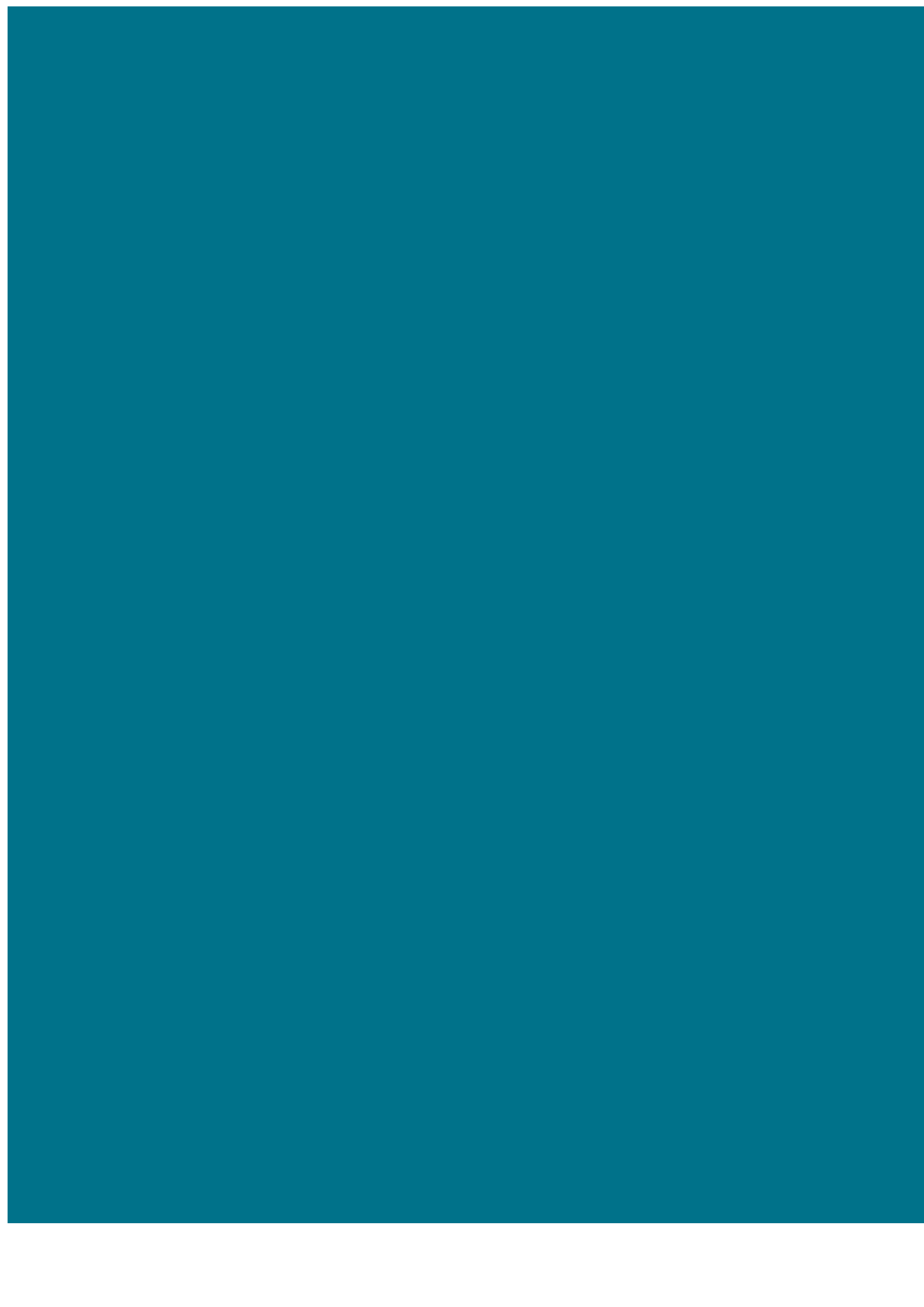




create jewelry  
crystals

Dazzling designs  
to make and wear

Marlene Blessing and Jamie Hogsett  
Editors of *Beadwork* magazine



# Create Jewelry Crystals

*Marlene Blessing and Jamie Hogsett* | Editors of *Beadwork* magazine



## Acknowledgments

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For my niece Melanie, who shines with beauty and intelligence. —MB

For my mom, Gail Kanemoto Hogsett, who always sparkles. —JH



## The Allure of Light

### The Many Facets of Crystal

#### Classic

Arabian Nights

Purely Crystal

Royal Tapestry

Nouveau Riche

Catch a Falling Star

Spring Thaw

A Rani's Paisley

#### Special-Occasion

Glittery Lariat

Cosmic Jewels

Filigree Drops

Toujours Topaz

Ring of Fire

Crystals in Camelot

#### Fashion-Forward

Brilliant Bangles

Ruby Dreams

Medieval Mood

Blue-Green Reflections

Mystic Crystal

Lush Layers

Azure Treasure

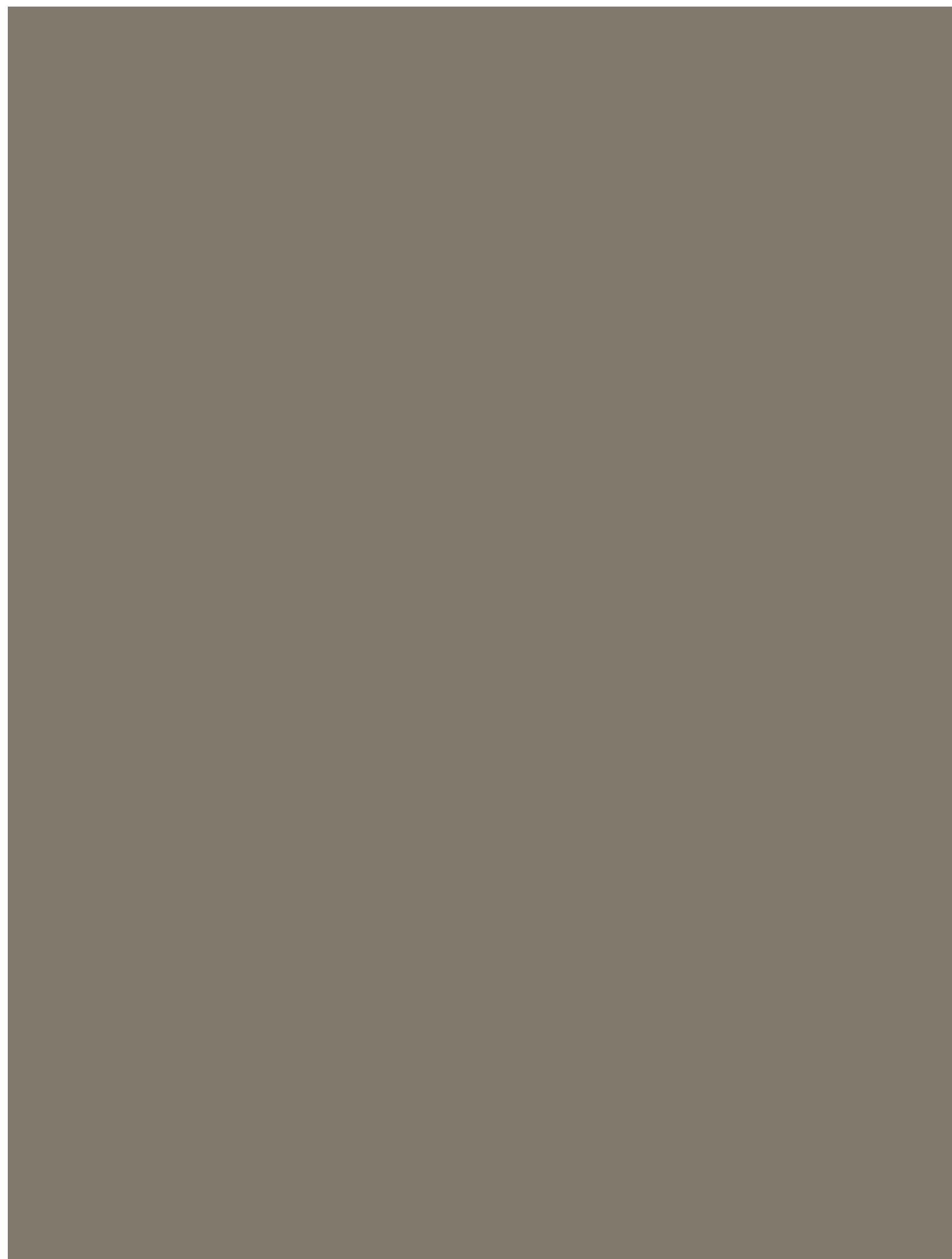
### Techniques and Findings











# The Allure of Light

## A Radiant Favorite

CRYSTALS ARE A SHINING FAVORITE AMONG JEWELRY designers, bead artists, and anyone who can appreciate the radiant beauty of these precious givers of light. Crystals can flash with fiery heat, cast a warm, persistent glow, or make a bold statement with their icy elegance.

No matter what their effect in a jewelry design, crystals captivate us with their gemlike sparkle. Like gems, crystals have played—and continue to play—their part in adorning us. In the Roaring Twenties, flappers achieved razzle-dazzle as they danced with abandon in short dresses dripping with crystal embellishments. Today, wedding dresses, hair pieces, and jewelry are often sprinkled with crystals, illuminating a unique brilliance on a most special day. For celebrities parading their glamorous selves at a red carpet awards ceremony, crystals adorn countless designer gowns, handbags, shoes, and other accessories. These faceted wonders cast a spell on us that is impossible to shake. Is it any surprise that we are entranced by their shimmering delights and want to showcase them in our handmade jewelry?

As you explore the jewelry and the crystal lore in the pages to come, you will find dazzling designs that fit many moods and occasions. You will also learn some fascinating stories along the way, stories that describe the qualities and powers of both natural rock crystal and the many-hued man-made crystals available everywhere. Choose a Classic piece, such as a bracelet of roughly faceted rock crystals or a necklace with Art Nouveau spirit, to express your appreciation of the past. Or find a necklace richly studded with showy asymmetrical topaz crystals to fit your Special-Occasion needs. And for the times when you want to make a Fashion-Forward statement, pick a trio of brightly woven crystal bangles in Caribbean hues. Whatever your style, whatever your creative impulse, dive into the glittering possibilities ahead. As you savor an array of original projects, accompanied by clear instructions and stunning photography, we know you will continue to be inspired to create your own crystal keepsakes.



# The Many Facets of Crystal

## Form and Substance

Every mineral on earth is formed of crystals that combine in unique three-dimensional patterns. What we call rock crystal is a pure form of quartz, completely without coloration and composed of silicon dioxide, or silica ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ). Rock crystal is found in deposits around the world and was used through the centuries as a gemstone for ornamentation and as a substance from which various religious and utilitarian objects were carved. The stone's waterlike clarity, its relative hardness (7 on the Mohs Scale of Hardness—a scale of mineral hardness created by German mineralogist, Friedrich Mohs—compared to a 10 for diamonds), and its abundance made it very desirable to early makers of jewelry and their clients.

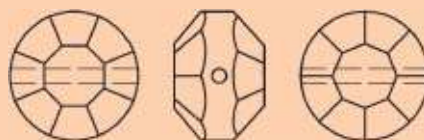


Quartz crystal

Courtesy of Al Braunworth

## Popular Crystal Shapes\*

\* These shape numbers correspond to the numbers in each project's materials list. Please note that not all shapes are included on this chart.

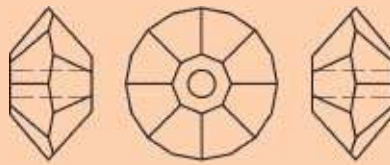


disk  
5100



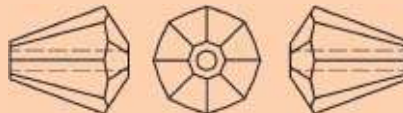
**elongated oval**

**5205**



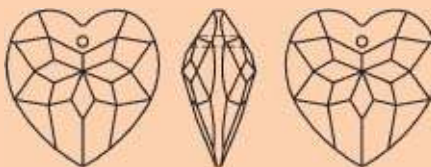
**saucer**

**5305**



**cone**

**5400**



**faceted heart pendant**

**6215**



**vertically drilled briolette**

**5500**



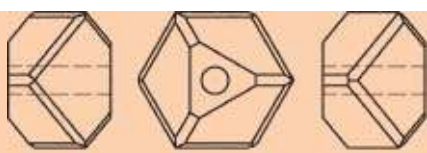
**rondelle or princess cut**

**5040**



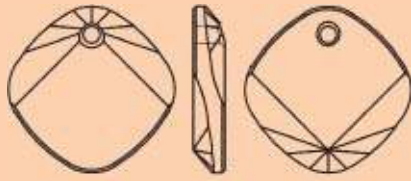
**polygon**

**5203**



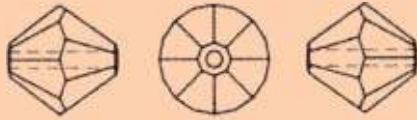
**cube diagonal hole**

**5600**



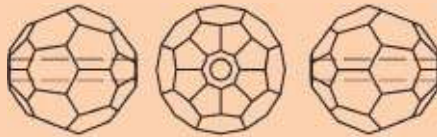
**metro pendant**

**6058**



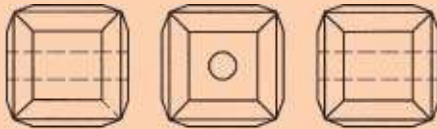
**bicone**

**5301**



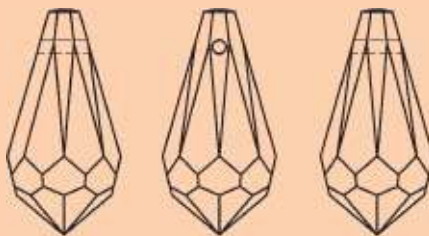
**round**

**5000**



**cube**

**5601**



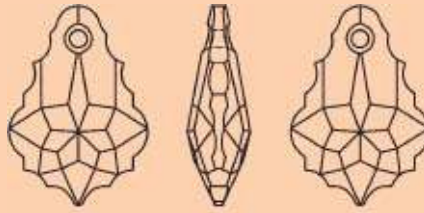
**drop**

**6000**





disco ball  
5003



baroque pendant  
6090

Courtesy of Swarovski.

## Glass Becomes Crystal

With a stone as popular as rock crystal, it was perhaps inevitable that once a man-made version of it could be produced reliably, artisans would embrace the innovation. Although leaded glass was invented at the end of the seventeenth century, it was not until the eighteenth century that techniques for producing completely transparent leaded glass were perfected. The formula involved combining silica (sand quartz), lime, and soda or ash—with lead added to brighten and intensify the colors and clarity. Proud of their achievement, European glassmakers began to advertise their crystal-clear products, and ultimately the term “crystal” came to apply to the glass.





This Swarovski crystal figurine, entitled “Ray,” is 9⅝ × 6½ inches and embodies the beauty and elegance of faceted crystal.

Courtesy of Swarovski

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## Crystals—An Essential for Designing Beaders

While natural rock crystal beads are available for our jewelry designs today, they are not as plentiful or varied as glass crystal beads. And rock crystals are usually much more expensive. To honor the stone that inspired the creation of the man-made crystal, we’ve sprinkled intriguing bits of lore and history about rock crystals throughout this book. And we’ve even included a couple of jewelry designs with significant rock crystal beauty. The majority of the dazzling designs within, however, feature manufactured crystals in all of their diverse splendor. No matter whose bead trend surveys you might read, those who love to make their own beaded jewelry always rank crystals at the top of their must-have list.



Courtesy of Swarovski

### **Crystal Colors and Effects**

*(Underline indicates an exclusive color)*

Colors



Crystal  
001

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Black Diamond  
215

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Light Azore  
361

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Aquamarine  
202

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Light Sapphire  
211

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Indian Sapphire  
217

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Sapphire  
206

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Capri Blue  
243

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Montana  
207

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Chrysolite  
238

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Peridot  
214

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Erlinite  
360

---



Indicolite  
379

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Blue Zircon  
229

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Emerald  
205

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Jonquill  
213

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Light Topaz  
226

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Khaki  
550

---



Lime  
385

---



Olivine  
228

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Fireopal  
237

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Padparadscha  
542

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Hyacinth  
236

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Indian Red  
374

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Light Siam  
227

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Siam  
208

---



Ruby  
501

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Garnet  
241

---



Burgundy  
515

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Silk  
391

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Light Peach  
362

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Light Colorado Topaz  
246

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Topaz  
203

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Light Smoked Topaz  
221

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Smoked Topaz  
220

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Smoky Quartz  
225

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Light Rose  
223

---



Rose  
209

---



Fuchsia  
502

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Amethyst  
204

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Light Amethyst  
212

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Violet  
371

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Tanzanite  
539

---



Purple Velvet  
277

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White Opal  
234



Pacific Opal  
390



Caribbean Blue Opal  
394



Violet Opal  
389



White Alabaster  
281



Jet  
280



Turquoise  
267



Rose Alabaster  
293

## Effects



Crystal Aurore Boreale  
001 AB



Crystal Aurore Boreale 2x  
001 AB2



Crystal Satin  
001 SAT



Crystal Comet Argent Light  
001 CAL



Crystal Matt Finish  
001 MAT



White Opal Sky Blue  
234 SBL



White Opal Star Shine  
234 STS



Crystal Bermuda Blue  
001 BBL



Crystal Heliotrope  
001 HEL



Crystal Metallic Blue 2x  
001 METB2



Crystal Silver Shade  
001 SSHA



Crystal  
Golden Shadow  
001 GSHA



Crystal Copper  
001 COP



Crystal Dorado 2x  
001 DOR2



Jet Hematite  
280 HEM



Jet Hematite 2x  
280 HEM2



Jet Nut 2x  
280 NUT2



Crystal Vitrail  
Medium  
001 VM

Courtesy of Swarovski.

## Separate and Not Equal

Rhinestones, paste, and crystals are not one in the same—although many use these designations simultaneously. Nor were they developed to be “diamond pretenders” or “fabulous fakes”—although the best of them can certainly do the job.

High-quality natural rock crystals sifted from the Rhine River were called rhinestones and were cut and faceted to create jewelry worthy of a royal. However, over time, the name has come to refer to faceted lead crystal or faceted glass, usually backed with foil. The predecessors of today’s glass mass-produced rhinestone “bling” were highly valued and handcrafted by the most skilled artisans of the time.

Paste refers to glass with very high lead content, which was originally faceted to be incorporated into the jewelry, buckles, and other items of adornment worn by fashionable eighteenth-century ladies and gentlemen. Once cut by a master craftsman, the stones were coated with a metal coating or foiling to add brilliance and enhance the refractions of light. Ironically, because paste could be more easily cut and shaped than diamonds, the craftsman who worked with paste often had greater gem-cutting skills than those who worked with precious diamonds. Such was the high quality of paste jewelry that even the ill-fated French queen, Marie Antoinette, owned many pieces.

Today’s premier crystal manufacturer, Swarovski, produces more than 100,000 different shapes, colors, sizes, and facets of crystals. Their glass crystals are made from a carefully protected formula (glass with a certain percentage of lead) and are precision cut by the company’s unequalled machinery first developed in 1892. Swarovski has also created unique coatings or “effects” for its crystals. The first and most well known of these was the Aurora Borealis or AB coating that the company developed in concert with fashion designer Christian Dior in the mid-1950s. This distinctive finish, still applied



to many of the company's crystals, adds an opalescent glow.

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**Glamorous film legend Marlene Dietrich often wore spectacular jewelry that incorporated crystals instead of precious gems.  
Courtesy of Getty Images/Hulton Archive**



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