Jump Ring Jewels

A BEGINNER-LEVEL JEWELRY MAKING COURSE
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Thank you so much for signing up! I'm your host, Bev Feldman, of Linkouture.

In this free, self-paced video course you'll learn:

- The #1 tool you need for making beautiful jump ring jewelry
- How to properly open & close jump rings (spoiler alert: you're probably doing it wrong!)
- The Spiral Method, a simple jewelry-making technique that will allow you to make numerous pieces of jewelry

Please note that when you click on a video in this course it will open a new screen on YouTube.

You'll also find a page with links to all of the tools & materials I use in these videos.

I recommend you watch the videos (it will only take you 5-10 minutes to watch them all), gather all your tools and supplies if you have them, and then try them out.

If you are brand new to jewelry making and don't yet have the tools and/or materials, take a look at my jewelry tutorials and see if this is the style of jewelry you'd like to try. Then you can go to the Tools & Materials section to purchase what you need.

If you have any questions, please feel free to message me.

Music in the videos in this course by www.bensound.com
Course Outline

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About your instructor

Hey there! I’m Bev, a mom of two little girls juggling carpools, playdates, this business, and a personal blog. I’m also a jewelry designer and metalsmith (and until August 2019, sold my handmade jewelry) and educator with over 20 years of making jewelry.

(That's me with my kiddos in 2019.)
I help busy people kickstart their jewelry making hobbies and gain the skills and confidence to start making their own beautiful creations to gift or to sell.

As a kid, I would immerse myself in creative, hands-on activities. But as I got older, life got in the way and I put a lot of my creative interests, such as jewelry making, on hold.

However, I still felt the pull. After many trips to the local craft store, where I drooled over the supplies but felt overwhelmed, I settled on a simple kit. I still didn’t quite know what I was doing and it looked like something I would have made when I was 10, but I attempted something I hadn’t done in years, and it felt AMAZING.

Fast forward a few years, and friends from my childhood were messaging me on Facebook asking me if I could make custom jewelry for them to gift. I could have never imagined I would get to that point!

Over the years I've come to realize that you don't need tons of time to do jewelry making at home.

You just need to know a few simple tools, a (small!) stash of supplies, and a small window of time to make jewelry.

Are you ready to dive in?
The #1 recommended jewelry making tool

The key to making jewelry is having the right tools. When I first started making jump ring jewelry, I bought a random set of pliers at a jewelry making store.

While they got the job done, I discovered that they scratched and nicked the jump rings and hurt my hands and wrists. **Ouch!**

After I discovered an amazing shop on Etsy that sold supplies, I realized I was using the wrong pliers. Once I bought the correct tool I saw a huge difference. My jump rings were still smooth as glass and my hands no longer cramped up. I'm going to let you in on what pliers you should get in the video below.

This is one of the top five tools I recommend every beginner jewelry maker have. (I share my other recommendations in my beginner-level course, [Metal to Masterpiece](#))
(Click on image to be taken to the video on YouTube)

Video transcription: These are flat nose pliers. They are my favorite jewelry-making plier and my #1 recommended tool. They are used for almost every tutorial I share on the Linkouture blog.

Because of that, I think it’s important to get high-quality ones, especially if you intend to do any type of jewelry that involves opening and closing a lot of jump rings, such as chainmaille jewelry. You want ones that feel good in your hands and that won’t knick or scratch the rings.

Flat nose pliers, as the name suggests, are pliers that are flat on the end. They come in different shapes and sizes.

You can see that these ones [the blue ones] are a little smaller and the head is a little narrower, and in this pair [the small purple pair] the handles are smaller and the grip is different. As you can see, there’s a variety of flat-nose pliers.

I really like these [the big purple ones ] because they feel good in my hands. They are a little pricier, but for me, it was worth the investment. It really depends on what kind of jewelry-making you’ll be doing and how much of it. If you’re just starting out and you’re not sure, I would recommend starting with something smaller and less expensive. For me it was worth buying the more expensive pair because I like how they feel in my hands.

The other thing to note with flat-nose pliers is you will need two pairs of flat-nose pliers to help you in opening and closing jump rings.

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How to open & close jump rings the RIGHT way

When I first started making jewelry, I fumbled my way through bead wrapping, figuring out what supplies I actually needed, and opening and closing jump rings.

One of the biggest mistakes I made was opening and closing jump rings.

I thought the right way to open them was to pull the slits away from each other in a similar motion to opening a clam shell. What I quickly discovered was this method led to wonky, misshapen jump rings that did not align back up properly when I went to close them.

You can avoid making the same mistake I did!

(Click on image to be taken to the video on YouTube)

Video transcription: In this video I will show you how to properly open & close a jump ring.

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In this case, I'm going to use two flat nose pliers. Pick up the jump ring, and you're going to find where the jump ring is separated, find the little crack. You're going to take your pliers and hold it on each side of the crack where it’s separated.

To open the jump ring, you might be tempted to pull them open, to pull the sides apart like a clam shell, but that will mess up the shape.

Instead, what you want to do, is to pull one side towards you and push the other side away from you. So in this case, I’m going to pull my right hand toward me and push my left hand away from me, like this.

Now. to close the jump ring back up, you’ll move your hands in the opposite direction. In this case I will move my right hand away from my and my left hand towards me.

And then you hear a nice a click. You’ll know your jump ring is closed up well when there’s a little bit of friction and you hear a click sound, and it’s nice and flush.
An important note about opening & closing jump rings

(Click on image to be taken to the video on YouTube)

Video transcription: Another thing to note when you’re holding a jump ring in your pliers is to just be careful about not nicking or scratching the wire.

It’s really easy sometimes for your hands to slip and the pliers to end up squeezing the end of the metal. You scratch the jump ring, depending on what kind of metal you’re using. (I’ve done this so many times over the years.)

With sterling silver, you are likely to scratch it, as well as any kind of softer metal. Stainless steel, I’m not so sure about, but I imagine since it’s a little firmer you’re less likely to.

Just be careful, and I always recommend if you’re just starting out to practice on a lower-quality, less expensive material, such as aluminum because if you scratch a bunch you’re not wasting your money. Sterling silver, while not as expensive as gold, is still on the pricer end.
The Spiral Method

"Oh my goodness, how do you even make these spirals? Do you twist the wire around? They're so beautiful and look so complicated!"

You would not believe how many times I was asked these questions when I sold my jewelry. People were amazed by the jewelry that sparkled in the sunlight, not realizing that these seemingly complicated spirals were so unbelievably easy to make.

In this video, you'll learn the secret to those beautiful jewels learning what I've dubbed the Spiral Method. After you've made one of these, you'll have created a Mobius spiral, which you can then use to make a very simple pendant for a necklace.

(Click on image to be taken to the video on YouTube)

© Linkouture
Video transcription: In this video, we’re going to make the 3-ring mobius spiral, which is the basis of many of the tutorials you will find on the Linkouture blog.

To make this spiral, you will need three jump-rings. In this case, I’m using three 18-gauge, 7.00 mm inner diameter sterling silver jump rings.

To get started, you want to close up your jump ring so that you hear that nice click. Then, you want to take another jump ring and make sure that it’s open so that there’s enough space to fit around that first jump ring.

Now that it’s opened, you’re going to take that second jump ring and loop it onto the first and then properly close it up.

Then, open up that third jump ring.

Now you want to take the two that you put together already and you want to hold them so that they’re overlapping with a little bit of space between them.

If you remember middle school/high school math, it’s a bit of a Venn diagram. You’re going to hold it and right where that space is between the two, you’re going to take the third jump ring and loop it through so it’s going through both jump rings right where they intersect.
That space where the two connected jump rings overlap is where you will stick that third ring
That space in between is where you want to hook in the third jump ring.

After you loop it through, close it up and make sure there’s the click and it’s flush.

And that’s how you make the 3-ring mobius spiral using the Spiral Method.
Links to purchase the tools & materials

You're almost done...

Woohoo, great job on completing all the videos in this free training! By now, you should be able to make your own beautiful pendant using the Spiral Method.

As promised, here are links to the tools & supplies I used in the videos.

Please note that this page contains affiliate links, which means if you click on them and make a purchase I may earn a small commission. You can read my full disclosure policy here.

Tools

When I first started making jewelry I was using the wrong type of flat-nose pliers and it made everything so much more difficult. Avoid the literal pain I went through! I HIGHLY recommend these flat nose pliers for any of my jewelry tutorials. Keep in mind you will need two pairs of these pliers. Yes, they are pricey, but they are WORTH the investment.

Supplies

I personally buy most of my supplies, including jump rings, from RioGrande. They are a wholesale supplier and you need to have an account with them to buy, but they sell quality products.

When I first started buying jump rings, I found this great shop on Etsy. They're super helpful and will answer any questions you have about buying supplies, such as jump rings.

The rings I used in these videos are 18 gauge 7 mm ID sterling silver round jump rings. (Item #696524 if you're ordering them from RioGrande.)
I also like making these spirals with 16 gauge 9 (ish) mm ID sterling silver round jump rings.

Questions?

If you have any questions after you go, please don't hesitate to send an email to me at bev@linkouture.com.

Did you find this helpful? Please share on Facebook!

Please share the link for this class on Facebook if you have friends who you think would also enjoy learning how to get started making jump ring jewelry.
**Time to put what you learned into action!**

First, congrats on completing Jump Ring Jewels.

You now know how to open and close a jump ring the right way. And don't worry if you realize you've been doing it wrong. Many people do when they first get started -- including me! That's why I included a lesson on it.

**So, what exactly does one do with a mobius spiral?**

Great question! The reason I included it in this course is because it's the basis of most of the tutorials you'll find on the Linkouture blog.

Now that you understand the Spiral Method, you can apply it to make a stunning necklace and matching set of earrings that you'll learn to make in the video course, **Stylin' Simple Spirals**. (The only difference is the one below/in the tutorial uses five rings instead of three).