

Upcycled Jewelry

14 DIY Projects

from Recycled Materials

ALLFREEJEWELRYMAKING



Upcycled Jewelry: 14 DIY Projects from Recycled Materials

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Letter from the Editors

Hey Jewelry Fans,

If you're on a budget or just trying to be thrifty, then you know all about recycled, upcycled, and repurposed crafts. This collection of amazing jewelry projects is centered on these types of projects. From repurposing recycled jewelry tutorials to trash-to-treasure projects, you are sure to find a way to create beautiful works of art from scraps and leftovers. You'll have a lot of fun making something wonderful out of little more than nothing.

Upcycled Jewelry: 14 DIY Projects from Recycled Materials will save you from throwing out those bits and pieces of fabric or old scarves. They will have you seeing hardware in new light. By printing out this free eBook, you will have an amazing resource for the best DIY jewelry crafts around. Save these projects for a rainy day and turn something boring into something dazzling.

You can find more tutorials, tips, and jewelry making ideas at www.AllFreeJewelryMaking.com. Our eBooks, like all our jewelry making projects, are absolutely FREE to members of our jewelry making community. Please feel free to share with family and friends and ask them to sign up at our Web site for our [free e-mail newsletter](#).

Happy creating!

The Editors of AllFreeJewelryMaking

www.AllFreeJewelryMaking.com

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Trash-into-Treasure Recycled Jewelry Tutorials

Eggshell Mosaic Bracelet

By: Adrienne from [Happy Hour Projects](http://www.happyhourprojects.com)

If you need a change of pace when browsing patterns for bracelets, the Eggshell Mosaic Bracelet may be just what you're looking for. This DIY bracelet is so beautifully crafted that no one would ever guess it was made from eggshells. With the help of this tutorial, you'll learn how to make bracelets with that unusual material, as well as how to use dimensional glaze and inks to polish your egg crafts. Once you've made one of these bracelets, you'll never look at cracked eggs the same way again.



Materials:

- Polymer clay, roller, cutters, etc. to make your base
- Egg shell – one egg covered three bases, just to give you an idea
- Dimensional Glaze (like Mod Podge Dimensional Magic or Glossy Accents)
- Alcohol Ink(s)
- Toothpicks

Instructions:

1. Soak your eggshells in hot water for about an hour. Remove the membrane from the inside of the shell.



2. To make your bases, roll the clay out to 1/4" and cut it into the shape(s) you want. Now is a good time to use a toothpick to make a hole for your pendant or bracelet link. You'll want to follow the package directions for baking time; every brand is different.



3. Add a layer of dimensional glaze to your base. Squeeze some on, and spread it around with a toothpick to get all the way out to the edges.



4. Crush up some eggshell. Sprinkle it into the base to get started, and then use your toothpick to move the pieces around to your liking. Let it dry for a few hours (or overnight).



5. Once dry, sand down any rough edges (and clean out the hole if you managed to get glaze in there).
6. Add a few drops of alcohol ink to the shell-top you've created. You can use a paintbrush for a more subtle, even look, or if you drip it on it will settle into the cracks for more contrast.



7. Once the ink is dry, add another coat of glaze to make it smooth instead of bumpy. Allow to dry for a few more hours.
8. Attach a chain of your choosing to the piece. You may need jump rings. You can also add a multi-colored strand of seed beads in coordinating colors.



Recycled CD Necklace

By: Anna Evers from [Plan B](#)

Now that you use your iPod or other portable audio players, what do you do with your old CDs? You can still use your old CDs by making them into a Recycled CD Necklace. This recycled CD craft is super quick and simple, and all you need is your old CDs, glue, and a base. Use CDs that have a different base color to create more interesting and colorful patterns. You can also use this technique on other accessories like earrings, bracelets, and bags.



Materials:

- CD's of different colors
- Foam or felt
- Extra strong glue
- Large craft scissors (do not use you fabric scissors)
- Locks and a thin chain with two rings



Instructions:

1. Cut the foam or felt in a bib shape. If you prefer, you can make a paper template for trying it before on your neck and then use it on the foam to cut a precise shape.



2. Cut CD's creating a composition with identical shapes in pairs or if you prefer all into small pieces with random order.
3. Start pasting from the center out. Work your way out and create a composition on both sides with equal pieces



4. Put a ring at each corner and attach the chain.



Shady Sunglasses Pendant

By: Divya from [Jewels of Sayuri](#)

Get thrifty and make this Shady Sunglasses Pendant. Necklace crafts rarely include instructions on transforming old sunglasses into a pendant. You'll love making this piece. It's easy to put together but looks like it's super complicated. This pendant has a uniqueness to it that you can't find in a store. The jewelry instructions will teach you how to use one of these pendants on its own and how to embellish one. You'll be surprised at your thriftiness by the end of this project.



Materials:

- Spectacle/sunglasses lenses
- Sharp awl/ needle
- Pictures for decoupage or findings
- Decoupage glue and clear varnish



Instructions:

1. Wash and clean your lenses with a soft cloth.
2. On the top (near the conical edge) make a hole for a jump ring or a bail to pass through. This can be done by heating a sharp needle or an awl and piercing a hole on the lenses. This method will work on shell and acrylic lenses only.



3. Attach any finding to the lens to embellish it with the help of a jump ring or eye pin. Your pendant is done.

Blow a Fuse Necklace

By: Cyndi from [Beading Arts](#)

Within this mess of fun colors, would you have ever been able to guess that the main beads are circuit breakers? This Blow a Fuse Necklace is visually stunning and a great way to make unique recycled jewelry.

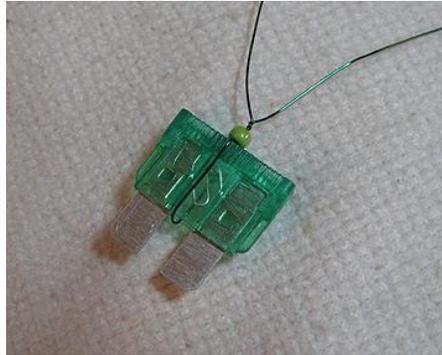


Materials:

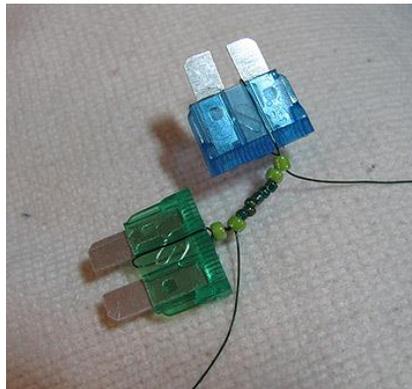
- Fuses of different colors
- 28 gauge colored craft wire
- Seed beads, sizes 11/0 and 8/0
- Beading wire
- 4 crimps
- 4-5 mm round beads
- Magnetic clasp
- Wire cutters
- Flat nose pliers

Instructions:

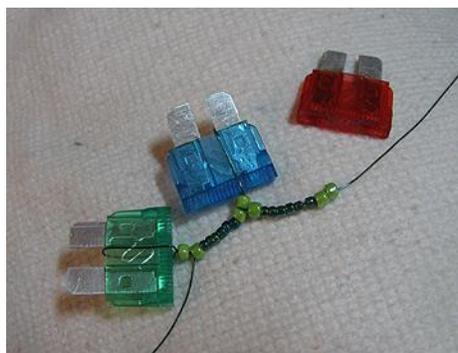
1. Cut off a 5 to 6 foot piece of colored craft wire. In the center of the wire, wrap the first fuse and twist the wire tightly to secure.



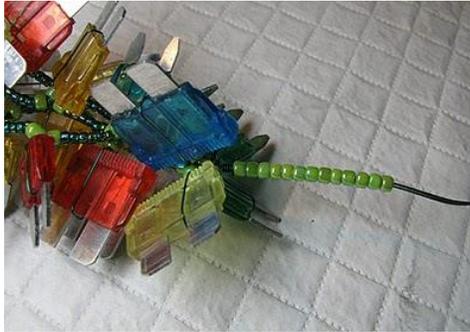
2. Add an 8/0 seed bead over both wires. Bend one wire out of the way and work from the center outward with one wire at a time. On the first wire, add another 8/0 seed bead, 6 11/0 seed beads, and 2 more 8/0 seed beads. Wrap the wire around the next fuse, take the wire down through the top 8/0 seed bead, and wrap the wire around 3 or 4 times to anchor the fuse.



3. Add an 8/0 seed bead, 6 11/0 seed beads, and 2 more 8/0 seed beads. Repeat from step 2 until near the end of the wire, leaving about 4 to 5 inches after wrapping the last fuse.



4. Repeat from the center outward using the other wire. Create several more strands, 4 in total. Twist the strands together.
5. Using 1 of the wires, wrap the ends together on one side. Slide size 8/0 seed beads over all the rest of the wires.



6. Make a loop, wrapping the loose wires to anchor.



7. Cut 2 pieces of beading wire. Use a crimp to make a small seed bead loop through one of the loops you created in step 6. String on beads to finish the strand, crimping it to one half of the clasp. Repeat on the other side of the necklace.



Scrap Metal Daisy Chain

By: Candice Caldwell from [The ReFab Diaries](#)

Aluminum cans seem more like trash than they do treasure. The Scrap Metal Daisy Chain proves that your recycling bin is a great source of inspiration for your next DIY accessory. Using a decorated aluminum beer can, you can create hexagonal charms to hang on a chain. These sweet, yet sassy charms will give one of your favorite florals an edge--literally and figuratively. Experiment with different sizes to craft a set of earrings as well. This is an especially great project for Earth Day.



Materials:

- Chain
- Daisy Cutter Pale Ale aluminum can, empty
- Earring hooks
- Couple of little beads
- Dimensional Magic.

Instructions:

1. Cut open the empty can so that you can lie it flat on a table.
2. Trace a hexagon shape on to the backside of the can, not on the daisy pattern.
3. Make holes. For the earrings, you just need one where you're going to attach the earring hooks. For the pendant, line up the two pieces and then think about how you want them to connect and how you want them to hang.
4. Apply dimensional magic.

Repurposing Recycled Jewelry Tutorials

Simply Striking Braided Scarf Necklace

By: Stacie from [Stars for Streetlights](#)

Go through your collection of old scarves and get ready to make the Simply Striking Braided Scarf Necklace. If you need easy ways to make necklaces and recycle, you'll have to check out this DIY necklace. This simple fabric necklace is an excellent way to upcycle some old scarves that are just waiting to be used. Dig up some old brooches and costume for some easy embellishment, and you'll have a lovely statement necklace in no time.



Materials:

- 3 small scarves of similar size
- Brooch (optional)

Instructions:

1. Start a knot so that you can braid the scarves together. It helps to have one end longer than the other two so that it is easier to tie the necklace later.



2. Once you have your knot, simply braid the scarves together.
3. Add your brooch to the side of the necklace.

Knockoff Rubber Bracelet

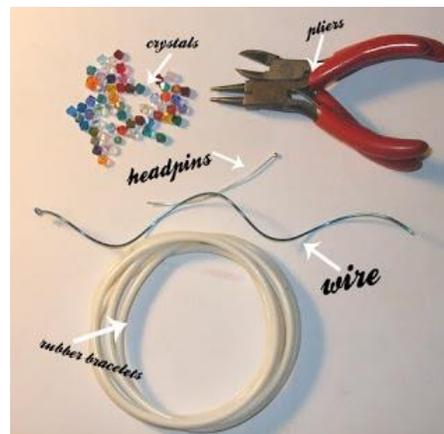
By: Allison from [The Quiet Lion](#)

The Knockoff Rubber Bracelet is the epitome of minimal DIY bracelet elegance--so much so that no one would guess it's recycled jewelry. Basic bracelet trimming rises to designer heights with the help of this tutorial, which focuses on the adorable wire clasps. This simple bracelet pattern is, in fact, so simple that you don't even need to know how to make a bracelet. All you need are some colorful beads and wire, and you'll be ready to step out in designer gear of your own design.



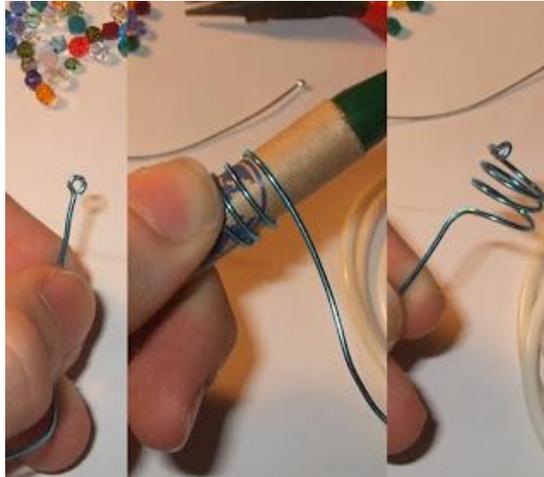
Materials:

- Rubber plastic bracelets (5 per connector)
- Pliers
- Wire (gauge is not important, just make sure it isn't thin and bendy)
- One 5mm crystal bead
- Five 3mm crystal beads
- Headpins
- Jump ring

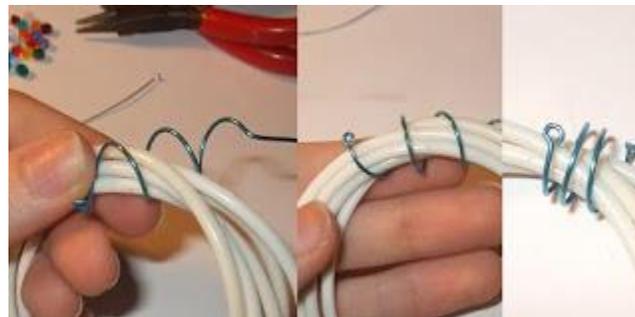


Instructions:

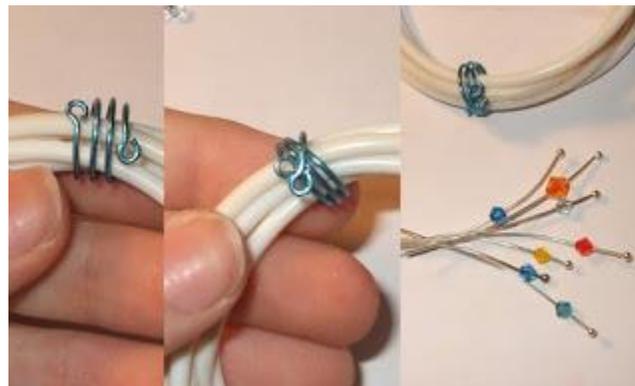
1. Cut about 6" of your wire. Make a small loop at one end. Now, twist your wire around a pen or nail polish brush top a couple of times. Pull off so you have a spiral.



2. Pull on either end of the spiral to loosen it a bit. Place your group of bracelets inside the last notch, and gently twist wire around to thread the bracelets through the entire spiral. Gently push the spiral together again, without losing its shape. The bracelets should be held inside the connector now. The right end (cut off in pic) should be just straight, extra wire.



3. Cut this extra wire on the side and loop the end to look like the first pic. Now, gently bend the one loop over to meet the other one. Get all your beads on headpins.



4. Thread a jump ring through both loops and shut the ring. Attach all your beads to this jump ring in the order you like.



Instead of tossing that plastic in the trash bin, turn it into the latest DIY jewelry trend with these [**Chic Recycled Crafts: 14 Recycled Jewelry Tutorials!**](#)

Recycled Sari and Pearl Earrings

By: Vicki O'Dell from [The Creative Goddess](#)

The rich textured look of the Recycled Sari and Pearl Earrings provides a homemade touch that can only come with DIY earrings. If you're wondering how to make earrings that use fabric without looking clunky, this tutorial is a great example. Using recycled silk sari ribbon, these earrings provide a touch of the exotic for the everyday. No one will believe that the ribbon is recycled, or that the wire is hand-wrapped. It's a good DIY jewelry project to bust stashes of old ribbon in elegant fashion.



Materials:

- Beadalon 24 Gauge Copper
- 2 Coin Pearls
- 2 Potato Pearls
- 2 Copper Headpins
- Copper chain
- Copper earring wires

Instructions:

1. Cut a length of wire 2.5-3 inches long. Use flat nose pliers to shape the loop/triangle that will hold the sari ribbon and then wire wrap it.



2. Add the coin pearl to the wire and then create a wire wrapped loop.



3. Cut a length of sari ribbon, other ribbon or fabric strip and fold in half threading the fabric through the loop/triangle you created.



4. Cut another piece of wire approximately 3 inches long and begin wrapping it around the folded sari ribbon. Leave a "tail" of wire for the next step.



5. Slip a short length of chain onto the wire and then continue wrapping a few more times around the fabric.



6. Put a potato pearl onto a headpin and attach it to the bit of chain with a wire wrapped loop.
7. Cut the sari ribbon to the desired length and then add earring wires.

Necktie Cuff Bracelet

By: Linda from [LindaEve](#)

If you want some cute recycled jewelry that's easy to make and fashionable, you'll love making the Necktie Cuff Bracelets. These DIY bracelets are a delightful way to put old or worn-out ties to good use. So if you've ever fallen in love with a tie pattern without wanting to wear a tie, you'll find this project a useful and easy way to make a bracelet and dress up your outfits. If you're feeling extra crafty, why not dig through your button stash for some cute embellishment?



Materials:

- Skinny necktie end
- Plastic yogurt (or similar) container, washed and sanitized
- Sew-on snap fastener
- Button
- Scissors and/or box cutter
- Cutting/working surface
- Needle and thread

Instructions:

1. First, cut the necktie end to a length that will fit around your wrist with about a one-inch overlap, plus an additional 1/2 inch for hemming. You can make it snug like a wrist cuff, or a little loose like a bangle – it's up to you.



2. Using either scissors or box-cutter, cut your plastic container straight down the side. Cut off the top lip and the flat bottom.



3. Cut out a 1-inch wide strip (wider or narrower to suit the width of your necktie end).



4. Feed the plastic strip into the necktie, between the lining and the front of the tie (the underside of the tie is usually stitched to the lining, so you can only feed it in at the front). Once it's all the way in, trim the excess plastic strip as needed to allow for hemming the tie.



5. Turn the raw end of the tie to the inside, pin it, and sew. If you still have a bit of plastic sticking out of the tie at the pointed end, trim it down so that it's all tucked away and hidden.



6. Sew on your snap fastener to fit the way you like. Opposite the snap, sew a decorative button to the outside.



Industrial Neon Bracelet

By: Simone Collins for AllFreeJewelryMaking.com

Even though dainty and darling bracelets are always in style, sometimes it is fun to find a new twist on a classic tradition. This Industrial Neon Bracelet combines the elements of a delicate ribbon, metal washers, and bold colors to create a lovely, modern jewelry piece that you can make for under two dollars. The beautiful fuchsia and turquoise hues are vibrant and bright, and complement the strong, industrial look of the metal washers. Learn how to make a bracelet that is edgy, yet feminine with this printable tutorial for a thrifty homemade bracelet.



Materials:

- Design Master Color Tool Spray – Fuchsia Bright
- Design Master Color Tool Spray – Turquoise
- Mod Podge – Gloss
- Ten metal washers in two sizes
- Sponge brush
- Ribbon
- Fiskars Amplify Scissors

Instructions:

1. Spray paint washers with the Design Master Color Tool Spray with three coats to ensure full coverage. Allow each coat to dry before applying the next one.
2. Use a sponge brush to apply a coat of Mod Podge to the washers to seal the color and add a texture. Brush on smooth for a slick finish. Pounce the Mod Podge to create a textured look on the turquoise colored washers. Allow to dry completely.
3. Repeat the Mod Podge application two times to ensure it is sealed.
4. Cut a 15" piece of coordinating ribbon using the Fiskars Amplify Scissors to ensure a clean cut.
5. Thread the ribbon through the washers to create a layered look.
6. To wear the bracelet tie in place with a bow.

Hex Nut Honeycomb Jewelry

By: Stephanie from [Henry Happened](#)

Sweet as honey, this DIY jewelry set makes a wonderful gift for someone special. There's no need to tell that the Hex Nut Honeycomb Jewelry set is made from the hex nuts found at the local hardware store, because it's hard to guess from the polished look of the finished set. With this tutorial, you'll learn how to make a bracelet, earrings, and a necklace. And when you find out how easy it is to make, you'll want to make two sets, one to give and one to keep for yourself.



Materials:

- Gold chain
- Gold hex nuts –size 8 or 10
- E-6000 glue
- 4 gold jump rings
- Lobster clasp
- Jewelry pliers

Instructions:

1. Using E-6000, glue the hex nuts together into a honeycomb shape. Let it dry completely – overnight is best. Once it's dry, you are ready to add the chain.



2. Measure your wrist with the chain and cut the amount you need. Then cut it in half.
3. Attach a jump ring to one end of each piece of chain. Then put it on the hex nut and close. (Note: you can also do this step before gluing the honeycomb shape.)
4. Double check the length of your bracelet and adjust the length if needed. Then add a jump ring to one end and the lobster claw to the other. And you're done!



Upcycling Recycled Jewelry Tutorials

Painted Color Pattern Necklace

By: Jenelle from [Nelle Creations](#)

Looking for a way to dress up an old chain? Try this tutorial for a Painted Color Pattern Necklace. Simple and fun. This DIY necklace project is great for beginners, and for jewelry makers in need of a quick project. This upcycled necklace takes less than ten minutes to make. Plus, you pick any two colors you like to make this pretty DIY jewelry piece. Silver and gold are staples, but sometimes, you need an extra burst of color in your life, and you can get it with this homemade necklace project.



Materials:

- Gold chain
- Acrylic paint
- Small paint brush

Instructions:

1. Simply and carefully paint each link.

Diamond Jubilee Necklace

By: Jennifer and Kitty O'Neil from ONeilSisters.com

Learn how to make a necklace fit for the opera with this glamorous Diamond Jubilee Necklace tutorial! This upcycled necklace project uses vintage clip-on earrings and mismatched gold and silver buttons in a totally new capacity. This is a true gem of a necklace design.



Materials:

- 21 (8-mm) pearls
- 18 vintage rhinestone and crystal clip-on earrings
- 18 gold and silver metal shank buttons
- Silver-plated filigree findings, round, 15 mm
- 9 silver-plated filigree findings, round, 22 mm
- Silver-plated wire, 24 gauge, 84"
- 42 (4 mm) clear crystal bicone beads
- 12 mm crstazzi crystal floral clasp, silver
- Wire cutters
- Round-nosed pliers
- Chain-nosed pliers or wire straightener
- Beacon Adhesives Quick Grip glue

Instructions:

1. If your filigree findings have a curved surface, flatten them with the wire straightener or chain-nosed pliers. Using the wire cutters, snip the shanks and clips off the backs of the buttons and earrings.
2. Cut a 4" piece of silver-plated wire and feed it through one end of the clasp. Secure with a wrapped loop. Slide one crystal bicone, a pearl, and another crystal bicone onto the wire. Feed the end of the wire through a hole in a small filigree finding and secure with a wrapped loop.
3. Use the same technique to make a bicone and pearl component to connect the small filigree finding to a large one. Continue in this fashion alternating between large and small filigree findings until you have 9 large and 9 small connected by bicone and pearl components.
4. After the last filigree finding, use a bicone and pearl component to connect the necklace to the other end of the clasp.
5. Cover your work surface with newspaper and stretch the necklace out on the paper. Before you start gluing, lay out the earrings and buttons in the order you want them on your necklace. Keep in mind you will use two for each finding, one for the front and one for the back. Use the larger findings for the larger earrings and buttons.
6. Glue the earrings and buttons to the findings using Quick Grip. It is helpful to glue both sides of the filigree finding at the same time, sandwiching the finding between an earring and a button. Let dry. Now put on your little black dress and take your glitzy revamp out for a night on the town!

Painted Seashell Earrings

By: Kristen from [Studs & Pearls](#)

It's time to admit that you need more earrings to make. This Painted Seashell Earrings tutorial is a fine opportunity to learn how to make earrings out of natural deposits from the beach. While learning how to make earrings like these, you can also experiment with natural recyclable crafts. There aren't a ton of earring patterns that have accents of the sea like these do. It's time to add some variety to your jewelry collection.



Materials:

- Seashells
- 2 gold charms
- Jewelry pliers
- Wire cutters
- E6000/super glue
- Pair of earring posts and backings
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint of your choice
- Metallic acrylic paint (that matches your charms)

Instructions:

1. Paint the shells whatever color you'd like, and let dry.



2. Twist the loops off of the charms with the pliers. Use the wire cutters - or the wire cutter part if your pliers have it - to even out the metal.



3. Glue the pieces onto shells.



4. Accent with some metallic paint, if you'd like. Let dry.



5. Glue the earring posts to the back of the shells, and let dry overnight.



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Special Thanks:

- Adrienne from [Happy Hour Projects](#)
- Anna Evers from [Plan B](#)
- Divya from [Jewels of Sayuri](#)
- Cyndi from [Beading Arts](#)
- Candice Caldwell from [The ReFab Diaries](#)
- Stacie from [Stars for Streetlights](#)
- Allison from [The Quiet Lion](#)
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- Jennifer and Kitty O'Neil from [ONeilSisters.com](#)
- Kristen from [Studs & Pearls](#)

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- Jewelry from recycled materials
- Recycled earrings
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