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Introduction

What's in the book?

This book is all about using chain mail weaves to make components, and then use them to build fine jewelry.

The projects are directed at women who like to make beautiful accessories to complete the outfits they wear for work and play.

You'll find projects that use chain mail components to:

- link metal connectors
- link beads
- build dangles
- build bails and beads
- build shapes
- showcase jewelry artists



APPENDIX OF WEAVES In addition to expanding on my theme of components, I've also separated the instructions to make a project from the steps to learn a weave. The Appendix of Weaves section includes new weaves that weren't in my previous book, as well as new, improved ways of constructing old favorites. (For example, I've used plastic canvas as a tool for starting three different weaves.)

I hope the Weaves section will encourage you to keep this book (and my first one) at hand as a reference as you work on all your future projects. The step-by-step photos are designed to facilitate independent learners who work at their own speed. I've also created a Plan of Action for each project. It's an overview of the strategy you'll use to complete the piece of jewelry.

About me



I'm a retired teacher, revitalized as a jewelry designer and teacher of chain mail classes. I'm a Canadian based in Waterloo, close to Toronto, Ontario, and I have taught classes across Canada. My husband, Brad, makes our jump rings, assembles my kits, and transports everything to shows. We winter in Tucson Ariz., and I teach at shows and stores there, in Texas, in Milwaukee Wis., and in Buffalo, N.Y. When I get dressed in the morning, I need to put on clothing and jewelry. Both need to work together and make me feel good—prepared to meet my day—whether it be for work or pleasure, at home or away.

My guiding beliefs

I have some strong beliefs about making jewelry—or for doing most tasks in daily life. There's seldom only one right way to do anything. The goal is to accomplish the end result as carefully and efficiently as possible, given one's current skills, knowledge, and physical ability. Listen to good advice, but then experiment to find your best way to do the task at hand. While the end goal is quality work, the process should be enjoyable. Think of the cliché about “stopping to smell the roses.” You're not running a race, after all.

When you learn something new, ask yourself, “What if...”

What if I want to add a row on each side of this chain using a different weave?

What if I wanted to make earrings to go with this?

What if I want to use this necklace idea but try it in a different weave?

I believe this is the secret to developing your creativity. You won't be surprised to hear each project ends with a section called “Explore and Experiment.” I encourage you to explore the possibilities for each project. Ask yourself questions: How could I make this more casual or more elegant? What could I change to make this fit my lifestyle? YOU get to play and then decide.



Chrysanthemum Links Necklace

The Chrysanthemum component is so appealing that I wanted to use it in a necklace, not just a bracelet. I decided to alternate the components with hammered metal links that were about the same diameter—and I love the result. For comfort, I added simple side chains to sit at the back of the neck. This chain can be worn by itself, or layered with the “Lusty Links Neck Chain,” p. 13, for a real impact.

SKILL LEVEL: Beginner Plus

WEAVE: Chrysanthemum

DIMENSIONS: 28½ in. (72.4cm) necklace

MATERIALS

JUMP RINGS

- 16 18-gauge (AWG) 6mm I.D.
- 174 18-gauge (AWG) 5mm I.D.
- 128 18-gauge (AWG) 3mm I.D.
- 76 18-gauge (AWG) 2.75mm I.D.

FINDINGS

- 9 26mm diameter, hammered

sterling silver circle links (Nina Designs)

- 1 sterling silver toggle clasp

TOOLS

- 2 pairs of pliers suitable for chain mail (flatnose, chainnose, bentnose)

Notes: The jump rings for this project were made from round, half-hard Argentium sterling silver wire. These ring sizes also work for 10% silver-filled, jeweler’s bronze, or copper. The hammered links are also available in bronze from Nina Designs.

Plan of action

Make the Chrysanthemum components

Build the center chain

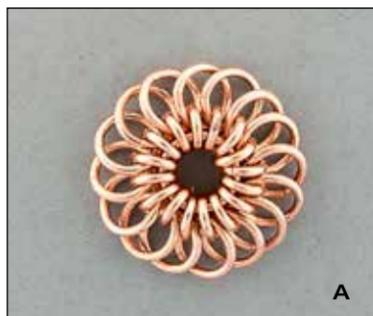
Add the side chains

Attach the clasp

Explore & Experiment

Make the Chrysanthemum components

Each Chrysanthemum component uses two 6mm jump rings, 16 5mm jump rings, and 16 3mm jump rings. Follow the “Chrysanthemum” weave instructions, p. 97, to make eight components in total. Each segment is about 1 in. (2.5cm) in diameter. The photo shows a completed Chrysanthemum weave component in copper **A**.



Build the center chain

Open two 2.75mm jump rings for each Chrysanthemum component. Add a 2.75 mm ring through any two outer rings of a Chrysanthemum, and close it. Add another 2.75mm ring directly opposite the first one (also through two of the outer rings) (red dots) **B**. Repeat this step with all of the Chrysanthemum components.



Open two 5mm rings for each Chrysanthemum component. Set out the circle links. Add a 5mm ring (green dots) through a circle link and then through a 2.75mm ring (red dots) on a Chrysanthemum component **C**. Add a 5mm ring through another circle link and

then through the other 2.75mm ring on the same Chrysanthemum component **D**. Continue to build the chain, alternating Chrysanthemums and circle links. This center section will be 18 in. (46cm) long.





Beau's Bead Necklace

This exquisite lampwork bead was created by Beau Barrett. My challenge was to create a necklace that would complement its beauty. I eventually chose the Foursquare (B2G) weave, along with some Box Chain units as the back chain. My big find was some Unicorn teardrop beads in the perfect shade to echo the teal color of the focal.

SKILL LEVEL: Beginner Plus

WEAVES: Foursquare (or B2G) and Box Chain

DIMENSIONS: 16½ in. (41.9cm) necklace with a 2½-in. (6.4cm) pendant

MATERIALS

JUMP RINGS

- 732 18-gauge (AWG) 4.5mm I.D. (small)
- 23 18-gauge (AWG) 6.75mm I.D. (large)
- 4 16-gauge (AWG) 3mm I.D. (for the clasp)

BEADS

- Pendant bead, art glass (Beau Barrett, Evolving Creations)

- 12 mini teardrop beads (Unicorne Beads #2341)

FINDINGS

- 1 3-in. (7.6cm) 18-gauge headpin, sterling silver
- 1 toggle clasp, sterling silver

TOOLS

- 2 pairs of pliers suitable for chain mail (flatnose, chainnose, bentnose)
- Pair of roundnose pliers
- Pair of flush cutters

Note: The jump rings for this project were made from round, half-hard, Argentium sterling wire. These ring sizes also work for regular sterling, 10% silver-filled, jeweler's bronze, or copper jump rings. Choose your focal bead first, and then choose accent beads to complement it.

Plan of action

Make the Foursquare components

Wire-wrap the pendant

Connect the Foursquare units

Connect the center Foursquare unit, pendant, and beads

Build the Box Chain back chains

Attach the clasp

Make adjustments

Explore & Experiment

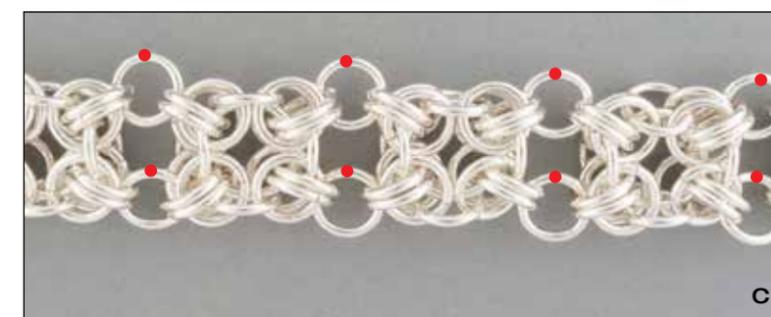


Make the Foursquare components

The correct name for this weave is B2G—but I think my name, Foursquare, is a better descriptor. The necklace is built with Foursquare segments plus a Box Chain back chain. Each Foursquare unit uses 28 small jump rings and one large jump ring. Follow the “Foursquare” weave instructions, p. 100, and repeat to make 23 components in total. Each component is about 5/8 in. (1.6cm) square **A**.

Wire-wrap the pendant

String the pendant bead on the headpin. I chose a heavy headpin with a pretty ball end to support this bead. Use roundnose pliers to



make a double loop (see “Double loops,” p. 9). Trim the wire **B**.

Connect the Foursquare units

Open eight small rings. Use two rings to connect two corners of one Foursquare unit to two corners of the next (red dots). Build a chain of five units **C**.

Open three small rings (red dots). Use one ring to add just the top corners of three more Foursquare units (for a total of eight units in your chain). Open three small rings (green dots) to add a second row of three Foursquare units below the last three units you added. These rings gather up the two rings at the bottom corner of the top unit

Maple Leaf Forever Necklace

I love this creative, fold-formed pendant by Marilyn O'Connor, and when I examined the leaf, I was sold. It closely resembles a maple leaf, the national symbol of Canada—and 2017 is Canada's 150th birthday. I used copper and silver jump rings to reflect the metals in the pendant, and settled on rectangular segments of the Byzantine Filigree pattern to complete a winning combination.



SKILL LEVEL: Intermediate

WEAVES: Byzantine, Byzantine Filigree

DIMENSIONS: 23½ in. (59.7cm) necklace with a 1-in. (2.5cm) pendant

MATERIALS

JUMP RINGS

- 100 18-gauge (AWG) 6.5mm I.D., Argentium sterling (large)
- 280 18-gauge (AWG) 3.5mm I.D., Argentium sterling (small)
- 340 18-gauge (AWG) 3.5mm I.D., copper (small)
- 8 18-gauge (AWG) 3mm I.D., Argentium sterling

PENDANT

- 1 1x1¼-in. (2.5x3.2cm) pendant (Marilyn O'Connor, Tucson AZ)

FINDINGS

- 2 glue-on bails, rhodium
- 1 toggle clasp, sterling silver

OTHER SUPPLIES

- Tube of E-6000 glue or 2-part epoxy glue

TOOLS

- 2 pairs of pliers suitable for chain mail (flatnose, chainnose, bentnose)
- Awl

Note: The jump rings for this project were made from round, Argentium sterling silver wire and round, fully hardened copper wire. These ring sizes also work for silver-filled and jeweler's bronze jump rings.

Plan of action

Glue the bails to the pendant

Build the Byzantine filigree chain of component

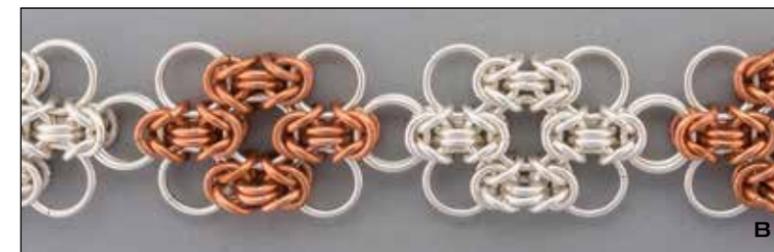
Add the Byzantine back chain

Attach the pendant

Attach the clasp

Make adjustments

Explore & experiment



Glue the bails to the pendant

This step is first so the glue will dry thoroughly. The bails are glued to the side edges of the pendant, and the top edge of each bail is about 3mm down from the top edge of the pendant **A**. (Note: I chose a pendant without a bail as part of the structure. I wanted to play with the positioning and not be limited by a single bail).

Build the Byzantine filigree chain

Follow the "Byzantine Filigree" weave instructions, p. 92, using large silver 18-gauge 6.5mm jump rings and small copper 18-gauge

3.5mm rings. Then, switch to the small silver rings, return to the first step, and add two small silver rings to the last large silver ring added. Repeat all the steps once again. Continue to alternate colors until you have a chain that is seven components in length **B**. Four units will use small copper rings, and three will use small silver rings. Repeat to make another chain for the other side of the necklace.

Add the Byzantine back chain

Next, add a short, three-segment, Byzantine chain to one end of each side chain. Follow the "Byzantine" weave instructions, p. 91, using