

## Totally Teardrops Necklace (or Bracelet!)

By Jill Wiseman

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### Necklace Supply List

- Top-Drilled Teardrop Beads, 6x9mm – Qty: up to 114, depending on your desired length
- Crystal Bicones, 6mm – Qty: 4
- Crystal Bicones, 4mm – Qty: 4
- Hammered Metal Rings, 13mm – Qty: 2
- Toggle Clasp (or clasp of your choice) – Qty: 1
- Soft Flex Beading Wire, .019 diameter, for the back of the necklace – Qty: 24"
- Soft Flex Beading Wire, .014 diameter, for the weaving – Qty: 28 to 36"
- 2mm Tube Crimps – Qty: 6
- Crimp Covers – Qty: 6 (Optional)



### Tools needed

- Crimping Pliers
- Wire cutters

I first taught this project over 17 years ago, so bringing it back is like reconnecting with an old friend and finding out you still like each other a lot! The original project was a bracelet, and you certainly can still make it into one by attaching your woven teardrops to a clasp instead of the hammered metal rings included for the necklace design. For those of you who are bead weavers, this is the same technique as two needle right angle weave.

Regarding teardrop bead sizes – you'll generally find 6x9mm, 5x7mm, and 4x6mm available. This technique works with any of those sizes, but the quantity of beads you'll need will increase as the size gets smaller.



**YouTube Class Video Link**

<https://youtu.be/QwBmTKFRj5M>

## Getting Started

### Step 1

Start with the Soft Flex Beading Wire in .014 (Fine). I've included 36" in the kit. You'll end up with some left over, but that way you definitely won't run out. You can't add beading wire later.

Pass the beading wire through one of the hammered metal rings, and center it. Then string a crimp over both ends of the wire and bring it up to the ring. You want it to not be so loose there's a giant loop showing, but you do need to leave it loose enough for the ring to move freely.

Using your crimping pliers, crimp down.

I prefer the Magical Crimping Pliers that make your crimp look like a round bead, but you'd need one model for the .014 beading wire, and a different one for the .019 beading wire. I've included crimp covers if you'd like to hide your crimps underneath them at the end of the project.

### Step 2

I like to put a few smaller beads at the ends of the bracelets so I can use the clasp more easily – it's also a decorative touch! If you have sticky-outy teardrop beads right up to the end, it can be hard to hold on to as you're trying to put your bracelet on. Additionally, if you're using a toggle clasp, you need to be able to pull the bar end of your toggle through the round end of the toggle slightly, and the teardrops will get in the way.

String a 4mm bicone and then a 6mm bicone over both ends of the wire and snug them up to the crimp.



## Weave the Teardrops

### Step 3

Now we get to start bead weaving with the ends of beading wire!

Pick up 3 teardrops on one wire, and then 2 teardrops on the other wire.

Take the end from the wire with only two teardrops on it, and insert it from the bottom to the top through the 3<sup>rd</sup> bead on the other wire. Your wires will cross over inside it, and that 3<sup>rd</sup> bead will become your middle bead.

You'll want your center teardrop to be pointing up – this will become more important as you move along and need to make sure all your center teardrops are pointed in the same direction, because they will try to wiggle around on you.

You can try to direct the sets of teardrops on the side too. I usually make the back ones point up and the front ones point down – but you can also do the reverse, OR just let them do what they want for a more random look.

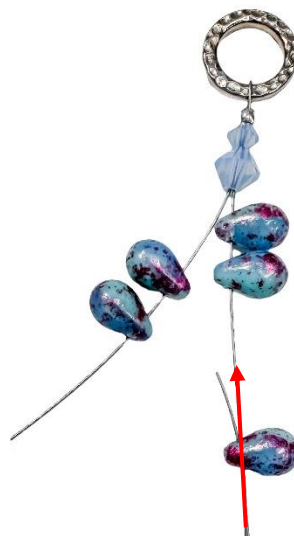
Pull nice and tight at the end of each set for a firm tension.

### Step 4

Repeat Step 3 until you're at the length you desire. Don't forget to factor in the end beads, crimp, and hammered rings. I usually try to alternate which side I put the 3 beads on to make sure you don't accidentally end up with any twisting as you go along.

In most of my samples I used 114 beads total, but you can make the teardrop woven section smaller if you prefer.

**On the last set of beads, you'll put only two teardrops on each wire.**



## End the Teardrop Section

### Step 5

String a 6mm bicone and then a 4mm bicone over both ends of the wire, and snug it up against the teardrops.

String a crimp over both ends of the wire, and then take one wire (not both) and pass it through the second hammered ring and then back down through the crimp bead. If you can, pass it through the bicones too, but if not, then snug it all up against the bicones.

Make sure you've left enough room for the hammered ring to move freely in the beading wire loop. You'll probably have to fiddle with this a bit to get it all sitting just right. One beading wire will be exiting the top of the crimp and the other will be exiting the bottom of the crimp.

Use your crimping pliers to crimp down when you're happy with how everything is sitting. Trim the ends of the beading wire.



## Make the Back of the Necklace

### Step 6

Using the .019 Soft Flex Wire, cut the length supplied in the kit in half. The exact length needed depends on how long you want your necklace to be. You'll need a few inches extra on each side to attach crimps on both ends on each side.

String a crimp on one end of the beading wire and pass it through the hammered ring, then back through the crimp again. Leaving about a 15mm (1/2 inch) tail, use your crimping pliers to crimp down.

String on a 6mm bicone and then a 4mm bicone and make sure they cover the tail.

### Step 7

Repeat on the other side with the second beading wire.



**Step 8**

On each of the remaining ends of the beading wire, string on a crimp and then pass the beading wire through the end of your clasp, and back through the crimp. Do this on both sides and do NOT crimp down yet.

Now go try it on. You still have time to adjust the length of the necklace right now. Make sure the ends are even so the teardrop section is centered as you wear it.

Once you are happy with the length, then you can crimp down on both crimps, trim the beading wire ends off, and that's it!

It's that easy – and that versatile. Try using this technique with crystals, top-drilled pearls (you would need to use .010 Soft Flex or Soft Touch with pearls), or different sizes of teardrops, really, any type of beads. Mix it up and use different sized teardrops for a funky look.



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