



Falling Leaves Necklace

By Diane Woodall

I just had to share this idea with you! In the December, 2011 issue of the Soda Lime Times, we published a tutorial for making leaf beads. As I prepared for that tutorial, I made a LOT of leaves, and many of them were one-of-a-kind. I tried different silver glass colors, frits and shaping techniques. As a result, I had a stash of one-of-a-kind leaf beads and no idea what I was going to do with them. Then inspiration hit!

This simple necklace takes less than hour to make, and requires the most basic jewelry making tools (two pairs of flat nosed pliers) and 19 leaf beads (though the necklace would still be stunning with fewer leaves). It's so easy to make, you don't need any jewelry making experience to make it.

First, assemble your materials:

- **Chain** (I used inexpensive plated brass chain from Hobby Lobby, but any chain will work. For my necklace, I cut the chain 16" long so that after I added the leaves and clasp, the length would be right. If in doubt, start with a longer length and cut it down later).
- **10mm open jump rings**
- **6 or 8mm jump rings**
- **Clasp of your choice**
- **Leaf beads**



Next, select a large leaf as the center bead. Attach a 10mm jump ring (twist the jump ring open instead or prying it open). Close the 10mm jump ring and then add a 6mm jump ring, but leave it open. Locate the center link of the chain and close the 6mm jump ring on the link. This leaf will be your guide to adding the other leaves so that they all hang straight and line up facing the same direction. (photo left)

Add a 10mm jump ring to each of the remaining leaves, close the jump rings and then arrange them in a pleasing order. (photo right)



To add the remaining leaves, add a 6mm jump ring to each 10mm jump ring and attach them to the chain, skipping one link so that all of the leaves lie properly. You will want to check often to make sure the chain is not twisted or the leaves will not hang correctly.



The last step is adding a clasp of your choice and then you are ready to dazzle the world with your exquisite new necklace!



This tutorial is a free gift to you from the Soda Lime Times. We hope you enjoy it, and please feel free to share it with your friends. A tutorial for making a simple leaf bead can be found in the December 2011 issue of the Soda Lime Times (which is available as a back issue to non-subscribers on Dec. 15th). Monthly subscriptions to the Soda Lime Times are available at <http://www.sodalimetimes.com>.