

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

*Which kits would you recommend for a beginner?*

The kits most suitable when learning to make chain maille jewellery are.....

Helm Chain  
Open Round  
Double Rope  
Double Flower  
Byzantine Weave  
Patrice and  
Doughnut Chain.

Some of the other kits have quite small rings used in the weave, these rings can be difficult to manage until you have had some experience. Do read the reply to, 'My closed rings have gaps, why?' Closing rings properly can make all of the difference in the look and success of your chains.

*My closed rings have gaps, why?]*

When you close the ring twist the ends sideways in the opposite direction, I always teach to twist the ring slightly past where the ends of the ring butt together, then use a little pressure inwards so the ends of the ring overlap very slightly, now bring the ends of the rings back into line. This puts a little spring tension into the ring and the two ends of the ring will come together with no gap or space between them. When this is done correctly you will feel, hear a tiny click as the rings come back into line, then if needed, line the ends of the ring up perfectly by using a slight side to side movement.

This is the best way to close rings for all types of jewellery making, you will have a perfectly round ring that closes together without an obvious join.

For chain maille and especially with the Beaded Centipede, you need to have perfectly closed round rings or the weave will not be even and the beads will work their way through any gaps in the rings.

*Why use Sterling Silver, Plated Silver is cheaper?*

The links in chains are constantly rubbing against each other, if you use silver plated metal to make chains, it will soon look shabby where the microscopic layer of silver has rubbed off.

When I make a chain I want it to last, and be worth the time I have spent making it, I want it to be a piece of jewellery worth keeping, to be worth passing on to future generations, so I use Sterling Silver or 14/20 Gold Fill (14ct Rolled Gold).

*14/20 Gold Fill, what is it?*

This is also known as 14 carat Rolled Gold, it is used for affordable jewellery, with the luxury look of gold, that will last a lifetime.

14/20 Gold Fill is a two part metal, a layer of 14 carat gold is heat and pressure bonded to a brass core, the layer of gold is 5% (1/20<sup>th</sup>) of the metals weight, 14/20 Gold Fill wire is a tube of solid 14 carat gold with a core of brass.

This gold layered metal should not be confused with 'gold plating' which is a microscopic layer of gold over a base metal, Gold Fill has at least 150 times more gold than 'gold plate'. Plated metal should not be used for chains, the movement of the links will wear through the very thin coating very quickly, even cleaning will remove the plating.

