoAnn’s have a good selection of jewelry making supplies. My go to online shops: Artbeads.com, Limabeads.com, and Beadaholique.com Etsy.com is a huge source for jewelry supplies as well