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INTRODUCTION



elcome to my third book featuring chain mail jewelry. In this volume, I have used chain mail techniques and have added crystals, pearls, or other types of color, sparkle, and shine. These additions result in truly elegant pieces of fine jewelry.

In my first book, *Classic Chain Mail Jewelry*, I shared information about the history of chain mail, metals used for the jewelry, technical details concerning jump ring gauge and sizes, tools used with the technique, storage of jump rings, and work area considerations. I taught you how to weave jump rings for beginner through intermediate chains. You can refer to that book for learning the basics about chain mail.

In my second book, *Classic Chain Mail Jewelry with a Twist*, I gave you information about the metals used for the jump rings, how to make your own jump rings, tumbling or polishing your jump rings and finished jewelry, and the process of identifying the aspect ratio of a weave so that you can easily alter the piece to make it larger or smaller in dimension. I also gave you illustrated instructions for beginner, intermediate, and advanced jewelry chains. Again, you can refer to that book to learn these intermediate techniques.

Chain Mail Elegance will expand your knowledge of making chain mail jewelry. You will begin to learn how to add color, texture, and sparkle to your pieces. You will actually learn to design your own unique piece of chain mail by altering or adding to the basic chain mail weave. I will explain the different ways to identify wire gauge used in the industry. I will provide a chart for converting inner diameter (ID) to outer diameter (OD) in the measurement of your jump rings. I will bring the ideas of gauge and diameter of the jump ring together as you work with aspect ratio to change the dimension of your jewelry piece.

Finally, please note that not all of the weaves in this book are original to me, but the instructions are my own. I hope this book will be a valuable resource to you as you work with chain mail designs.

— Sue

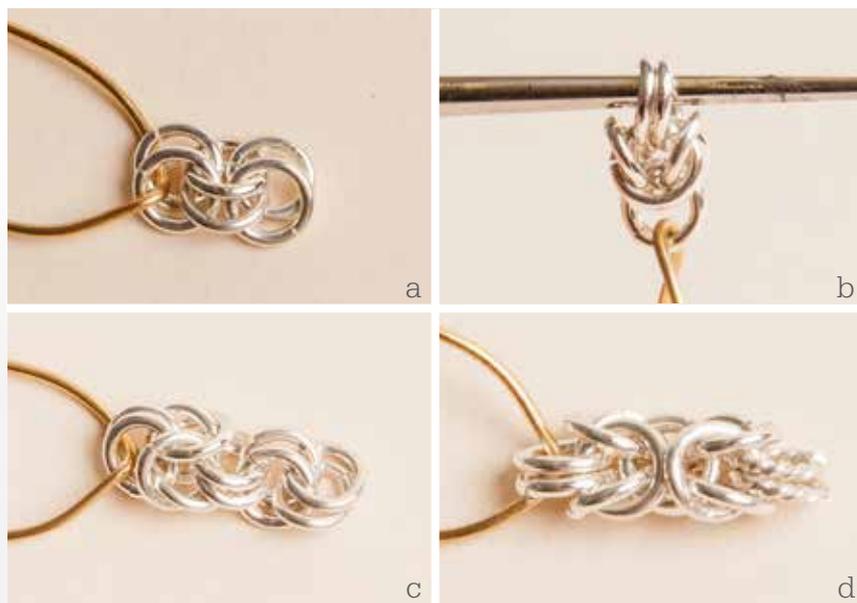
PEARLY GATES
Bracelet



For this bracelet, use pearls, crystals, or any round 8mm bead or stone. Your choice will truly make this an individualized piece of jewelry.

BUILD THE CHAIN

1. Open a small pile of 3.5mm smooth rings (smooth), 4–8 4mm rings (4mm), and 4–8 3.5mm twisted rings (twisted). Close two smooth rings. Run a piece of scrap wire through the two rings. Place the rings at the center of the wire, bend the wire, and twist shut.
2. Run an open smooth ring through the two end rings and close. Run a second ring through the same path. You now have a 2-2 chain.
3. Repeat step 2 to create a 2-2-2 chain (a).
4. Perform the “bunny ears” (steps 9–11) from the “Ladder in Mail Bracelet,” p. 9, and lock with 4mm rings (b).
5. Repeat steps 2 and 3 to form another 2-2-2 chain (c). Perform the bunny ears steps, locking with twisted rings (d). Throughout the rest of the chain, you will alternate sets of locking rings between 4mm smooth rings and twisted rings.



Materials

Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- 84 18-gauge 4mm ID sterling silver jump rings, 12 rings/in.
- 224 18-gauge 3.5mm ID sterling silver jump rings, 32 rings/in.
- 28 18-gauge 3.5mm ID twisted sterling silver jump rings, 4 rings/in.
- 28–30 8mm Swarovski pearls, crystals, beads, or stones
- 24 in. (61cm) fine or medium beading wire
- 4 crimps
- Clasp

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers
- Wire cutters
- Crimping pliers
- Wire tie or piece of wire

FRENCH ROPE
WITH CRYSTALS
Bracelet



Combine interesting chain mail techniques with bead stringing. For this weave to succeed, you must use half-round rings, which are round on the outside but flat on the inside.

BRACELET

1. Open about 20 half-round rings and close one ring. Run a wire tie or a piece of wire through the closed ring (a). Bend the wire in half and twist the ends of the wire closed. This helps you to hold onto the chain as you are at the early stages of building it.
2. Run an open ring through the ring on the wire, and close the ring.
3. Place the first two rings as shown (b), and run an open ring from the bottom up through the first two rings as shown (c). Close the ring.
4. Press the rings between your fingers until they lay in a layer as shown (d). Note that the first ring in the chain on the left is above the second ring, which is above the third ring.
5. Run an open ring up through the bottom, catching all three of the rings (e). Close the ring. Try and keep track of which ring is your end ring.

6. Continue positioning the last three rings in a flat line and running an open ring up through the bottom and through the last three rings on the end of the chain (f).

Note: In the beginning, the first dozen or so rings on the chain may not look correct. Ignore that and keep building the chain. When you have 3 in. (7.6cm), you should start to see the multiple twists in the chain. The chain forms the twists automatically. If you reach the end of your chain and you find that you had some rings incorrectly placed in the beginning, then remove those rings and make the chain longer on the other end.

Materials

Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- 2 16-gauge 5mm ID sterling silver jump rings
- 98 16-gauge 4.75mm ID half-round sterling silver jump rings, 14 rings/in.
- 2 20-gauge 2mm ID sterling silver jump rings
- 80–90 3mm rondelles, round, or bicone crystals
- 12 in. (31cm) fine beading wire
- 2 crimps
- Clasp

Tools

- 2 pairs of flatnose pliers
- Crimping pliers
- Wire cutters
- Bead stopper
- Wire tie or piece of wire

Note: Half-round rings tend to flip if you try to manipulate them with chainnose pliers. I use two sets of flatnose pliers for more stability while working with half-round rings.





OPEN
ROUND MAIL
Bracelet

This version of the open round mail weave has eye-catching color, which comes from the crystals that glow from within the chain. There is also a sparkle that comes from the twisted rings that are interspersed along the length of the bracelet. Darker colored crystals make the best statement in this piece of jewelry.

BUILD THE CRYSTAL COMPONENT

1. String the beading wire through a crimp, a wire guard, and back through the crimp, and then close the crimp. Trim the short end of the wire. Run a connector ring through the wire guard and close. Run a second connector ring through the same path. Run a smooth ring through the two connector rings and close. Run a second smooth ring through the same path **(a)**. (Please note that I have already placed the crystals on my wire. Yours will not have crystals in this step.)
2. Place a wire tie or piece of wire through the end rings, bend the wire in half, and twist the ends of the wire closed. Add crystals to the wire until the length of it will fit tightly around your wrist **(b)**. Repeat step 1 on this end of the wire, being sure that the crystals fit tightly between the crimps.

Note: You want the crystal length to be tight around your wrist, as there will be additional length provided by rings and your clasp in the completed bracelet. If you make your crystal length too long, you will not be able to shorten the bracelet.

BUILD THE CHAIN

3. Place a smooth ring through the connector rings and close. Place a second smooth ring through the connector rings, only place it on the other side of the crystal component and close **(c)**. In this weave, the crystal component always runs down the middle of the chain as you build your chain around the crystals.
4. Run a smooth ring through one of the two rings you added in step 3. Run a second smooth ring through the other ring from step 3. Run a third smooth ring through both of the rings from step 3.

Materials

Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- 56 18-gauge 5.5mm ID sterling silver jump rings (smooth)
- 51 16-gauge 5.5mm ID twisted sterling silver rings (twisted)
- 4 20-gauge 3mm ID rings (connector)
- 40–50 4mm bicone Swarovski crystals
- 2 crimps
- 2 wire guards
- 12 in. (30cm) fine beading wire
- Clasp

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers
- Crimping pliers
- Cutters
- Wire tie or piece of wire





CRYSTAL
LACE IN MAIL

Bracelet

This is an exciting bracelet that I developed when a friend told me about Crystaletts. Crystaletts are tiny crystal buttons. Once I saw them, I knew I had to build a bracelet to show them off.

BRACELET

1. Run a 4.5mm connector ring through a Crystalett, and close.
2. Place a wire tie or piece of wire through the closed ring. Bend the wire in half and twist the ends of the wire closed (a).
3. Run a connector ring through a new Crystalett and through the Crystalett from step 1. Close the ring (b).
4. Repeat step 3 until you have a chain of 11 Crystaletts (c).
5. Run a 5mm ring through two Crystaletts and through the last Crystalett on the chain. Close the ring (d).
6. With a 5mm ring, pick up two Crystaletts and run it through one of the two Crystaletts on the end of your chain. Close the ring (e).
7. With a 5mm ring, pick up one Crystalett and also run the ring through the Crystalett that is hanging loose on the second ring from the end of the chain. Before closing, run this ring through the left loose hanging Crystalett on the end of the chain. Close the ring (f).

Materials

Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- Sterling silver jump rings
 - 4 21-gauge 5mm ID
 - 39 21-gauge 4.5mm ID (connector)
 - 96 21-gauge 3.5mm ID (large)
 - 372 22-gauge 2mm ID (small)
- 26–31 3mm Crystaletts
- Two-row clasp

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers
- Wire tie or piece of wire



INTERCHANGEABLE MAIL *Bracelet*



This bracelet is very unique within chain mail. The middle section of the bracelet can be quickly and easily removed and replaced with another section for a totally different look. This makes it a very versatile piece of jewelry.

BEADING COMPONENTS

1. Cut a 4-in. (10cm) piece of beading wire. String the wire through a crimp and a closed 3.5mm ring, and go back through the crimp. Crimp the crimp closed **(a)**.
2. Cut the short tail of the beading wire even with the crimp. Place a crimp cover over the crimp **(b)**.
3. String six 8mm crystals, beads, or pearls on the beading wire. String a crimp and finish off as in steps 1 and 2 **(c)**. Be sure that the final crimp is placed so that the beads are tight between the crimps. This will make up about one-third of the length of the bracelet.
4. Repeat steps 1–3 with the second set of crystals, beads, or pearls. You now have two interchangeable beading sections for the bracelet.

CHAIN COMPONENTS

5. Using only 5mm rings, open a small pile of the rings. Continue to open rings as needed.
6. Close two rings. Run an open ring through the two closed rings, and close the ring. Run a second ring through the same path. You now have a 2-2 chain. Place a wire tie through two of the end rings, and twist the ends of the wire closed **(d)**.
7. Holding the rings as shown, insert an open ring through the space formed when you separate the two pairs of rings. Imagine that you are running your ring through the space that allows you to go through the last four rings at one time **(e)**. Close the ring. Run a second ring through the same path. You now have a 2-2-2 chain **(f)**.

Materials

Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- Sterling silver jump rings
 - 80 18-gauge 5mm ID, 20 rings/in.
 - 4 18-gauge 3.5mm ID
- 12 8mm round crystals, beads or pearls in 2 different colors
- 8 in. (20cm) medium beading wire
- 4 crimps
- 4 crimp covers
- Clasp

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers
- Wire cutters
- Crimping pliers
- Wire tie or piece of wire

