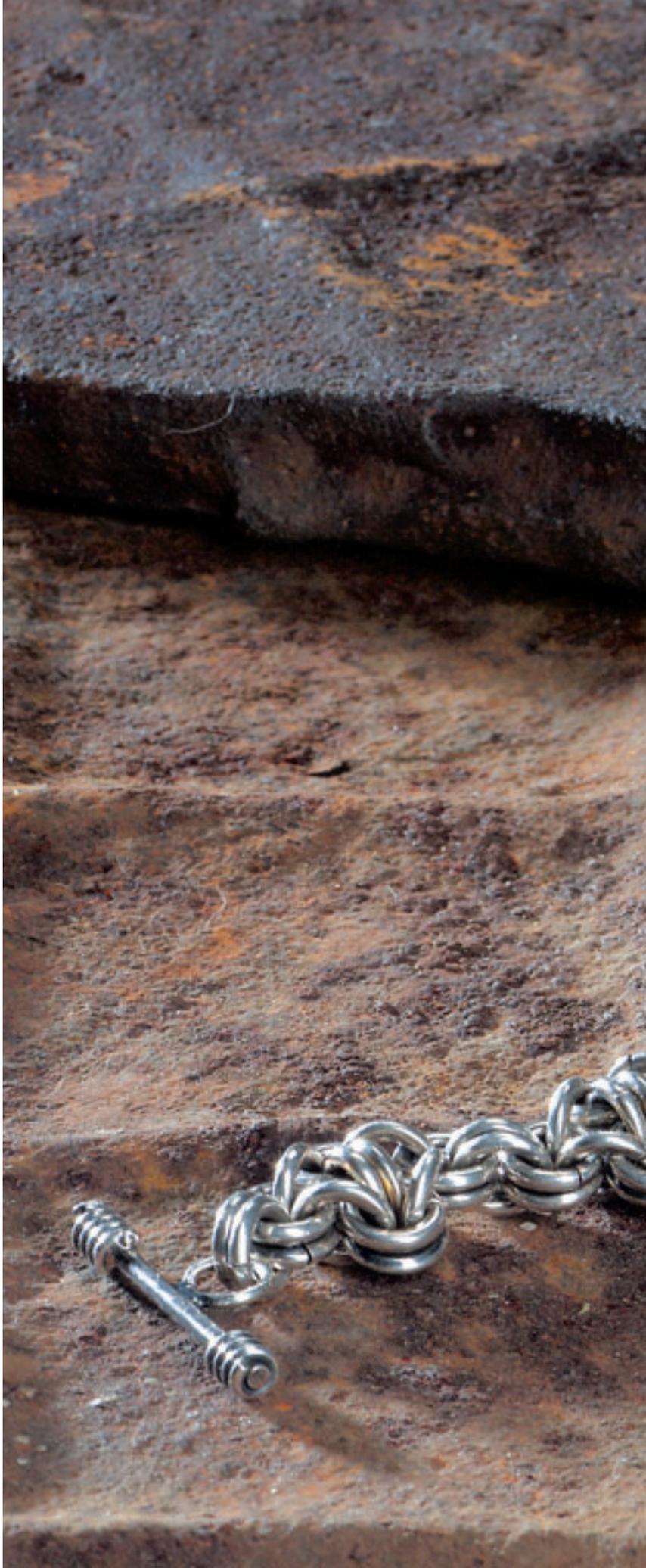


Take a modular approach
to assembling this link
bracelet that looks tricky
but goes together fast
by Anne E. Mitchell

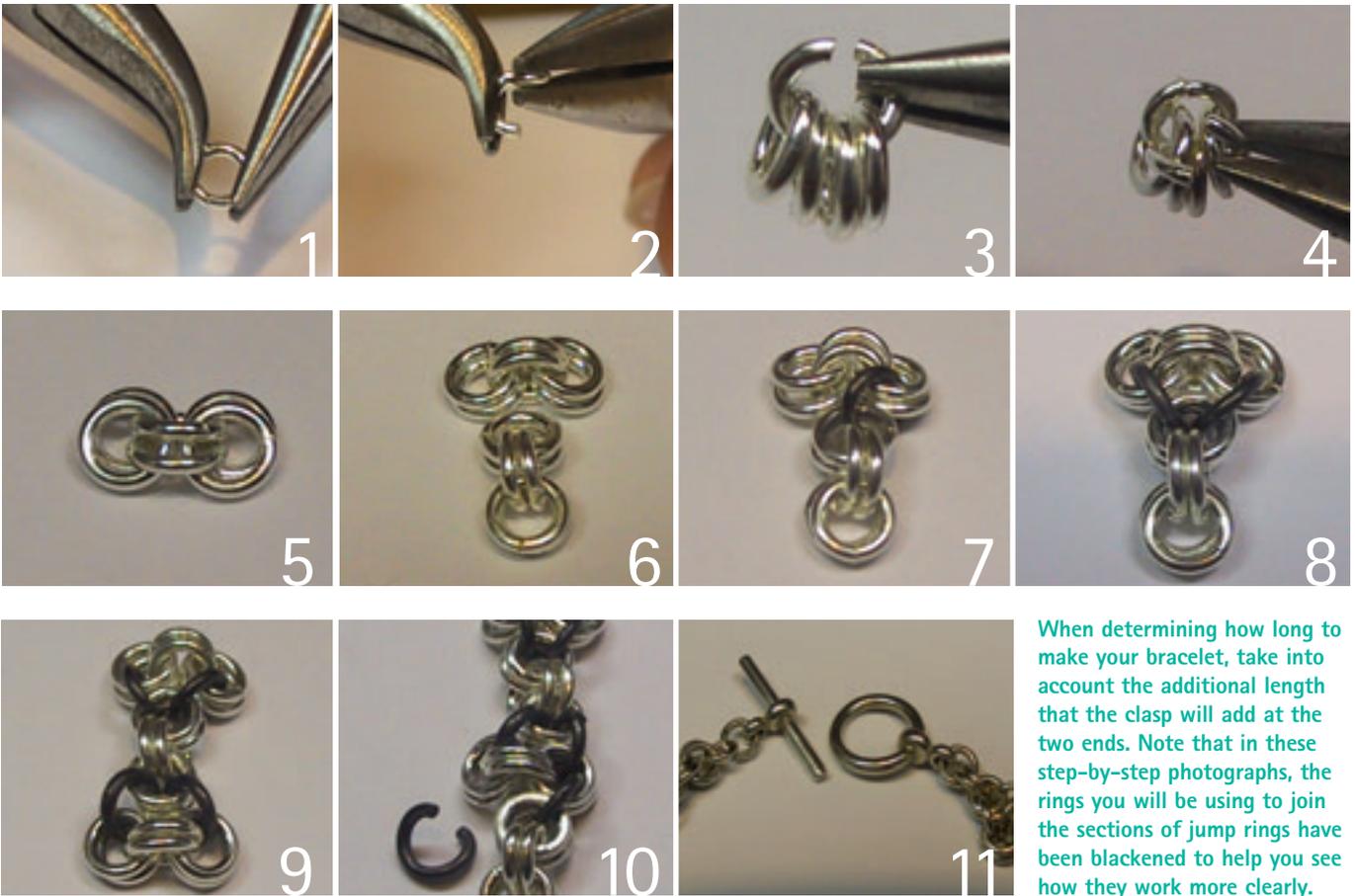
Make a bracelet of jump rings

One evening about five years ago, I was handed two sections of flat chain mesh and challenged to figure out how to connect them. Hooked from then on, I began researching anything related to chainmaking. I also started teaching classes, because I enjoy sharing my deep passion for creating chain links out of jump rings. Three years ago, I went on a trip to the silver markets and workshops of Taxco, Mexico. This is the region that supplied silver to the Spanish court in the 1500s; it serves today as a living monument to the art and craft of silver-smithing. While I was there, a double cross link chain created by a local silver-smith caught my eye. As a class project, this design has proven popular with novices because it produces a polished look and presents satisfying challenges.

William Zuback







Process photos by Kate Ferrant Richbourg

When determining how long to make your bracelet, take into account the additional length that the clasp will add at the two ends. Note that in these step-by-step photographs, the rings you will be using to join the sections of jump rings have been blackened to help you see how they work more clearly.

materials

- 1 troy ounce of sterling silver 3mm inside diameter 18-gauge jump rings
- sterling silver toggle or lobster claw clasp

Tools:

- bent chainnose pliers
- chainnose pliers

Note: Anne sells the jump rings for this project through her store, Beadissimo, in San Francisco. To order the jump rings, call 415-282-2323 and ask for "Style Code JJ."

Assemble 2+2+2 links

Prepare to assemble the bracelet links by closing 84 of the jump rings. [1] Open 42 other jump rings. [2] Place four of the closed jump rings on one of the open jump rings and close the open jump ring. [3] Place a second open jump ring around the same four closed rings. [4] You now have a strand of three sets of links with two rings in each section. [5] This is called a 2+2+2 link. Assemble at least 21 of these 2+2+2 link sections for a 7" (18cm) bracelet.

Join the sections

Open 40 more jump rings. These will be used to join the 2+2+2 link sections. Position two of the 2+2+2 link sections with one centered above the other to form a T-shape. [6] To help describe the next step, I will call the cross section at the top of the T "Part A" and the vertical section below it "Part B." Attach these two sections, using the newly opened jump rings. First, connect the top rings of Part B to one of the

side rings of Part A. [7] Now connect the same top rings of Part B to the other set of side rings on Part A. [8] Place another 2+2+2 link at a 90° angle at the base of the section you just finished assembling. Use two more open jump rings to attach this link to the finished assembly in the same fashion. [9] Continue connecting the 2+2+2 link sections in this manner [10] until you reach the desired length for your bracelet.

Attach the clasp

Use jump rings to connect the final links at either end of your bracelet to the clasp pieces. [11] If using a lobster claw clasp instead of the toggle clasp shown, add a jump ring on the opposite end to act as the loop. Be sure to end the pattern so the chain can lie flat. 

Anne owns Beadissimo, a full service bead store, with her partner, Kate Ferrant Richbourg, who created the wire pendant project on page 76 in this issue. Anne may be contacted directly at anne@beadissimo.com.