



Get Started Guide tips & tricks for a successful start

You will need two pairs of pliers to make your projects. These pliers are like your new fingers. Try to keep the pliers in your hands as you work as much as possible. Making chainmaille jewelry is all about **OPENING**, **CLOSING** and **LINKING** jump rings. Your project instructions will tell you exactly how to link the rings to create the right pattern.

This sheet has tips for how to hold, open, close and scoop the rings.

Get a Grip! The right way to hold jump rings in your pliers. (Your exact grip will vary, but this is a good general guide.)



DON'T! - Too Vertical
Difficult to maneuver and extra stress on your joints.



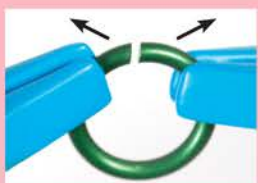
DON'T! - Too Horizontal
Not enough leverage and too hard on your elbows.



DO! - Just right
Ideal for maximum leverage and protection of your joints.



Open Sesame! How much to open your jump rings.



Don't! Opening by pulling outwards means you won't be able to close the ring properly.



TOO LITTLE



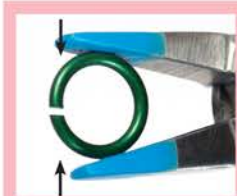
TOO MUCH



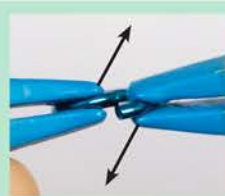
JUST RIGHT!

DO! Open your rings with an inward motion, pulling the end of the ring that corresponds with your dominant hand towards you. Make sure to open the ring enough but not too much or too little.

Do the Wiggle! The right way to close your jump rings.



Don't! You cannot sandwich the ring to close it. It will only pop open when you let go.



DO! Pull the far end toward you and push the near end away from you; at the same time, press the ends inward toward each other. Move the ends until their positions are reversed and the end that was originally further away from you is now closer to you. Repeat in the other direction, making sure to overlap the ends again by continuing to push inward. Bring the ends back to center. Continue with small wiggles as needed to make the closing seamless; you should not be able to see light between the ends!

Scoop them up! The simplest way to add jump rings as you weave.

Fingers are clumsy! It is best to use your pliers to pick up and weave jump rings as you work. It might feel awkward at first, but with practice, you'll get used to these new "fingers."

