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**20** Findings and beads similar to these are widely available in many bead shops.

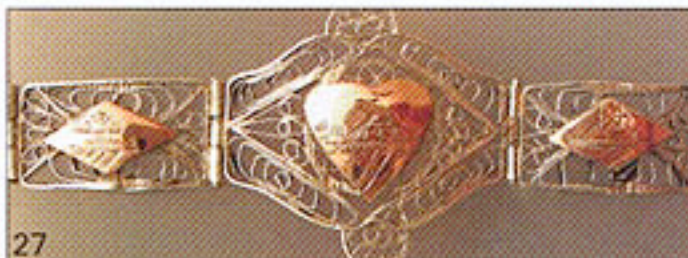
**21–22** These pieces, both from Bali, feature very different motifs.

**23–24** Delicate brooches in the Malaysian filigree tradition.

**25** A three-dimensional flower brooch from Mexico.



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**26–27** This pendant and bracelet set is an example of Egyptian filigree. Notice the pyramid motifs in the center of each piece.

**28–29** A filigree pendant and flower bracelet from Israel.



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soft. Asian artisans construct many three-dimensional pieces made from very fine wire—much finer than what we'll be using for these projects. Of course, labor costs are much lower in Asia, particularly in Bali, which produces a lot of popular findings, clasps, and jewelry, often done on sterling-silver sheet. Such labor-intensive handcrafting as filigree work

is still affordable, at least to those in the West. You'll find the examples of Balinese filigree shown above familiar, since many beading and jewelry shops stock Bali beads and findings.

#### **Mexico**

A strong tradition of filigree work exists in Mexico, as well as some regions of South America. As in parts

of Asia, wages in Mexico are lower than in the United States, making such handcrafted artwork affordable.

#### **The Middle East**

Some Middle Eastern countries are known for their incredible metalwork and low labor prices. I've heard several stories of people going to markets and mainly paying mostly for the metal,

not the work. Israel, Yemen, Turkey, and Egypt are among the countries that have a strong filigree tradition in the Middle East; two examples of Israeli filigree are shown above. Many Jewish religious artifacts are decorated with silver filigree as well.

#### **India**

In India, the filigree art form has been practiced since