

Shaggy loop bracelet

The technique of chain maille allows you to make all kinds of chain patterns without the need for soldering. This bracelet kit is ideal for trying out the shaggy loop look.

By Julie Grant

Chain maille is the art of linking rings together and the earliest finds reportedly date back to the 4th Century BC. It was traditionally used to make protective armour, but is nowadays most commonly used to make jewellery. This Copper Shaggy Loops Bracelet Kit from La Vidalerie is super easy to use once you have mastered the initial shaggy loop technique. The piece also looks fabulous when finished off with one of La Vidalerie's handmade clasps and domed charm, which can be personalised with up to five letters.

KIT CONTAINS

- Copper jumprings (enough for an 8" bracelet)
- Handmade clasp
- Handmade charm (which can be personalised with up to five letters)
- Full instructions
- Organza presentation bag
- 2 pairs of chain or flat nose pliers to complete the project



This Copper Shaggy Loop bracelet will complement a summer tan beautifully

JULIE GRANT

The process:

Preparation

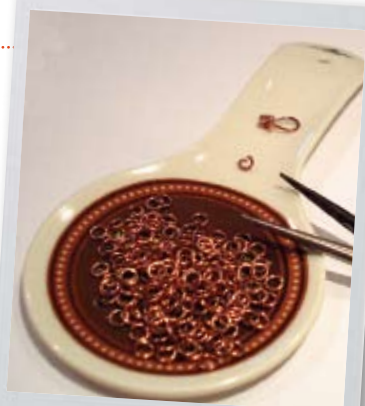
1 You can save time if you prepare some of the copper jumprings in advance. You will need a ratio of 2:1 closed to open rings.

TIP: I found it easier to make up a ratio of 20:10 at a time rather than doing them all at once. This also gives you a break from the assembling which can be quite strenuous on the hands to hold the pliers tightly for this length of time.

Assembly

2 To start the sequence; select an open ring and feed on two closed rings, the clasp and then close the ring securely.

RIGHT: Use your dominant hand to hold the adjoining jumprings and work from the left



JULIE SAYS

Work on a bead mat. I found a spoon rest was great for keeping jumprings together too



3 Hold the jumprings that adjoins all of them (the one that was open) with the flat nose pliers and allow one of the closed rings to flip over and lay either side of the adjoining ring.

TIP: You will find that it is easier to hold the bracelet whilst making by the adjoining jumprings in your dominant hand (in my case the right hand).

4 Add another open ring and feed on another 2 closed jumprings and keep repeating the process.

Finishing

5 Once your bracelet is almost the correct length add the large copper ring and close.

6 Finally, using another jumprings secure the charm to the larger copper ring.

The result:

WHAT I LIKED:

- ▶ Kit is excellent value
- ▶ Great introductory to chain maille
- ▶ Easy but effective technique

4 1/2 OUT OF 5 STARS ★★★★★

resources

The Copper Shaggy Loops Bracelet kit is priced at £12 but a ready to wear version is available for £22 from La Vidalerie: W: www.lavidalerie.com

La Vidalerie specialise in charms and findings, beads, jewellery making kits plus jewellery making workshops and short breaks in Aveyron in SW France.