
Found Necklace with Lisa Coris

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Project Overview

- We are going to take found objects from our drawers, flea markets, thrift stores, maybe even our travels. We're gonna disassemble them and re-create them into unique and one-of-a-kind necklaces much like these.

Chapter 2 - Creating the Necklace

Materials

- So, to make our Found Necklace, we are gonna use a few materials that I recently found at a thrift store. The first one is a coaster, made out of beads. The second one is what I call a granny necklace that I found at a thrift store down the street from me. (beads clattering) And, the third one is an old belt. (belt links clanging) I found these at a thrift store. There's a high probability you may have these lying around your house. We are also going to use an ordinary pair of scissors, some Krazy Glue, some chain that I bought at a bead store but you could clip off of an existing necklace if you're not using one, a clasp, some fishing line and some matches.

Disassembling materials

- So, we have our found materials right here and the first thing we're gonna do is start by disassembling them. It's really important before we disassemble them and actually even more important before we purchase our thrift store items, that we make sure we can disassemble them. For example, we like to look at a necklace, pull the beads apart a little bit and make sure there are some give. (beads tapping) So it appears that all of these items have the give that I need, so I'm gonna start by disassembling the belt. I find that it makes me a bit more sane when I can compartmentalize all of the beads so I'm going to put these in these different containers. (beads tinkling) So we're just disassembling. I think this is about as many of these as I need. I always like to keep them together, when I use them the next time, they're kinda organized. Next we're gonna go to the coaster. Just gonna snip some beads off of there too in the same way. Take these all apart. And then we're gonna take the brand new necklace and disassemble it. Probably would be a little easier to use my scissors so I'll just snip it away. And this is always fun because you just never know what you're gonna get after this. It's just a work in progress, but it can be fun to see where we come out. It's kinda fun to go from where it was to where it will be. I'm already kinda thinking about the order that I'll put these and try to visualize how I'll mix 'em up and really, truly reinvent this old necklace into something new and whimsical and unique. I think that is, we got a few more of these and we should be in good shape. (beads ringing) I think we're good. I also wanted to let you know that some of these necklaces come on wire, not cotton thread. It's just as easy to disassemble these, you simply need wire cutters or very strong scissors so don't let that stop you if they're on wire.

Stringing the necklace

- Now we're ready to begin the process. What I like to do after I'm kinda organized is just have a little bit of a vision as to what I want to make. I like a necklace to always be asymmetrical. I just don't like the predictability of symmetry. That's my way of doing it, but don't let symmetry stop you if you prefer that. And I kind of like something to start skinny, graduate maybe to a thicker bead but

come in and out, just so it has an unpredictable nature to it. So I start with, I'm going to use the fishing line. I just measure it in a very simple way, around my neck and give it a lot of extra line, so that it's not too short. Snip it with the scissors and to keep the beads in place, I like to put the clasp on right off the bat. This is what a lobster clasp looks like, and you can use any kind of clasp you like. In terms of the materials that the clasps are made out of, some are metal, some are silver plated, some are 100% silver. It really all depends on what you prefer. They all work but you have to go with what you're comfortable with. I simply string the lobster clasp through the hole, again giving it a generous amount of line. It's super simple, just make a couple knots and then definitely provide a bunch of extra line. And you will string that line through the beads when you're wrapping up the necklace. And then you're ready to begin. Like I said, I like to start with skinnier beads at the clasp area. I happen to have a few of these white beads around my house, so I'm just gonna start at the end with these white beads. I like to have small beads around the clasp area. It just sometimes makes clasping the necklace when you're done a little easier than having really big, clunky beads. I also have beads and I'd recommend this, that have a kind of larger hole. When you use really, really small beads with really, really small holes it's harder to feed the string through the bead when you're finishing up the project. I recommend slightly larger holes versus very teenie holes. I'm simply going to string about seven of these beads. Don't worry about the extra cord at the end. We'll wrap that up when we're finishing up the necklace. I'm just beading about four more of these, super easy. And now we're gonna go, we're gonna graduate to the next color, which will be our coaster beads. I will put, start beading those and I like that sometimes we have a little bit of extra sting in there. I'll just put a few on the cord. And then add just one of my belt beads, just to mix it up. Another pink bead and really, when people say what is your process? It is doing whatever I feel like doing. There's no real rhyme or reason. I just don't want it to be just pink beads because that's too predictable. So I'm adding a little granny blue bead, a few more of the pink beads, easy breezy. On the other side though, I'll probably just do pink beads, kind of going along with my asymmetry way of doing things. Take a quick look. I like to kind of size it up, see if I like what I'm seeing so far. I think I'm gonna add just two more pink beads and then I'm ready for the big blue beads. Again, part of my process, 'cause I just took a bunch of random beads off that granny necklace, is to just pick up whatever hits my finger. There's really no rhyme or reason. I just don't want to do it in a predictable, symmetrical way. Let's do maybe bigger, smaller, a big one. Maybe another big one, you get the idea. Let's try to do this quickly, which I also want to say is a quick process. It's not that time consuming. Almost the more time consuming thing is sizing it up and holding it up to your neck and realizing you don't love it, and starting again. That's what takes more time, but sometimes it's just fun to just go with it. So I really am just putting this in any order that I see coming into my hands. I'm gonna do three more little guys. We're almost done and then again, all along I kind of just like to hold it up, see what I like and sometimes admittedly, I'll take it apart while I'm making it if I don't like what I'm seeing. So here we go, just kind of a reinvention of that granny necklace is starting to come into play. Here you go, just kind of an unpredictable ordering of the old necklaces we just took apart from the granny necklace. Then we're gonna go back to creating a little balance with the pink beads again. So I'm just gonna string some more of my old coaster onto the granny beads and despite what I said about being all pink, I'm just gonna mix it up and add some of my belt, maybe three of these or four of these in a row. Again, the process just always changes whenever I'm doing this. Sometimes I'm dealing with a lot more beads, sometimes less, but I like to just not be too-- I don't want to think about it too much. I just like to do whatever moves me at the moment, and you should, too. So we're almost done. I'm gonna hold it up again to see how I'm liking it. I'm liking what

I'm seeing so far, and then from an even Steven standpoint I do like the pink beads to be a little even, so I'm gonna add one more to even that out. Then we're graduating back to those clear beads that I had at home just to kind of wrap it up. We're almost done. We have to be, 'cause I only have three beads left, and that is often what dictates, by the way, how I make these. Sometimes I literally run out of beads. So I have to work with what I have. I can't make something out of nothing, and so I have that. Gonna hold it up again. Pleased with that. So the next step will be to add the chain. Like I said, you don't have to use chain that you bought. You can use chain from an old necklace or you can even use what's called a jump ring, which is a big piece of metal to clip your clasp to. I like the chain because it gives me a lot of freedom to wear the piece very long, very short, or somewhere in between. It doesn't make me, force me into making any decision in advance as to how long I want the necklace to be. I will say in advance, I do like to just give it a little bit of a test drive, make sure it's about the right length. I always just put it around my neck quickly. I'll take this chain, which has generous holes in it, just throw that in there, feed it through the fishing line. Now one good thing to consider when you're doing this is when you are putting the chain on the cord or whatever material you're using is instead of pulling this really tight by the end bead, you give it a little bit of space, maybe about that much. I don't know, a centimeter or half a centimeter. As best you can, just tie a knot, super easy. But again, by giving that a little bit of space, it makes it-- That looseness gives the necklace when it goes around your neck a little bit of a better flow. I'm gonna just give this a little bit of a pull, just a simple knot and before we do a second knot, I'm gonna go back and now I'm actually gonna revisit the beginning of this necklace at the lobster clasp. I'm gonna take this tail that we had floating around at the beginning and I'm going to feed that tail through the beads, these clear beads, whatever beads you want to use, just to hide it, just to hide the extra cord. It's as simple as that, nothing more. I'll just leave it like that. We're gonna clip that off and tend to it later, but that is-- We just want to make sure that that's hidden before we go back here again. It also helps to have a little bit of excess material to be able to do the feeding. I'm going back to where the chain is and where I did that first knot, I'm just gonna do a second knot. This time we're almost done and everything's in a good place, so it shouldn't be very challenging, and now we have a really big tail. And we're gonna do the same thing. We're just gonna hide this tail into these beads. So I'm gonna clip off some of this tail 'cause it's too long with my scissors. We're just gonna feed that back in, just like we did on the other side. It doesn't have to be an exact or precise process. Just do the best you can and again emphasizing the bigger the hole for these beads, the better. Otherwise it can sometimes be a struggle to get your cord into the hole of the bead. Okay, we're all done. We've pulled this through the beads and we're ready to wrap this up. We're gonna take our scissors. We're just gonna clip our tail right here. I like to take some matches and very quickly burn the edge of the fishing line because sometimes this can stick out and rub against your neck. I'm just gonna take some matches, give it a little strike, and just give it a really fast-- We're gonna just kiss the cord really fast so it creates a little ball at the top. Now we have a soft tip to the cord. So we're gonna feed this cord into the last bead, kind of hide it in there, and because it has a little burned tip, should it pop out at some point it won't rub our neck in the wrong way. Now we're just gonna go to the other end of the necklace right here and do the same thing. Super easy. We are gonna give it a little snip, take our matches. I always like this part 'cause I just know as soon as I burn this, I'm done. The creation has been made. Give it a little quick, quick, quick burn, and same thing. Just feed it through the big bead, push those down. Viola, a necklace has been born and I find the funniest part about this that not only has it been fun to make and it was easy to make, and I think it looks pretty good, but it's also from a granny necklace, a coaster, and an old belt. I love the stories behind things.

There you go. Add it to your other ones and you got yourself a big neck presentation.

Chapter 3 - Conclusion

Examples of other found materials

- So now that we've completed our coaster, belt, granny necklace necklace, I wanted to talk about some other inspirational pieces that I find when I go treasure hunting at thrift stores or flea markets, or wherever it may be, garage sales. So where people see things as one thing, I tend to look at everything as a new necklace. Starting kind of simply, here is a new necklace. Not too bad, but I still think it has a lot more life to it. I may take off the chains, use the chains on one of my necklaces, maybe take off this link, use it for something else. A very typical find in any garage sale or thrift store is a old wooden necklace, kind of a male's surfer necklace. These are great for disassembling and using these little beads on the ends, much like we just used on this necklace that I'm wearing now. Here is kind of a funny idea, I go to a lot of estate sales, and you often get a big pile in front of you of old earrings, and more often than not, there's only one. Again, to someone else, they may see that as junk. I see a big honking earring like this as a pendant. Here are other examples, and just got this one the other day, kind of excited to use this one. Went to the thrift store the other day, and this is an old bolo beaded pendant. I see it as another necklace piece. Funnily enough, this came off of a shoe. Again, someone sees a piece of junk, I see a pendant. And last but not least, your typical bangle. Again, I happen to have a lot of these. I don't need anymore, but I think this could be a very impressive part of a necklace. So those are some examples of found materials. There are so many. I just encourage you to look at everything through a different filter whenever you go to one of these types of places, thrift store, flea market, garage sale. Don't see it as junk, see it as something you can use on your necklace if that's what moves you. Another thing that I like to talk about is the inspiration of how I put things together. I don't like to put, necessarily, very predictable colors together. Sometimes how I put things together is determined by literally what I find. So, for example, I just threw together today, the coaster, the belt, and the granny necklace, and those were the colors that they were, and I like to play with what I found, and kind of let that dictate the look of the necklace. This is kind of a funny one, I was looking at my table the other day, and my son had been playing with his cars, and there were two of these little guys left over. He had neglected to put these away, and I was staring at them, and I liked the pink with the brown, and kind of some shiny materials, and after staring at these for a little while, I just pulled together this necklace using the same colors just an old metal, brass bangle, a found bead from an old necklace, and some brass beads that I picked up at the bead store. So you never know where you'll get your inspiration.