

## ORIGINS AND APPLICATIONS OF LOOP-in-LOOP CHAINS

The loop-in-loop was the predominant chain type used for gold and silver jewelry from the early Bronze Age in the Middle East, through the Classical period until the end of the Middle Ages. Among the earliest surviving examples of loop-in-loop chains were those discovered in the royal graves at Ur which have been dated to around 3000 B.C., but mastery of the problems associated with the technique and the quality of the craftsmanship indicate that simple chains of this type had probably been produced for some time before this. Loop-in-loop chains also have been found in jewelry from Troy II, from prepalatial Crete, and from Egyptian burials of a somewhat later date (2100 B.C.). Since there is evidence of trading contacts between some of the



FIGURE 1.1

Basic Loop-in-Loop Chain Types (from top to bottom): Single, Double, Pinched Loop, Two-Way Single, Two-Way Double.

## TAMPING

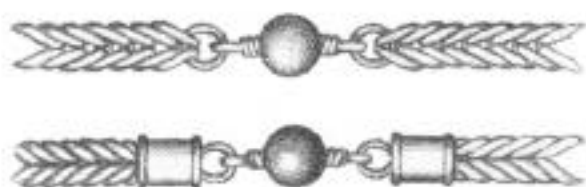
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12. Place the chain on a wooden surface. With a leather mallet and doing about 2" at a time, *gently* tap all four sides until the chain is even.
13. Finish, following the directions given in Chapter 9 for clasp A, B, D, E, F, or H.

### CHAIN 12: DOUBLE WITH WRAPPED BEADS (*Ancient*)

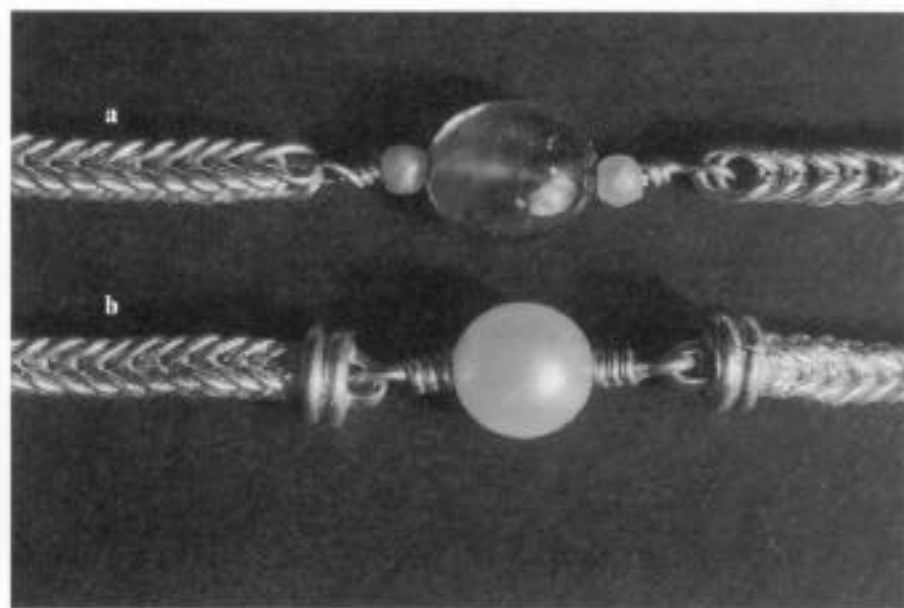
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This version of the double loop-in-loop chain was often found in the ancient world. In contrast to the pinched loop with wrapped beads, this chain has a denser appearance and a smoother line. The sections can be wrapped directly, or the ends of the sections can be finished with terminations that will give the chain a different appearance and character. Sectional chains can be fastened with a hook or a clasp, or all the sections can be joined continuously to make a chain that slips on over the head.



**FIGURE 5.12**

Two sections of double loop-in-loop chain with wrapped beads, one wrapped directly and one with terminations.

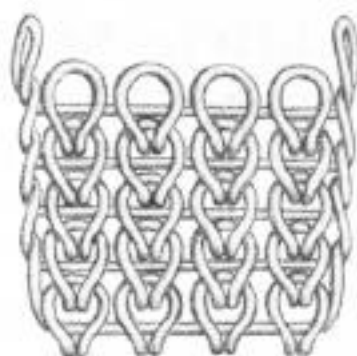


**FIGURE 5.13**

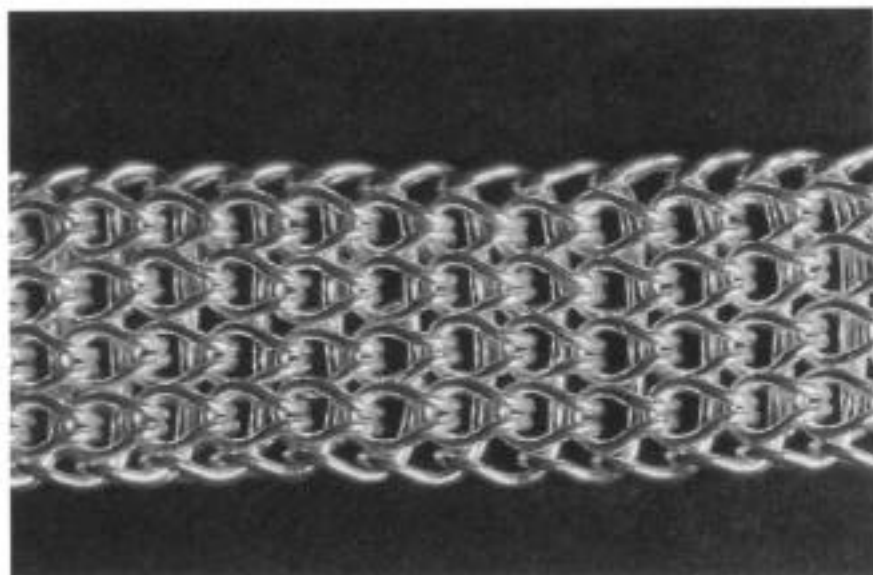
Double loop-in-loop chain with wrapped beads: (a) wrapped into last loops of sections; (b) with terminations

## CHAIN 31: MULTIPLE WOVEN SINGLE LOOP-in-LOOP MESH (Ancient)

Like the multidirectional single-loop chains, examples of multiple woven single loop-in-loop meshes from the ancient world do not seem to have survived, but it is reasonable to assume that they were made. They are easier to weave than double loop-in-loop meshes; they are more open and lighter in weight; and their appearance is both attractive and distinctive.



**FIGURE 8.2A**  
Section of a multiple woven single  
loop-in-loop chain



**FIGURE 8.2B**  
Section of a multiple woven single  
loop-in-loop chain

### MATERIALS NEEDED FOR A 7" BRACELET WITH A FOUR-ROW MESH

34 ft of 22-gauge fine silver  
wire

1/4" Dowel

1/2" Dowel

Medium solder

Flux and flush brush

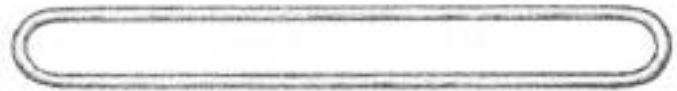
Special opener: A pointed tool similar to a scribe with a long thin shaft of uniform diameter for opening a path for the long links. This can be made by grinding down a scribe or an old file.



**FIGURE 8.3**  
Special openers made by grinding a scribe or file

## PROCEDURE

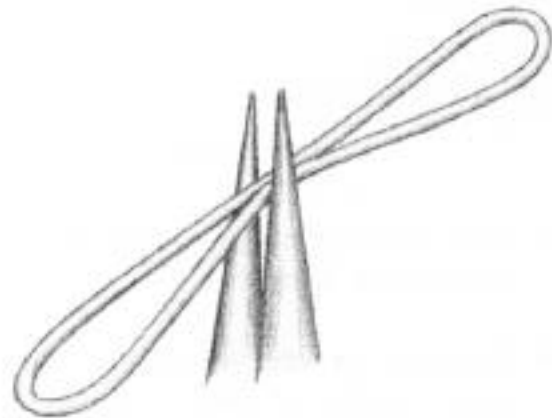
1. Solder the ends of the hook wire together to form a link, then shape the link into a long oval.
2. Bend this link in the middle in the same way that the chain links were bent.
3. Place the center of the hook link horizontally in the pliers.
4. Gently bend the link around the pliers so that it goes all the way around with the legs crossed over each other.



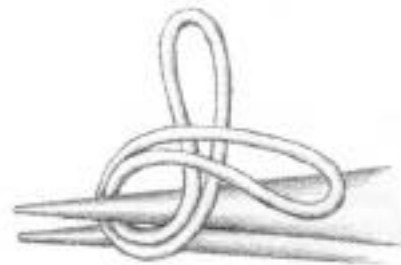
**FIGURE 9.42**  
First shaping of hook link



**FIGURE 9.43**  
Bending the hook link



**FIGURE 9.44**  
Centering the hook link on the pliers



**FIGURE 9.45**  
Bending the hook link around the pliers

**Note:** The same procedure for curving as that used for the side-weave single (chain #4, p.37) and the side-weave double (chain #13, p.76) may be used here in place of steps 2 and 3.