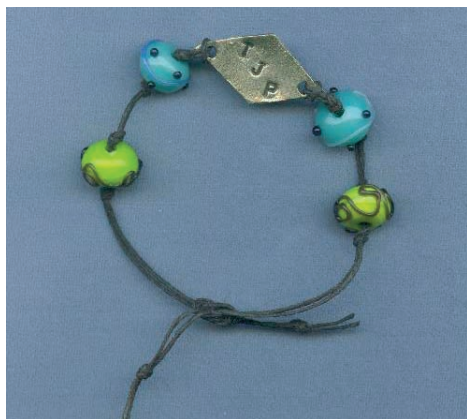




**Figure 7.64**

Remember the wrapped hook clasp directions are available in Chapter 6.

If you'd like an ID bracelet that is a little more colorful, consider adding some bright lampwork beads to hemp or waxed linen cord as pictured in the variation project in Figure 7.65. Waxed linen cord is very easy to work with and very inexpensive. It is a favorite of those who enjoy making macramé jewelry because it holds knots really well. To appeal more to the guys out here, you could vary this same bracelet design but use earth-tone beads instead. A simple mounting knot is used to secure the waxed linen, and overhand knots keep the beads in place. Then you just tie the ends together to secure it to your wrist.



**Figure 7.65**

These fun lampwork beads were made by glass artist D.D. Hess.

## Ribbon Beads

If you are a bead lover, then you will love the fact that you can use metal clay to make your own fine silver beads. These ribbon beads, pictured in the finished necklace in Figure 7.66, are a good place to start if you'd like to make some of your first beads, though of course, there is an infinite number of techniques to make metal clay beads. You will use the metal clay techniques of cutting with a craft knife and wrapping around a straw. While you can fire these with either a torch or hot-pot, I prefer to use a hot-pot for this project because I can fire more than one bead at a time. These beads remind me of ribbon, so I decided to string them up on some beautiful organza ribbon. But, you could combine these with any other beads of your choice as well as use other stringing media such as beading wire.



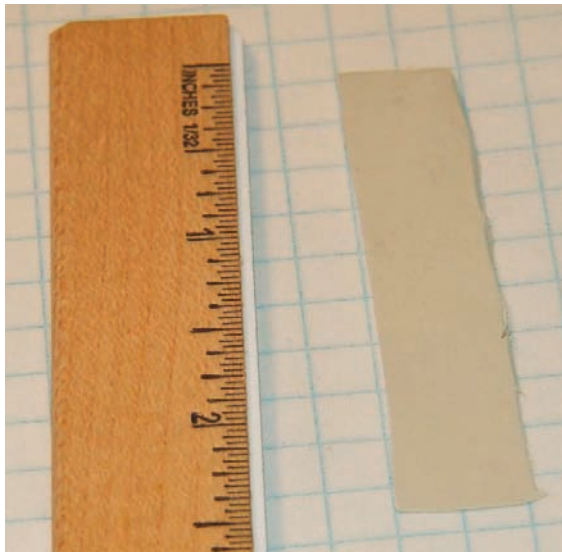
**Figure 7.66**

Ribbon beads are strung on organza ribbon for this easy to make feminine necklace.

You will need the following supplies and materials:

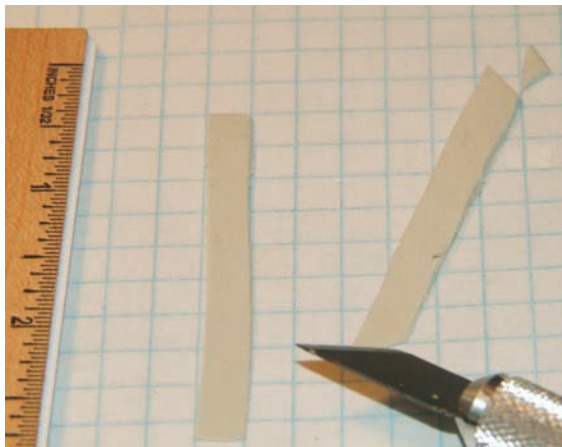
- ▶ **Low-fire metal clay**
- ▶ **Straw**
- ▶ **Craft knife**
- ▶ **Jeweler's file**
- ▶ **Graph paper**
- ▶ **Ruler**
- ▶ **Small paintbrush**
- ▶ **Paste (aka slip)**
- ▶ **2½ feet green organza ribbon trimmed with gold 1½ inch wide**
- ▶ **Book of matches**
- ▶ **Scissors**

1. First, you'll need to make five ribbon beads. Start by rolling out the clay three cards thick onto a plastic paper protector with graph paper inside.
2. With a craft knife and using the lines on the graph paper as a guide, cut out a rectangle of clay that is about 2½ inches long, as shown in Figure 7.67.
3. My graph paper has squares that are ¼ inch wide. Either using your graph paper or a ruler as a guide, cut out ¼ strips of clay, and then cut the ends diagonally as shown in Figure 7.68.



**Figure 7.67**

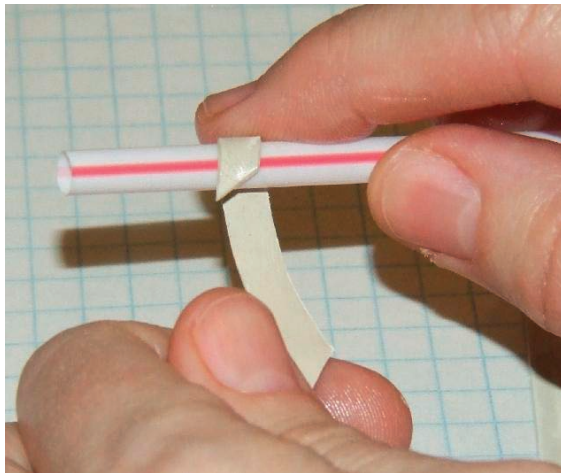
Use the lines on the graph paper to help you cut straight lines in the clay.



**Figure 7.68**

Cut out strips of metal clay.

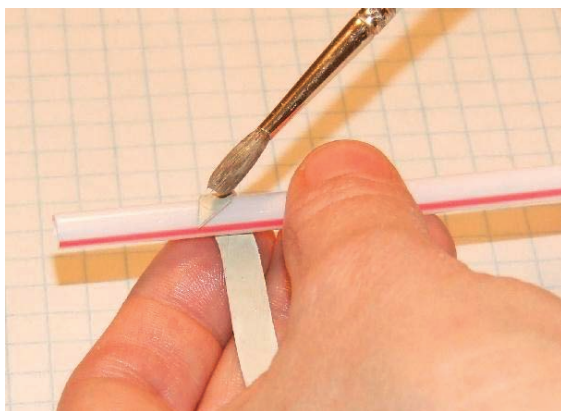
4. Lightly coat a drinking straw with olive oil, and begin to wrap one end of the clay strip onto the straw, as shown in Figure 7.69.



**Figure 7.69**

If the straw is too long to work with comfortably, cut it in half.

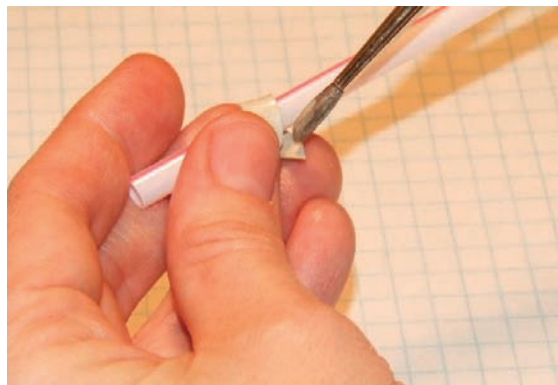
5. With a paintbrush, dab a little paste onto the end of the clay strip as shown in Figure 7.70.



**Figure 7.70**

The paste helps glue the clay together.

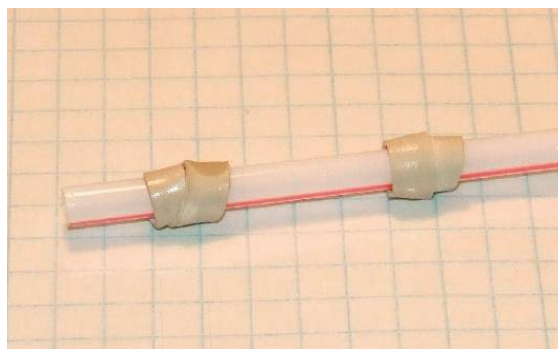
6. Continue to roll the clay around the straw, and then dab some more paste on the other end of the strip and close it up, as illustrated in Figure 7.71.



**Figure 7.71**

Form the clay strip around the drinking straw.

7. Make five more beads, and allow the beads to dry before continuing (see Figure 7.72). Once they are dry, carefully slide them off the straws and fire them.



**Figure 7.72**

This is another time it is helpful to fire them in a hot-pot since you can fire more than one bead at a time.

8. After they are fired, use a jeweler's file to file any rough areas on the ends of the beads and burnish them. This is the one time that I suggest waiting to file until after they are fired because you don't want to handle them too much before firing or you could damage them.



**Figure 7.73**

Make sure the ends are not rough to the touch.

9. It is now time to put your necklace together. With sharp scissors, cut the ends of the ribbon at a diagonal.
10. Then, to ensure the ribbon does not fray on the ends, light a match and quickly run the edges through the flame. Do this for both ends of the ribbon. There are also commercial products that will keep ribbon from fraying, but I find the match technique—if done quickly—works well for creating a seal of sorts on the ends of the ribbon. See Figure 7.74 for an example of how the ends should look.



**Figure 7.74**

Make sure the ends of your ribbon do not fray.

11. Insert one end of the ribbon through a bead, and pull until the bead is positioned in the middle of the ribbon, as shown in Figure 7.75.



**Figure 7.75**

Start adding the beads to the ribbon.

- 12.** Once the bead is in the center, as illustrated in Figure 7.76, tie an overhand knot on either side of the bead.



**Figure 7.76**

Secure the bead in place with knots on either side.

- 13.** Continue to add beads and secure with knots along the ribbon until you have used all six ribbon beads.
- 14.** No clasp is needed. Just put the ribbon around your neck and tie a square knot to secure it.

While this variation on the ribbon beads does not include beads per se, the technique of forming strips of metal clay and wrapping them around something is the same. This time, instead of a straw, you wrap the clay around the ends of these fine silver “V”-style ear wires. Just as in the bead project described earlier, use paste from your slip jar to make the clay stick together. It is also a good idea to coat the ends of the wire with some slip as well to create a little extra stickiness. Because the wires are made from fine silver, they are okay to fire with the clay. Once dried and fired, just clean them up with a bur-nish brush. For a higher sheen, toss them into a polisher.



**Figure 7.77**

Ribbons of metal clay are wrapped around these fine silver jewelry findings.