

# About Clasps

by Misti Cleveland © 2015

Choosing the right clasp to meet your needs can be overwhelming with variety of clasps available on the market today. The following is a guideline to help you make an educated choice for your projects.

Clasps come in a variety of sizes, shapes & styles. Choosing the right clasp is partly a matter of taste, but also a matter of keeping your target customer/consumer in mind. Older customers, in general, find larger clasps easier to open. So, if your piece is dainty, you may want to choose a larger size of a clasp that is small to begin with, like a large lobster claw. If your piece is wide or has large beads, you may want to pair it with decorative magnetic clasp or a larger sized toggle clasp.

Also, keep in mind whether the clasp is to be added to a bracelet or a necklace. With a necklace, there are some factors to consider when choosing an appropriate clasp. Should the length be adjustable? Then you will want to use a Springring or Lobster Claw, or possibly a Hook, along with extender links. Do you want something more decorative because the clasp will be visible on a bracelet or worn by someone with short hair, or an up-do? Then pretty toggle clasp or crystal encrusted magnetic clasp might be the choice. Below is a guideline to help you make an informed choice.

## Clasp Guideline

There are 8 basic types of clasps: Spring or Springring, Screw-type, Toggle, Magnetic, Box or Tab Insert, Hook, and Specialty. Under each category, you will find sample pictures, descriptions and suggested uses. (Another handout discusses metals available.)

### A. Spring AKA Springring



Description:

basic, functional clasp with a sprung lever opening

Suggested use:

add to chain; basic, non-decorative necklace clasp

### B. Lobster claw or Lobster, for short; AKA Trigger

#### 1. standard



Description:

basic yet stylish, functional clasp with a sprung lever opening; more decorative than a springring clasp

Suggested use:

bracelets for more active people because they are more secure than a toggle, necklaces

#### 2. swivel



Description:

basic yet stylish, functional clasp; more decorative than a springring clasp; great for bracelets because they rotate allowing for easier attaching

Suggested use:

bracelets for more active people

### C. Screw-type

#### 1. Barrel clasp



2. Torpedo clasp



Description:

secure, functional clasp, where one end screws into the other

Suggested use:

necklaces with simple, strung beads that spin on their threading medium

D. Toggle



Description:

most commonly used, decorative (from simple to ornate) clasp, bar into ring closure

Suggested use:

dresses up bracelets, used on fixed-length necklaces where the clasp is likely to be seen

E. Magnetic



1. Strengths

- a. 800 gauss - strong
- b. 2500 gauss - medium
- c. 10,000 gauss - light

Description:

easy-to-use, basic & decorative clasps, magnets on each half hold them together; strengths vary—be sure to test them

Suggested use:

decorative ones on bracelets or necklaces, non-decorative on necklaces



F. Open Box AKA Tab Insert

Description:

usually decorative clasps, where one side is inserted & snaps into place inside the other

Suggested use:

watch bands, multi-strand necklaces or bracelets

G. Hook

1. -and-Eye



2. - Style



3. Fish-



Description:

basic & decorative clasps, where one side hooks onto the other

Suggested use:

best for necklaces or snug-fitting bracelets, as they can come apart with little or no tension

## H. Specialty

### 1. 'S'



Description: decorative clasps, where one side is inserted through the opening on the other side

Suggested use: bracelets or necklaces with little play

### 2. 'C'



Description: decorative clasps, where one side is inserted through the opening on the other side

Suggested use: bracelets or necklaces with little play

### 3. Ball & Barrel



Description: simple to decorative clasps, where one side is inserted into the other side & pops into place, can be difficult to pull apart

Suggested use: bracelets or necklaces

### 4. Hook & Latch



Description: decorative clasps, where one side is inserted through the opening on the other side and folded over

Suggested use: bracelets or necklaces

### 5. Self-closing



Description: manly clasps

Suggested use: men's key ring holder, purse handle hook

### 6. Bayonet



Description: usually decorative clasps, where one side is inserted & snaps into place inside the other

Suggested use: bracelets or necklaces

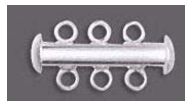
### 7. Sister



Description: basic clasp, where one side mirrors the other & slides together

Suggested use: bracelets or necklaces

### 8. Slide Lock



Description: basic clasps, where one ends slides into the barrel of the other

Suggested use: great for multi-strand, flat weave bracelets