

1401-4

Mark Nelson demonstrates how to create your own chain.

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Guest:



Mark Nelson

Link-Forming Project

Swanstrom link-forming pliers can be used to create a nearly endless variety of links and shapes for your jewelry designs. This project will get you started with a basic link-forming technique and show you how to create custom chains for necklaces or bracelets.



enlargement of necklace at right



steps:

1. Start with closed, pre-soldered and tumble-finished jump rings. To prepare your own rings, solder them closed using simple paste solder and tumble in steel shot for 20–30 minutes.
2. Prepare your link-forming pliers by screwing the steel jig onto the body of the pliers. Before tightening the screws completely, wrap a small rubber band around both screws to make squeezing the pliers easier.
3. Install the $\frac{3}{8}$ " and $\frac{1}{16}$ " pegs in the holes of the jig opposite one another.
4. Take a soldered and finished jump ring and place it over the two pegs. Squeeze the pliers to stretch open the jig, stopping just before the pliers are completely open.
5. Set the set-screw on the side of the pliers by screwing it in just until snug. This will allow you to repeat the same stretch over and over, creating uniformly-shaped links.
6. Take a pair of round-nose pliers and squeeze the link closed around the $\frac{1}{16}$ " peg. Once the loop is formed, release the round-nosed pliers and slide the new link off of the jig.
7. Repeat steps 4–6 to make as many identical links as you desire.
8. Take a pair of flat-nose pliers and gently bend the small loop of each link upwards slightly. Take two links and pass the small end of each through the large end of the other, pointing one small loop down while the other small loop is pointed up. Pull them through tightly to set the link-pair, using pliers if necessary.
9. Use 2.5mm jump rings to connect as many link-pairs as you need for your design.
10. Finish with a clasp.

supplies:

Order #	Description
111-000/1	Swanstrom link-forming pliers set
111-703	Swanstrom pliers set
684-137	18 ga. 13mm ID sterling silver jump rings
695-064	18 ga. 2.5mm ID sterling silver jump rings
686-147	Sterling silver hook & eye clasp



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