

THE BEAD HOLD

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The Bead Hold's BASIC CHAIN LINKING Instructions



Round Nose Pliers

TOOLS REQUIRED

1. Chain Nose Pliers
2. Round Nose Pliers
3. Wire Cutters

FIRST you need to be comfortable making a round loop at the end of a piece of wire using your pliers. This is the base of all chain work. We recommend practicing your loops on craft wire if you are new to this before starting on a project.

You can buy a roll of wire, or you can buy it by the meter. We recommend 20 gauge as a good multi purpose thickness to start with. 22 gauge is also good, especially if you want your pieces to be a little finer.

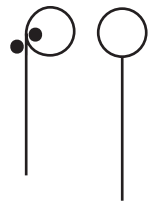
MAKE A LOOP



1. Hold your round nose pliers in your ACTION hand and grip your wire 1/3 of the way down the length of the pliers.
2. Run your finger along back of pliers to make sure the wire is flush. If not, move it down further.
3. Hold the wire with your ROCK hand, thumb and forefinger just under the pliers for stability and control.
4. Hold tight with the pliers and turn your wrist AWAY from you to start making the loop.
5. As your wrist starts to feel awkward, release the pressure of your grip on the pliers and swing your wrist and the pliers until they are at the top of the half formed loop. Hold tight again and turn AWAY from you to complete the loop. You may need to repeat this several times. Check your loop is totally closed. If not, grip again and close the loop completely.

'LOLLIPOP' YOUR LOOP

1. Using the very TIPS of your pliers, place the back jaw of your pliers inside the loop, and the front jaw outside the loop. Close gently at the base of the loop.



2. Now, using no pressure, put your pliers on a slightly open downward angle.

3. Hold tight, and tweak back TOWARD you to straighten the loop.

TIP: If your loop opens as you straighten it, you do not have enough of a downward angle when you tweak back toward yourself OR you are not using the tips of your pliers OR both!

Your ACTION hand is your dominant hand

- this hand does all the work

Your ROCK hand is your other hand

- this hand holds and grips and should never move

TIP: When lollipopping next to a bead, tweak too far back on a flat angle. This will open the loop a little. Now, as you close the gap by turning away from yourself, you will also straighten it. This stops you from breaking the top bead of your set.

FIGURE 8'S

Each bead set will have 2 loops, one at each end of the bead. Ideally, you want one loop curling up, and the other down like a figure 8 - then everything will hang straight.



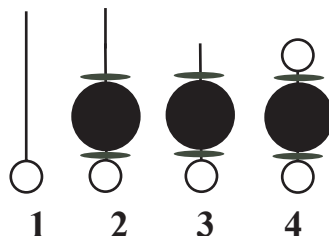
If your loops are going in the same direction, or are a bit bent out of shape, grip one loop entirely in your chain nose pliers, making sure it is curling up. Then, grip the other loop in your round nose pliers, and gently turn it until it is facing down.

MAKE: A Bead & Chain Necklace




Take each bead and make them up into individual bead sets.

1. Make a lollipop loop on the wire
2. Slide on a spacer, a bead, a spacer.
3. Cut the wire 1cm above the last spacer.
4. Make another lollipop loop as before, making sure it ends up sitting directly above the last spacer.



Remember each bead set should be a figure 8.

Have a look at your chain.

You will notice the  shapes are connected by a figure of 8 shaped loop. You will need to lever open these links with your pliers and separate 6 individual links to start with.

Use jumpings to connect your beads sets to the individual chain links you prepared earlier. Alternate a chain link with a bead set, or mix it up.



Finally, add the remaining chain to each side to achieve the desired length for the necklace. Once happy with the length, attach one half of your clasp at each side using your jumpings.

TRY

- using a coloured wire instead of gold or silver.
- using coloured jumpings to link together your beads & chain
- using different chain shapes e.g. some round and some oval

MAKE: Earrings to match

- Make a bead set
- Open up one loop a little with your plier tips and hook in a leaf. Close the loop tight.
- Open the other loop, and hook in a chain link. Close the link tight.
- Open up the earring hook loop, and hook in the oval chain link. Close the loop tight. - Repeat for the other side.

TRY

- making a plain drop - use a headpin for your initial bead set
- dangling 2 or 3 beads off each chain link for a cluster effect.



TRY

- using no chain
- using a central pendant bead

JUMPHINGS

1. Face the gap 12 o'clock, hold tight at 9 o'clock with chain nose pliers and 3 o'clock with round nose pliers.
2. Roll your right wrist straight toward yourself to open the jumping wide enough to slip bead sets into.
3. Hook in bead sets.
4. Turn your wrist straight back the other way, with a slight wriggle if needed, to close the jumping tight.