

Technically Speaking



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Technically Speaking features in-depth tutorials for beading techniques that you can adapt to your own creations. Take an intensive look at a new technique every issue!

✓ The Essentials

Materials:

- *Fire Mountain Gems and Beads®*:
14-ga. Dead-Soft Wire—Sterling Silver, #F15-1019WR
8mm, 18-ga. Jump Rings—Sterling Silver, #F15-2045FD

Tools:

- Chasing hammer
- Chain nose pliers
- Round nose pliers
- Steel bench block
- Wire cutters



Handmade Chain

By Tamara Honaman for *Fire Mountain Gems and Beads®*

Instructions:

1. Cut 3 in. of wire. Hammer $\frac{1}{4}$ in. of one end of the wire on a steel bench block. Repeat for the other end.
2. Using the tip of the round nose pliers, create a small loop on each end facing in the same direction (**Fig. 1**).
3. Place the center of the wire into the round nose pliers where the barrels are the largest. Bend the wire upward (in half) to form a U shape (**Fig. 2**).
4. Place the center of the round nose pliers $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ in. below the loop on one end of the wire. Rotate your wrist so the wire bends down toward the U. Repeat for the other half of the wire (**Fig. 3**).
5. Create as many links as you need for your design.
6. Use jump rings to attach the links together (**Fig. 4**). This design works best if you alternate the direction the links are facing.

7. Use jump rings to attach a clasp: You can make a simple hook-and-eye clasp using the 14-ga. wire, or use a purchased one.

Embellish the chain with beaded dangles if you like, or wear it as is!

If you have questions concerning this tutorial, contact the editors of *Bead Unique Magazine*.

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Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4