

*Diamond leaf
necklace*

Fashion in a flash

With pinch bails, chandelier parts, and crystal stones,
you're just minutes from gorgeous new jewelry

by Diane Fitzgerald

*Divine rock
necklace*

*Rectangles and
dangles necklace*

In your search for beads, you may come across sew-on stones, which are usually flat-back, two-hole rhinestones (drilled front to back) that are intended for sewing on fabric. Their variety of shapes, colors, and foiling offers endless possibilities for beautiful jewelry, and, with a few readily available parts, you'll find assembling them into necklaces, bracelets, and even earrings is quick and easy to do.



Multiply the glamour. Make a bold fashion statement with a three-strand bracelet. Each strand of this bracelet contains 11 12 x 6 mm navette stones connected by 8 mm diamond clips.

Design
option

Navette
necklace



Square/oval/
cosmic necklace

I used two types of connectors for the jewelry shown: pinch bails, sometimes known as “ice pick bails,” and chandelier parts.

You need only the most basic tools for assembling these gorgeous pieces: roundnose pliers, chainnose or flatnose pliers, and wire cutters. When bending the connector legs around the hole of a stone, be sure to allow room between the tip of the pliers and the stone to prevent chipping. Work slowly.

As with any foil-backed stone or crystal, take care when storing or packing them to prevent the metal connectors from scratching the foil.

I usually place the piece flat on bubble wrap, then roll up the bubble wrap.

Pinch bails

Pinch bails are stamped metal parts shaped to resemble pinchers with a ring at the top. For these projects, the prongs of a pinch bail are inserted into the hole of a sew-on stone,

then the sides of the bail are pinched together with chainnose or flatnose pliers (**photo 1**). Each pinch bail is then connected to the next one with a jump ring (**photo 2**).

Chandelier parts

Chandelier parts resemble staples used to connect sheets of paper. In chandelier language, they are referred to as hangers because they are used to hang crystals from chandeliers. The following

instructions refer to them as connectors. They may be gold or chrome plated and are available with the front or exposed part in the shape of a bow tie, an elongated triangle, or a simple narrow diamond. They range in size from 8 mm to 17 mm. The “legs” of these connectors are usually about 8 mm in length but they are also available with extra-long legs (16 mm).

To connect two stones using chandelier parts, insert one of the connector legs into



1



2



3



4



Fun fact

Sew-on stones are a type of rhinestone, a term that today refers to glass, crystal, or acrylic stones made to simulate diamonds. Originally, rhinestones were rock crystals gathered from the river Rhine. In the late 1700s, Alsatian jeweler Georg Friedrich Strass invented the man-made rhinestone, which is why you'll sometimes find rhinestones referred to as "strass."



a hole of a sew-on stone with the front of the connector aligned with the front of the stone (photo 3).

Holding the stone in one hand, grab the tip of the leg with pliers, and bend the leg toward the back of the connector (photo 4). To be sure the tip of the leg is touching the back of the connector, you may have to squeeze it gently with chainnose or flatnose pliers. Be sure the sew-on stone moves freely in the connector loop. Attach another stone to the other leg of the connector.

In some cases, the legs may be too long and you may need to shorten them by clipping off about 1–2 mm with wire cutters. *

Diane Fitzgerald is a Swarovski Elements Ambassador and is currently working on her ninth book, *Diane Fitzgerald's Favorite Projects*. Learn more at dianefitzgerald.com.

materials

diamond leaf necklace 17½ in. (44.5 cm)

- 17 10 x 9 mm diamond leaf sew-on stones (Art. 3254, olivine)
- 18 12 mm brass hangers (goldtone)
- clasp

divine rock necklace 16½ in. (41.9 cm)

- 15 19 x 13 mm divine rock sew-on stones (Art. 3257, red magma)
- 16 12 mm brass hangers (goldtone)
- clasp

rectangles and dangles necklace 16 in. (41 cm)

- 15 18 x 13 mm rectangle sew-on stones (Art. 3250, jet hematite)
- 16 12 x 4 mm metal drops (goldtone)
- 16 11 mm 4-prong clips with top prong of each clipped off and filed (goldtone)
- clasp

navette necklace 16½ in. (41.9 cm)

- 12 12 x 6 mm navette sew-on stones (Art. 3223, jet)
- 11 12 x 6 mm navette sew-on stones (Art. 3223, metallic light-gold foiled)
- 24 10.5 mm brass bow-tie hangers (goldtone)
- clasp

square/oval/cosmic necklace 17 in. (43 cm)

- 4 22 mm square sew-on stones (Art. 3240, crystal dorado)
- 2 26 x 21 mm cosmic sew-on stones (Art. 3265, crystal golden shadow)
- 3 24 x 17 mm oval sew-on stones (Art. 3210, crystal copper)
- 2 14 mm rivoli sew-on stones (Art. 3200, jet nut)
- 22 8 x 3 mm pinch bails (goldtone darkened with liver of sulfur)
- 12 4 mm jump rings
- clasp

All sew-on stones by Swarovski Elements. Pinch bails available at firemountaingems.com and riogrande.com. Brass hangers from chandelierparts.com. Check local bead stores for all other supplies.

tools & supplies

- Stringing Toolbox, p. 109



Instant style. To make super-easy earrings, attach a pinch bail to a top-drilled pendant, and attach the loop of the bail to an earring finding.