

PRODUCT REVIEWS

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Kittycat Black



Rock-a-Billy and pin-up culture peeks through with the stylish designs of Kittycat Black. Though I live down the street from a bead shop, I have never seen beadwork as vibrant and cute as the sculpted bead artistry of Sharon Walker. I was quite intrigued by the individuality of each piece she creates. She is the mastermind behind Kittycat Black, a dark, interesting, Australian-based jewelry company.

Sharon has enormous talent in polymer bead sculpting. She originally majored in gold & silversmith crafting at Queensland College of Art in Australia, but she began contriving with polymer bead sculpting and that led to the birth of Kittycat Black. She has designed numerous pieces modeled after the style of specific customers. However, due to a high demand for her artistry, she no longer constructs custom sculpting work. On her regular designs she coordinates colorful pieces incorporating cartoon style characters and punk icons into each piece. There is definitely something for everyone. Sharon's artistry on previous custom pieces can be viewed in the Customer Gallery on her site.

When it comes to being practical, each necklace at Kittycat Black is made with an especially extended, adjustable clasp; therefore the necklaces can be worn as tight as chokers, or lay low and loose on the neckline. This adds versatility to the style. The regular choker designs are double-stranded, but there are also singles and ball-chains available. The double-stranded chokers are interchangeable and can be worn singly as well. They are threaded on 'flexible, memory wire,' which means it retains its shape even after being stretched. Matching earrings are also an option at Kittycat Black, and they are all hypoallergenic, made with surgical stainless steel earring hooks. Prices are \$29 for a double-stranded choker, \$15 for a single or ball-chain, and \$5 for a pair of earrings.

Kittycat Black jewelry is sold at numerous shops in Australia, including Wildlocks and Mame Clothing both located in Perth. You can also purchase the jewelry at stores internationally in the U.S., UK, Canada, Panama, Belgium, Finland, Netherlands, France, and New Zealand. The list of suppliers can be found on the company site.

Personally I took a liking to the Hellcat double-stranded chokers, and the single strand Black Nautical Star. But whether you have a taste for triple cherries, you're into vampire kitties, or you are a pink pirate girl, Kittycat Black has an immense selection of cute beaded chokers to accessorize your style. (Mikki Moscara)



kittycatblack.com