

1310-2

Mark Nelson has a lesson on soldering end caps on chain.

[Click here to watch the video for this project.](#)

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Guest:



Mark Nelson

Soldering End Caps

With the growing popularity of large-hole beads, it's more important than ever to be able to create custom chains and bracelets by soldering your own end-caps onto bulk chain.

steps:

1. Protect your piece from firescale

Apply a 50/50 mixture of boric acid powder and denatured alcohol as a barrier flux to any areas of the chain and endcap that will be exposed to heat.

2. Assemble your piece

For the flat style endcap, pinch it closed a little before attaching it to the chain. Add a small amount of paste solder with your soldering pick to the endcap and chain. Place the solder where the two pieces touch, and be sure to get some on both sides.

3. Solder

Apply heat directly to the joint. Try to use a soft, bushy flame and work quickly so that the flux won't burn off. Getting the solder to flow should take no longer than 30 seconds.

Note: Be sure to work in a well ventilated area; soldering fumes are toxic. Always wear safety glasses.

4. Cleanup

Once your joint is securely soldered, place the piece in pickle to remove any remaining flux or light oxidation. Remove from the pickle once the piece is clean and rinse in water before polishing or finishing as desired. Your custom chain is ready for stringing or finishing with any type of clasp.



supplies:

Order #	Description
632-866/B	Sterling 1.4mm snake chain
632-449/B	Sterling 3mm bead chain
698-509	Sterling flat chain end cap
630-422	Sterling round chain end cap
686-654	Argentium® Silver Dexterity™ clasp
103-100	Silver paste solder, easy
500-230	Blazer butane torch
500-181	Butane fuel cartridge
500-090	Little Torch for disposable tanks
504-025	Pump flux dispenser
504-006	My-T-Flux™ green flux
115-146	Natural brush sticks
503-019	Titanium soldering pick
502-004	Silquar™ high-heat block
502-025	Long-life hard charcoal block
503-048	Torch ignitor
502-066	Third hand
115-051	Cross-lock tweezers w/fibergrip
501-017	Copper pickling tongs
501-023/3	Rio pickle
501-012	Little Dipper™ pickle pot
704-096	Boric acid powder
115-146	Flux brush
111-026	Swanstrom pliers and cutter set
201-054	Safety glasses
500-091/2	Propane tank
500-092/2	Oxygen tank
—	Denatured alcohol



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