

Jewelry chains are some of the most basic staples of your finished jewelry wardrobe. It's handy to have a pendant chain for every pendant you own. Chains can also be a very versatile jewelry making component as well. Here are just a few ways to incorporate chains into your designs.



1 Make a pendant chain from small link, unfinished chain to show off your favorite pendants. By starting with a long piece of bulk chain, you can determine the exact length you want, even if that's exactly 23.5"! Cut the length you want, add a clasp to one end and a jump ring on the other and you're set.

Two of the hottest current trends in jewelry are tassels & fringe! Why not make them from chain?

2

As before, determine the

length of the necklace you want. Add a clasp and a jump ring to make it wearable. Cut chain pieces the length that you want

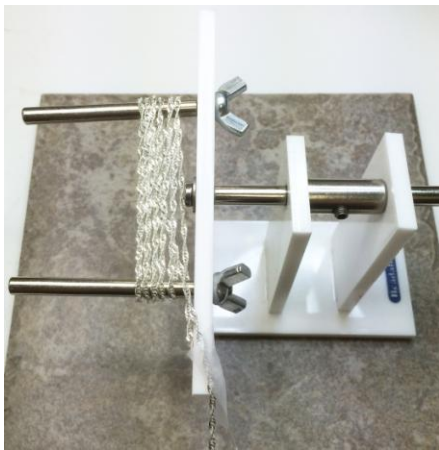


your fringe to hang. If your chain links open, open the link, run it through your necklace link then close it. IF your chain link does not open, use a jump ring to attach each piece. This two tone piece was made by connecting a yellow gold tone chain to a silver tone chain piece. Having all of your fringe chains the same length gives you a gentle curve. You can graduate the sizes more for a more angular look.

3

To create your tassel, you can cut individual pieces of chain, or you can wind it on Beadalon's Tassel Maker.

Wind your chain, run a wire through the links on one side & twist it closed, pull it off the tassel maker and cut the ends. To finish off the top, cover the wire with a pre made cone & create a wrapped loop bail.



4

While you're cutting chains, why not make a matching bracelet? Cut matching lengths of chain and join them to a slide clasp using jump rings.



5 If plain chain isn't your thing, spice it up a bit with some beads! These pear

shape & round Czech Glass beads are the perfect delicate accent to a delicate chain link. I created wrapped loops for the dangles. At this point, I could have used jump rings to join the dangles to the chain, but I opened the chain link and slid them on instead. I thought this was pretty as a single line chain, but Breiann, our merchandiser, liked the idea of stacking the chains together.



6

Here is a variation of that theme. With the Pink Czech Glass beads as drops,

it can be very Princess-ey.

Instead of wrapped loops, I created simple loops using thicker, fancy headpins. I dangled them from the main necklace chain then draped another long piece around each drop. I used a piece of wire through a bead & looped the wire on each side. Opening one loop, I attached the bead to the chain. Opening the bottom loop, I attached the chain drape.



7

If you aren't a Pink Princess (today), maybe you are a Nature Goddess. For a

bit of Boho Chic, mix your chain with some leather and rough tumbled Turquoise beads. The chain, leather and bead strand are loosely braided together. The leather and beads are wired together to the chain (which is just a little bit longer), then a clasp and jump ring are added to the chain to finish the bracelet.



8

Another easy beaded

technique is to create a beaded strand centerpiece with chain for

the rest of the necklace. This is really handy when you only have a few beads or you are working with larger beads but don't want a hefty necklace. String your beads onto beading wire and crimp the ends around jump rings. I used large, textured jump rings to really stand out in the design. If you have them, use crimp covers to hide your crimps. Finish the length of the necklace by adding chain on each side of the center section, then add a clasp.

9

You can really stretch out a few beads by

creating segments of beads and breaking them up using chain. I took 24g brass wire and made wrapped loops on either side of my turquoise bead stations. I measured out equal lengths of chain and used those to connect each station. I then used the remainder of the beads to create a “Tree of Life” wire pendant. If I had tried to string a solid necklace of beads, I wouldn’t have a pendant!

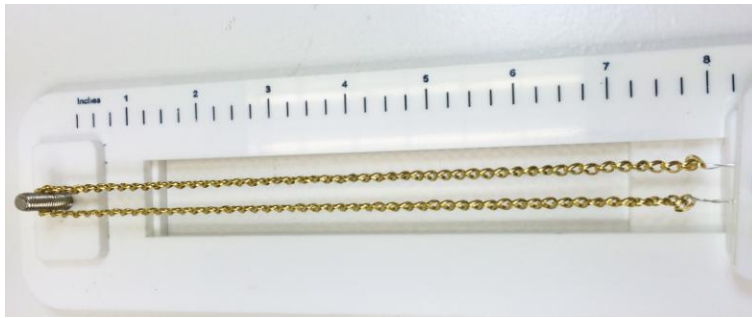


f9

This one is my challenge to you and

I think it was the most fun to make! Using Meredith Roddy’s Tying Station, I wrapped chain from one end, around the peg on the other end then back to the first side. Taking 26 gauge wire, I made a wrap style bracelet but running the wire through one side of the chain, through a bead, then through the chain on the opposite side. I traveled down by skipping one link and “sewing” into the next one. I went through a bead then out the other side. I continued going in & out each side until the bracelet was the length I wanted. I wrapped the wires into the chain to anchor them & joined the ends with a jump ring & clasp.





I really want to see what you make with your chain kit! Please email me photos at Jewel.School@jtv.com or post them on our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/jewelschool/>

& Enjoy!