

European 4 in 1 Chainmaille by Christiane Ross

European 4 in 1 Chainmaille Weave is one of the first really structural weaves you should learn. It works like a grid so think in squares. To create a diagonal line, you either add or remove a ring for each row.

I am using LARGE Aluminum rings for demonstration and am alternating black rings & silver rings for each row to make it easy to see.

Open & close several Jump Rings to start. Open rings by lifting up on one side. Don't pull the ends apart. Close rings by lowering the end you lifted. Work the ends back & forth until they fit flush.



Here's how to create the first 3 rows.

1. Put 4 closed jump rings (silver) onto 1 open (black) ring. [This is where the 4 in 1 part comes from]
2. Spread the silver rings so that 2 are on the top & 2 are on the bottom.
3. Open one jump ring and add through the top silver rings.

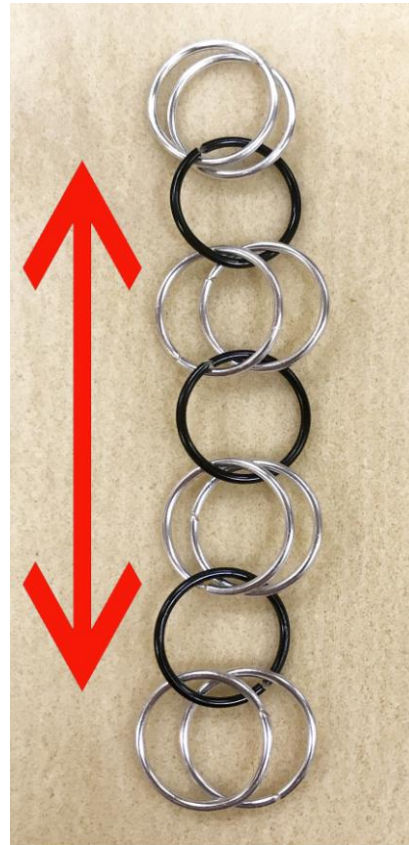


4. Add 2 more closed jump rings to the end then close the open ring.



5. At this point you need to decide how you want your E4-1 to expand. This weave style was originally used in making armor for knights. It expands more one way than the other because you want to be able to breathe but you don't need a shirt to get longer when you put it on.

If you lay your chain out Vertically as shown, you will get more expansion horizontally, but it will not expand up & down.



6. I will pretend that this piece is the length I want for a bracelet. If my bracelet needed to be longer, I would repeat steps 3 & 4 until it is as long as I want.

I then rotate my bracelet so I can make it wider.



7. Open one Jump ring. Thread it through the last rings in rows 1 and 3 then close it.

For this tutorial, every new ring I am adding will be yellow so you know which one I am adding. It will magically turn into the correct color for that row for the next step 😊



8. Open 1 jump ring. Thread it through the last rings in rows 3 & 5 then close it.



9. Open 1 jump ring. Thread it through the last rings in rows 5 & 7 then close it.

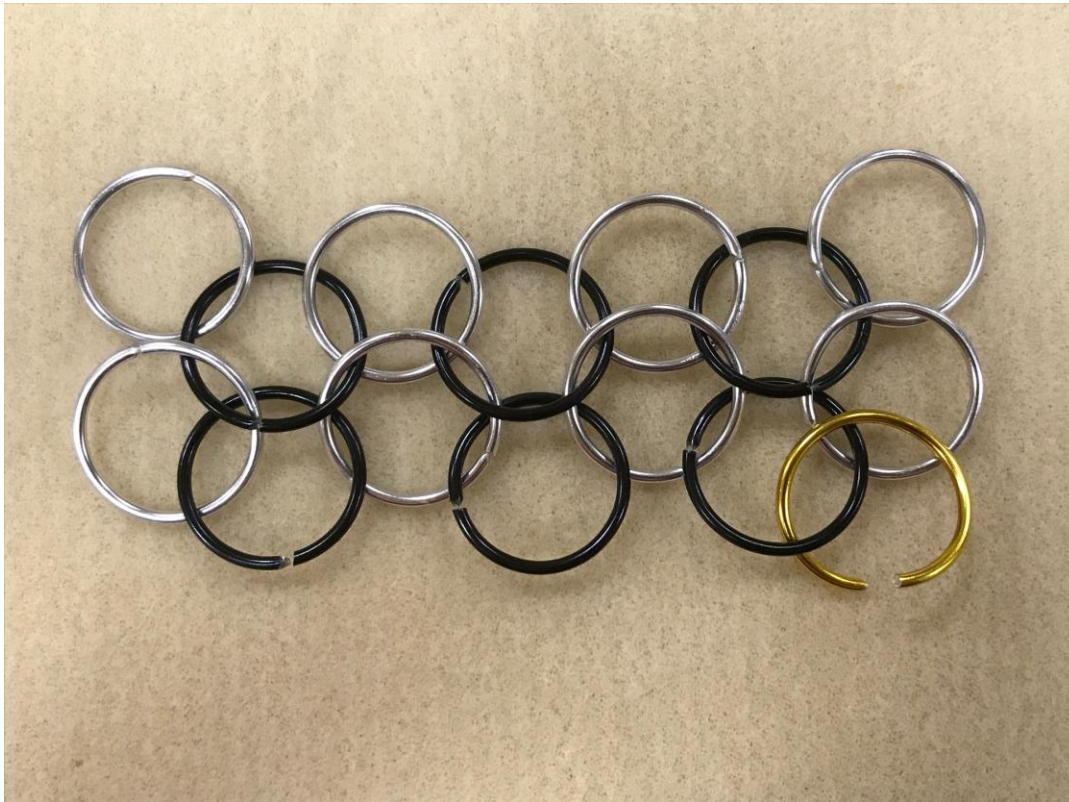


Your bracelet should look like this so far:

You will be working on the even rows next.



10. Open a jump ring and thread it through the last ring in row 2 ONLY then close it. Make sure it is flipped to the right so it is part of the first row.



11. Open a jump ring and thread it through the last rings in rows 2 & 4 then close it.



12. Open a jump ring and thread it through the last rings in rows 4 & 6 then close it.



13. Open a jump ring and thread it through the last ring in row 6 then close it. Make sure it's flipped to the left to be part of the last row.



Repeat steps 10-13 to make your piece wider.



Use smaller rings, add beads and have a lot of fun with this versatile weave!

Enjoy!

