

Basic Chain Making

Making a simple jewelry chain involves creating consistent, connected links using pliers and wire. The easiest method is to **form individual links by wrapping wire into a loop, passing it through the previous link, and closing it**. Using 20-24 gauge wire and round-nose pliers allows for easy bending of eye pins to create a sturdy, elegant chain, which can be further customized with beads. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

Key Steps for a Basic Wire Chain:

- **Wrap Wire:** Wrap wire around a rigid cylinder (ex: Chop Stick)
- **Cut wire to make Jumpings:** Cut each loop using flush wirecutters so it will make a full circle
- **File ends:** this will help jumpings to lay flush against each other and create a friction fit (that way you don't "need" to solder them together)
- **Link Jumpings:** Use chain-nose pliers, open jumpings, add link inside, then close jumping making it the next link.
- **Finish:** Repeat the process to desired length and attach a clasp using jump rings. [1, 3, 5, 6, 7]

Alternative Methods:

- **Modify the shape of the jumpings/links:** Create, solder (optional), and link small metal jump rings together.
- **Paper Chain:** Cut strips of paper, loop them through each other, and secure with glue or staples.
- **Crochet Chain:** Use a hook and wire to create a series of slip knots. [2, 8, 9, 10]

For best results, use softer wire (like fine silver or copper) and consistent sizing for each link. [3, 11]

[1] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qT1e2ajSFJ4>

[2] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RD6KyJTjPR0>

[3] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qnDTE0Lt6s>

[4] <https://www.instructables.com/Simple-chain/>

[5] <https://www.instructables.com/DIY-Beaded-Chain/>

[6] <https://www.instructables.com/DIY-Chain-necklace/>

[7] <https://www.kimberliekohler.com/kimberlie-kohler-designs-8/dangle-chain-necklace-tutorial>

[8] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bGIS1RVYryo>

[9] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BaVwim4Lk6E>

[10] <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Annggu31M6A>

[11]

<https://beryllina.com/blogs/blog-posts/15560661-handmaking-chain-using-a-5000-year-old-technique>