

Peas In A Pod Pendant

By Alisa Gannon

This pendant is a nice customizable piece that is not very difficult. You will be making your own template for a piece that you truly designed yourself.

The pendant has many uses. It makes a great gift for friends, bridesmaids, and mothers. It looks best with 2 to 4 pearls. I prefer the Swarovski Crystal Pearls. And they come in so many colors you can make a pendant for a mother using pearls to represent the children's birthstones. It is also lovely in the dark green as shown, white, or your favorite color. You might need to make quite a few of these once your friends and family members see it so let's get started!



Materials List

- 22 gauge sterling silver sheet
- Desired amount of 6mm faux pearls (or genuine if you prefer) in your desired color(s)
- 4 and ½ inches of 22 gauge sterling silver wire
- 5 or 6 mm sterling silver jump ring
- Sterling silver chain -18 inches recommended

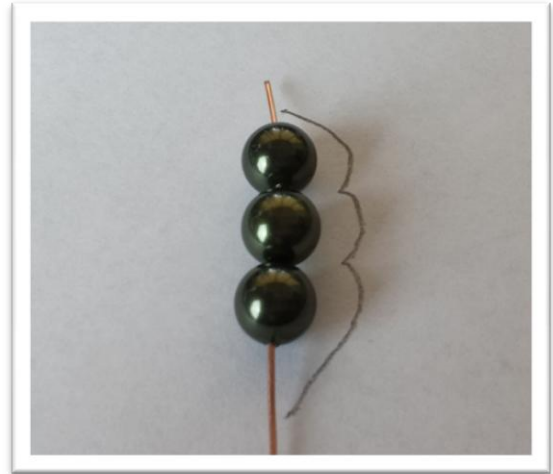
Tool List – Don't forget Safety Glasses!

- Paper and pencil
- Rubber cement or glue stick
- Jeweler's saw and 4/0 blades
- Needle files
- Sandpaper
- White paste flux
- Torch setup
- Pickle solution
- Safety glasses
- WUBBERS Looping Pliers
- WUBBERS Baby Bent Chain Nose Pliers
- WUBBERS Classic Round Nose Pliers
- Drill bits- 1mm and approximately 1.5mm (3/16") and drilling device
- Polishing setup of your choice
- Toothpick
- Lubricant for saw blades and drill bits such as Bur-Life

Step One

Place your desired number of pearls on a scrap piece of wire and set them on the paper. Then draw your desired shape on one half. You will need a little space above and below the pearls. I recommend coming out about half the height of the pearls. You can have the pod gently curve in around the pearls as I did if you wish.

Fold the paper in half lengthwise along the midpoint and cut it out to make your template.



Step Two

Place the pearls on the template. Wrap the sides up slightly and make sure you like the look. Tweak it if needed and you are ready to move on.



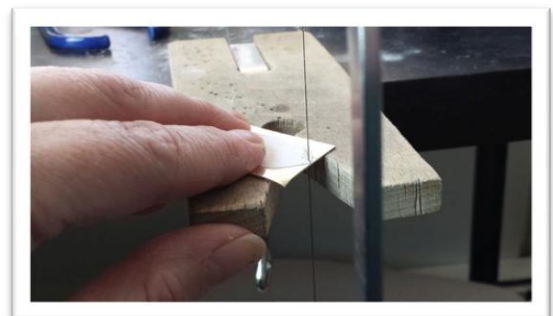
Step Three

Glue or rubber cement on the back of the template and a little on the piece of silver and attach. Let it dry for approximately 5 minutes.



Step Four

Using the jeweler's saw and lubricated preferred blade carefully cut out the piece. I like to use 4/0, it may take a little longer, but you'll get a nice, clean cut.



Step Five

Keeping the template on, refine the edges with a needle file, and then sandpaper.



Step Six

Use a center punch or a small nail and a hammer to mark 2 spots on the piece. One near the bottom for the wire to come through. And one near the top for the jump ring.



Step Seven

Remove your template and drill your holes. Use the 1mm bit for the bottom hole and 3/16" bit for the top one. Remember to lubricate your drill bit.



Step Eight

You will now need to anneal the piece to make it easier to bend.

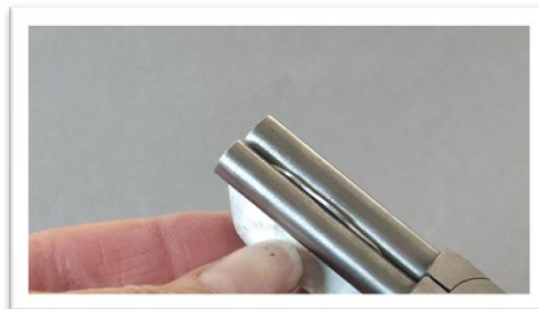
Apply white paste flux to both sides of the piece to prevent firescale. Use the torch to heat the piece to a light pink color and hold it there for about 30 seconds being careful to not melt it. If it starts to approach cherry red, pull back the heat for a moment.

Let cool for a few seconds, then quench, pickle, rinse, and dry.



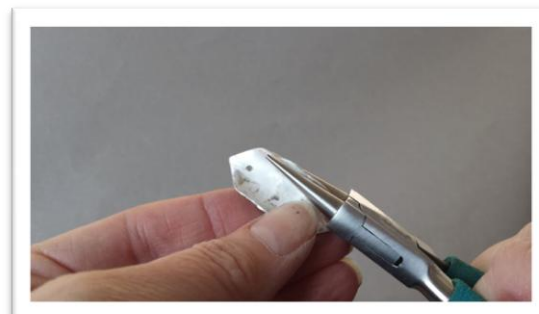
Step Nine

Using Wubbers Looping Pliers, bend each side of your piece up-into a boat-like shape.



Step Ten

Use the Wubbers Round Nose Pliers to refine the edges if needed.



Step Eleven

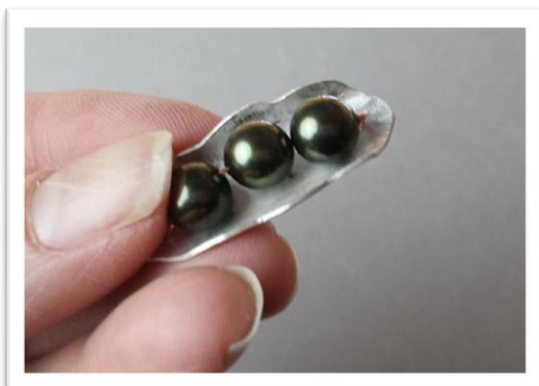
Check that you are pleased with the shape. Refine with a file if needed. I decided to round off my ends as you can see in the next photo.



Step Twelve

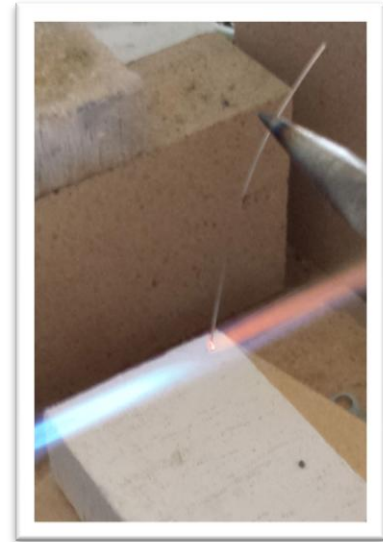
Place your pearls on the wire in the piece and check the fit and appearance.

Then polish as desired. I used the lazy jeweler's polisher-my rotary tumbler.



Step Thirteen

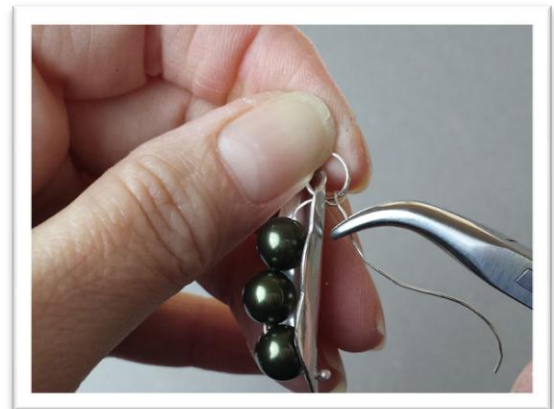
Hold the piece of 22 gauge silver wire with old pliers and place the end just beyond the inner cone of the flame. As soon as the end balls up, pull it out of the flame. You don't need a large ball, just a little over a millimeter. Then quench, pickle, rinse and dry.



Step Fourteen

Add a jump ring to the top hole in the piece.

Thread the wire through the back of the bottom hole, then add the pearls. Keep it fairly taut and thread the wire down the top hole. Then use the Wubbers Bent Chain Nose Pliers (I prefer the baby ones) to wrap the wire twice around the bottom of the jump ring.



Step Fifteen

Use the bent nose pliers again to wrap the tail around a toothpick to make a tendril. Pull the toothpick out then pull on the tendril and adjust with your fingers so it isn't too tight or "perfect". Your tendril can hang down the side or face upwards-however you like it.



Step Sixteen

Hang your charming pendant from a chain of your choice and it is ready for you to enjoy or to give as a gift to be cherished.



Review Questions

- 1) Designing your own jewelry pieces is difficult and should only be done by advanced jewelers.
 - a) True
 - b) False
- 2) What color pearls should you use for this project?
 - a) Only white
 - b) Whatever you like
 - c) Only green
- 3) Why do we anneal metal?
 - a) To make it shinier
 - b) To work-harden it
 - c) To make it softer and easier to work with
- 4) Why do we ball up the end of the wire?
 - a) So it will be held in place on the piece
 - b) Because it looks pretty
 - c) To soften the wire
- 5) Who could you make this pendant for?
 - a) Your friends
 - b) Your mother
 - c) Bridesmaids
 - d) All of the above