

Double Wrapped Loops for Chain Maille

1.



Make a 90° bend in your piece of wire, approximately 2-3 inches from the end of the wire.

2.



I like to match the size of my loops to the size of the jump rings that they will be connecting to.

In this example I am making a Byzantine chain with 16 ga 4.5 mm ID jump rings.

I close a jump ring and push it down on the pliers to find out where 4.5 mm would be.

3.



I mark below the jump rings with a permanent marker so that I know where to position my wire to make 4.5 mm ID loops.

4.



With your round nose pliers, grab the piece wire at top of the bend.

Make sure that the wire is pointed away from you and that the wire is positioned above the mark on your pliers.

5.



Grab the tip of the wire with your fingers and gently pull it towards you, wrapping the wire around the round nose pliers.

Continue pulling the wire towards you and around the round tip of your pliers until the wire is pointing towards your waist.

6.



Reposition your pliers and then continue looping the wire around the tip of the pliers until you complete the circle and the wire is pointing away from you (as in step 4).

7.



To make the second loop, reposition the first loop back onto the top jaw of the pliers, about the wire lengths from the mark.

8.



Again, bring the wire up and around the pliers and then down so that the end of the wire is pointing down towards the floor.

9.



Reposition the wire onto the bottom jaw, and continue pulling the wire around the jaw...

10.



...until it is pointing away from you at a 90° angle.

11.



Wrap the wire end around the stem.

Unlike a regular wrapped loop, you only want to wrap the wire around the stem one or two times. (Having less wire wrapped on the stem will bring the bead closer to the chain.)

12.



Once your loop is completed, incorporate it into your chain just as you would a pair of jump rings.

In this example, for a Byzantine chain, I would add two jump rings onto my loop.

13.



...and another set of jump rings onto the jump rings that I added in the previous step.

This, in essence, gives me 3 pairs of jump rings hooked together.

14.



I can now do the "Byzantine flip" maneuver, and secure it with another set of jump rings and continue making my chain.

15.



Turning the piece on its side, you can see how well the loop incorporates into the chain.

Once the bead is added onto the wire, and secured with a loop on the opposite side, it will be very difficult to tell where the wrapped bead begins and the chain ends.