

simply strung

SPRUCE UP, SPICE UP



Spring cleaning is a common term, but am I the only one who doesn't do it? Don't get me wrong, I'm no slob or Pigpen. But I don't set aside a springtime weekend to turn the house upside down. That said, Michelle Mach's article about remaking jewelry has inspired me to scour my jewelry boxes for necklaces, bracelets, and earrings in need of a little brushing up, if not a full makeover. I encourage you to read her piece on page 18, Take 2: Breathing New Life into Old Designs. Michelle asked five designers to revisit projects they deemed unsuccessful. I think you'll enjoy their "befores" and "afters," and perhaps you, too, will be inspired to give your jewelry castaways a second chance.

While Michelle's feature will motivate you to spruce up your designs, Wendy Baker's profile will motivate you to spice them up. A jewelry artist specializing in large-scale jewelry that combines new and vintage beads and findings, Wendy and her work is representative of a growing trend toward bigger, bolder jewelry. See a selection from Wendy's extraordinary collection on page 56 and think about how you could pump up your own designs.

And speaking of big collections, that's what you get in this and every issue of *Stringing* magazine. Flip the page to start your journey through 97 jewelry-design ideas—40 necklaces, 35 earrings, and 22 bracelets! Make sure to check out our Cherry and Aqua section, which highlights designs created in our new *favorite* color combo, cherry red and aqua blue, and our Clay in Bloom section, which spotlights four designs made with fabulous floral ceramic beads. With all this eye candy, I'm positive you'll find something you'll want to make right now. Dusting your andirons can wait until tomorrow.

Happy Spring. Happy Beading.



Danielle

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what's more ...

NEW ADVERTISING SECTION. Check out our new artisan advertising section on page 74. It showcases ads for out-of-the-ordinary beads and findings.

COMING SOON: BEADS 2010. Available on newsstands April 20th, this annual special issue spotlights today's hottest beading products and trends with a bead-show calendar, fashion-forward projects, and bead-society and shop listings.

GEAR UP FOR BEAD FEST! Get your bags packed for Santa Fe, New Mexico. From March 18–21, this hot spot will be host to the popular Bead Fest bead show. For more information and to sign up for classes, visit beadfest.com.

SPECIAL COLLECTOR'S EDITION! Though our sister magazine *Step by Step Beads* will cease publication with its January/February issue, the editors have left us with an amazing parting gift: *Best of Step by Step Beads*, a supersized special issue with more than 40 of the magazine's best designs ever.

stringing

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