




SAUTOIR NECKLACE FROM THE FACETTES COLLECTION BY PHILIPPE AIRAUD, 18-CARAT GOLD AND CERAMICS COMPLEMENTED BY HAND-FINISHED CRYSTAL BEADS. 4,060 EUROS

# FOR SEXY DÉCOLLETÉS: 80 NECKLACES

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BEAUTIFUL JEWELRY FOR THE NECK IS ABLE TO TRANSFORM -  
A GIRL INTO A PRINCESS, A WOMAN INTO A STAR, A LADY  
INTO A VAMP. WE HAVE COLLECTED SOME THOUGHTS FOR YOU.

 **FASHION KNOWS WHAT IT WANTS:** long necklaces, worn as a single strand or looped around the neck several times and quite often also combined with several others. Or chain necklaces whose links are so large that they would deter any convict from escaping. Or charming, elaborate bib necklaces that will turn a neck and décolleté into an alluring eye-catcher. There are so many necklace variants and lengths that the Schmuck Magazin editors had a really hard time organizing this wide variety of necklace types. The 80 specimens we selected will give you an idea of the rich gamut ranging from precious gem-studded pieces to high-quality costume jewelry. So browse through the following pages because these necklaces will surely whet your appetite for summer, for long nights under a southern sky and for more femininity.

## UNISEX JEWELRY IN ANCIENT TIMES

Because jewelry is much more than merely a contemporary fashionable accessory, each type has its historical models. Who might have been the first person to wear a beautiful chain necklace? Maybe a beautiful woman in ancient Egypt or Rome? As a matter of fact, people already wore jewelry around their neck in ancient times, in particular necklaces made of precious metal but also of stones and pearls. Back then – just like it is fashionable again right now – they were worn suspended down to the breast or even to the belt. They were also complemented by all sorts of ornaments such as small vinaigrettes, sun pendants or talismans. These necklaces were bona fide unisex jewelry because they were worn by men and women alike. In ancient Persia, the king bestowed a necklace as a special favor, and in ancient Greece, it was mainly virgins who adorned their neck with jewelry. The ancient Romans already differentiated between women's neckbands, long necklaces suspended down to the bosom and the heavy golden necklaces worn by men.

## SMOOTH AND SUPPLE: CHAIN NECKLACES

It's not easy at all to categorize jewelry for the neck. There is a multitude of variants ranging from neckbands via chain necklaces, elaborate bib necklaces and sautoir necklaces to chokers, ribbons and many more. You'll find an overview on the following page but, of course, we also want to give you more detailed information on the most important types such as the chain necklace, for example. There is hardly any other piece of jewelry that caresses our skin as smoothly or hugs our neckline more gently. The gleaming suppleness of a chain necklace captivates its wearer no less than the beholder. It goes without saying that a chain necklace is a basic in a person's jewelry assortment, not only for young ladies but just as much for those who have been young for quite a while already. A chain necklace is a real all-rounder that can be worn at any time of the day or night and matches any fashion. Whether this also applies to the XXL models that currently dominate the jewelry scene is something that the upcoming season will have to show. At least the Schmuck Magazin team can imagine that a chain necklace with such large links goes equally well with a sporty outfit composed of jeans and a sweater as with an evening dress – large red gold links and the little black dress are a perfect match.

## HANDCRAFTED

Not all chain necklaces are created equal, as anybody can feel who takes different specimens in their hands (something which we strongly recommend before buying a piece). Let's start with costume jewelry which enables us to follow trends without making a big investment. In our opinion, you can feel the difference, i.e. whether the necklace has been crafted with care or not, even if it is made of non-precious materials. However, such a piece will never exude the warmth and aura of a "genuine" specimen. Just like their non-precious counterparts, by means of their soft flow and suppleness, necklaces made of precious metals reveal whether true masters of their trade were involved in their production. The maximum quality possible can be experienced when feeling the "queen" among the chain necklaces, i.e. a handwrought one. Unfortunately, however, it has become pretty rare in our day and age because so much beauty is costly. But let's

take a look over the chain goldsmith's shoulder: First he cuts a narrow strip from fine goldfoil and draws it by means of special pliers through a piece of specially pierced iron whose holes are first half-rounded and then round. In the process, the strip of goldfoil is curled into a thread or tube which he then he wraps around a spindle to form an even spiral. To create a chain link he cuts two segments of equal length off this spiral and joins and solders them. By further processing and finishing the chains' surfaces, a large number of variants can be created, some of which you can admire on the following pages.

**THE VARIETY OF NECKLACES**

It's not easy to categorize the many terms for jewelry for the neck correctly, especially due to the multitude of variants and the creativity involved, which often makes it difficult to attribute a piece to a specific type. Nevertheless, we would like to explain the most important terms.

**ANCHOR CHAIN:** Shaped in the style of a chain that holds a ship anchor and composed of oval links made of round wire. There are many variants such as double anchor chains or models whose links have a square cross-section.

**BIB NECKLACE:** Any type of necklace set with precious stones such as diamonds or other gemstones and usually worn rather closely around the neck. A magnificent bib necklace is indispensable for a "grand appearance".

**BYZANTINE CHAIN:** Very elegant jewelry chain of an intriguingly voluminous textural design whose links are intricately combined in such a manner as to form a rope-like texture. (Picture left: Platin necklace, Venezia, Brigitte Adolph)

**CHAIN NECKLACE:** Flexible ornament that can be worn closely or loosely around the neck, in a one- or multi-row fashion, complemented with or without a pendant. It is composed of individual links typically made of precious metal in a multitude of styles.

**CHOKER:** Close-fitting necklace worn high on the neck. It can consist of one or several bands circling the neck and be made of a wide variety of materials such as metal, leather, velvet, beads or pearls.

**CURB CHAIN:** A classic type of chain necklace whose links are typically flattened.

**DOG COLLAR:** A choker style necklace worn tight around the neck above the collarbone just like a dog's collar; often composed of several strands or of a flat design.

**NECKBAND:** Jewelry for the neck made of precious or non-precious metals, often adorned with gemstones, pearls and other jewelry elements. Traditionally, it is almost circular and worn rather closely around the neck.

**SAUTOIR NECKLACE:** A necklace 100-120 cm long made either of precious metal or pearls. The term dates back to the 18th century when it referred to long gold chains complemented by enameled elements, locket or cameos. Chanel necklaces are also counted among sautoir necklaces.

**TORQUE:** Rigid neck ring made of one or several pieces worn closely around the neck.



**ANCHOR, CURB AND FOXTAIL CHAINS**

How many chain types do you know? Here we only want to present a few of the more than fifty variants that went down in history such as the foxtail chain, for example, which is supposed to have been "invented" almost 5000 years ago and was worn by Alexander the Great during his campaigns. The first anchor and loop chains were found among the early Minoan jewelry which was discovered on the Mochlos island off Crete and dates back to around 2200 B.C. The ancient Greeks adorned themselves with necklaces composed of bar-shaped links (200–100 B.C.) The curb chain appeared for the first time in the Middle Ages. It is supposed to have its origins in the manufacture of chainmail armor, which is quite obvious. After all, these closely entwined links rest flat and smooth against the body – or around the neck.

**NECKLACES FOR EVERYBODY**

The difference between wearing necklaces in the past and today are not the necklace types but the persons who wear them. The first to be adorned with necklaces were deities, followed by kings and priests and finally princes and other aristocrats. The "democratization" of gold necklaces began with the use of machines in the 19th century. Today, it's a person's purse and also his or her passion for jewelry whether they want to afford a necklace made of precious metal – or even a hand-wrought one. The price difference is explained easily: A goldsmith works for several days on a chain necklace, something which a machine does in five minutes. Of course, this is not meant to question the value and beauty of a machine-made necklace – in particular since it quite often is merely the basis for further creative work, i.e. the decorative support for even more decorative pendants.

**THE CREAM OF THE CROP: THE BIB NECKLACE**

Of course, it's a matter of taste but usually, even the most beautiful chain necklace looks plain when compared to a bib necklace featuring sparkling diamonds or radiant colored gemstones. Worn rather close around the neck and traditionally set with diamonds, rubies, sapphires and emeralds, a bib necklace offers its creator a multitude of creative options and can therefore be justly considered the most accomplished jewelry for the neck. You don't simply "put on" a magnificent bib necklace. Ideally, it's your sweetheart who gracefully places it around your neck in a candlelit room while you're enjoying a glass of champagne. Bib necklaces are the most feminine of all jewelry, oozing both dignity and eroticism and most naturally snuggle against a woman's décolleté. Just stop for a minute and close your eyes, take a deep breath and try to imagine how that might feel. Then open your eyes again and continue browsing and marveling. Apart from the precious jewels in the land of our dreams, there are wonderful necklaces that you can afford right away or at least put on your wish list. ■■■■



**1** Kette „Hamon“ - zu deutsch „Wasserring“ - von Kazuko Nishibayashi in Silber 925. Preis auf Anfrage. **2** Navette Ösenkette von Antje Liebscher aus 1 und 2 mm Ösen in der XXL-Länge 180 cm in Silber 925, ca. 595 Euro. **3** Gliederkette von Bastian, Design: René Hofmann, in Silber 925, 120 cm, kratzmatt, 369 Euro. **4** Prächtiges Collier von IsabelleFa aus überdimensionierten Navette-Ösen in warmem Roségold 750 mit unsichtbarem Verschluss, ca. 14.900 Euro. **5** Halschmuck aus der Ceramicon-Kollektion von Gilardy aus Ceramicon, Roségold 750 und Brillanten. Preis auf Anfrage. **6** Von Angela Buchwald: Collier in Rotgold 750 mit weißem Achat, dunklem Onyx und Brillanten. Preis auf Anfrage. **7** Collier „Jeunesse Dorée“ von Herbstrith in Rosé- und Weißgold 750 mit schwarzer Jade und Brillant, 9.000 Euro. **8** Aus dem Hause Niessing: Collier „Papyr“, Gelbgold 750. Preis auf Anfrage. **9** Collier „Ludia“ von Quinn aus Silber 925 mit Amethyst, 464 Euro. **10** Von Henrich & Denzel: Halschmuck „Circolom“ aus Platin 950 mit 314 Brillanten, ab ca. 8.250 Euro. Kleines Foto rechts: Gliederkette von Martin Hardt

## GLIEDERKETTEN

