

# MAKING ETCHED METAL JEWELRY

Exclusive Online Companion Content

**Ruth Rae & Kristen Robinson**



**NORTH LIGHT BOOKS**

Cincinnati, Ohio

[CreateMixedMedia.com](http://CreateMixedMedia.com)



# MAKING JUMP RINGS BY HAND

This is a wonderful technique to know as you become more adventurous in designing your own jewelry. You can make jump rings anytime with the gauges and colors of wire that fit your piece. If you want to make a large number of jump rings in a short amount of time, a drill is a convenient tool to have.

## WHAT YOU'LL NEED

Wire, variety of gauges

Cordless drill (optional)

Mandrel

Dowels

Wire cutters

Jeweler's saw (optional)



**1** Cut a length of wire. Hold the wire against the dowel.

**2** Wrap the wire around the dowel, making sure each wrap is snugly against the one before it.

**3** Slide the coil off of the dowel. Using the wire cutters, cut the coil into rings by cutting straight into and through the coil.

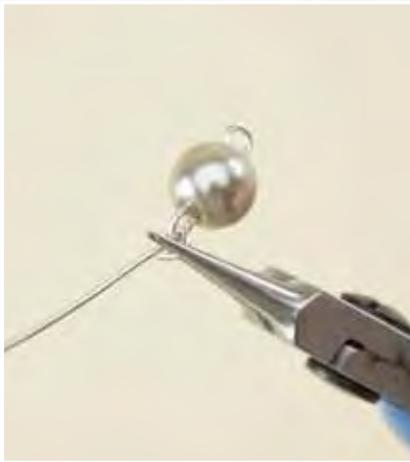
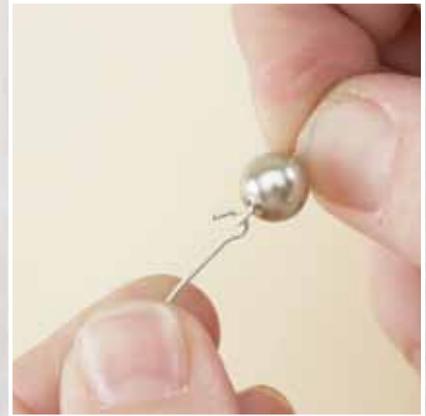
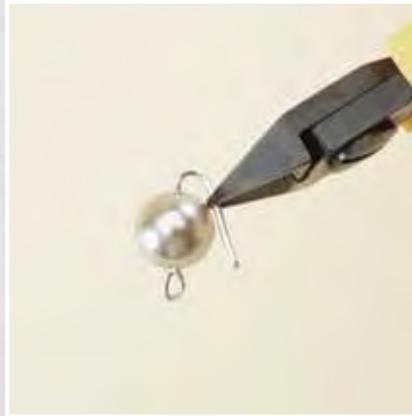
## TIP

Using a jeweler's saw to cut the rings in step 3 will create smooth ends on your jump rings. (See page 19 for information on using a jeweler's saw.)



## MAKING A ROSARY CHAIN

Using simple loops, you can make an easy basic chain using any beads you desire.



- 1** Do steps 1–2 of Turning a Loop (see page 15). Add a bead to the wire tail.  
Repeat step 1, folding the wire over the jaws of the round-nose pliers to close.
- 2** Trim the excess wire.
- 3** Begin a new segment, threading partially looped wire onto the loop of the previous link.
- 4** Use the round-nose pliers to fully close the new loop.
- 5** Repeat step 1 to complete the new segment. Repeat steps 1–4 to continue the chain.

# TRUTH ETCHED-CLASP BRACELET

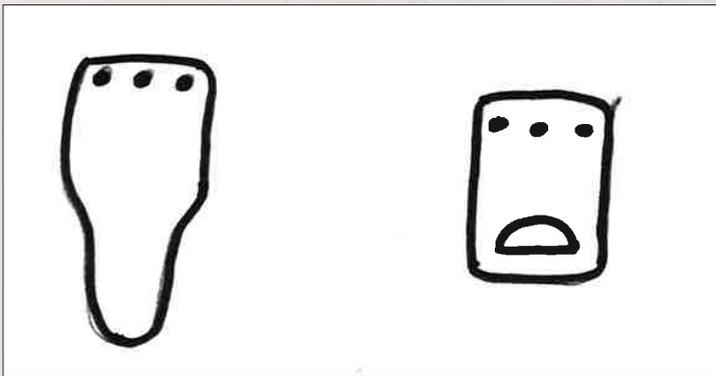


## WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- etching kit (see page 8)
- rubber stamps
- black permanent marker
- black solvent ink
- 22-gauge brass sheet metal
- clasp template
- metal darkening solution
- 22-gauge bronze wire
- 2 - bronze screws with nuts (may replace with rivets)
- 10 - 7mm vintage crystal beads
- 14 - 6mm pyrite beads
- sewing kit
- drill
- 1/16" drill bit
- bracelet mandrel
- rawhide mallet
- bench block
- round-nose pliers
- wire cutters

## ETCH THE METAL: ETCH THE BRASS METAL SHEETS.

(SEE PAGES 8-13 FOR FULL STEP-BY-STEP DIRECTIONS.)



### 1 Using Templates

Trace the templates onto etched brass: Using a jeweler's saw with a #2 blade and a bench pin, cut hook and clasp shapes from sheet.

**Sawing Bar Components:** Create a bar measuring  $\frac{3}{4}$ "  $\times$   $1\frac{3}{4}$ " by drawing and cutting it from the etched brass. I recommend using the jeweler's saw and bench pin. Repeat this action and cut out a piece of the metal adorned with "truth"—cut it to measure  $\frac{1}{2}$ "  $\times$   $1\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Sand edges to remove any burrs.



### 2 Sawing Opening

Punch a hole into the center of traced opening of the clasp piece using a drill fitted with a  $\frac{1}{16}$ " drill bit. Open one end of the jeweler's saw and thread the saw blade through hole. Proceed to saw out the opening.



### 3 Drilling Holes Into Clasp

With the drill fitted with a  $\frac{1}{16}$ " drill bit, create three holes on both the hook and clasp, following the guide marks included on the templates.



#### 4 Drill Holes in Bars

Drill one hole on the center of each side of the "truth" bar.

Place the bar over the large bar and create a guide using a permanent marker. Drill holes in the same manner through the large bar.

Drill three holes on each end of the large bar.



#### 5 Screw Bars Together

Screw the two bars together with small screws and nuts. Tighten the nuts and trim excess screw stems so they are flush with the nuts. Sand the cut stems and tighten the nuts again.



#### 6 Shaping Bar

Place the attached bars onto a bracelet mandrel and form with a rawhide mallet.



#### 7 Checking for Size and Fit

Check the shaped bars as you work by placing them over your wrist.



#### 8 Darken Components

Darken all the etched metal components using a darkening solution.



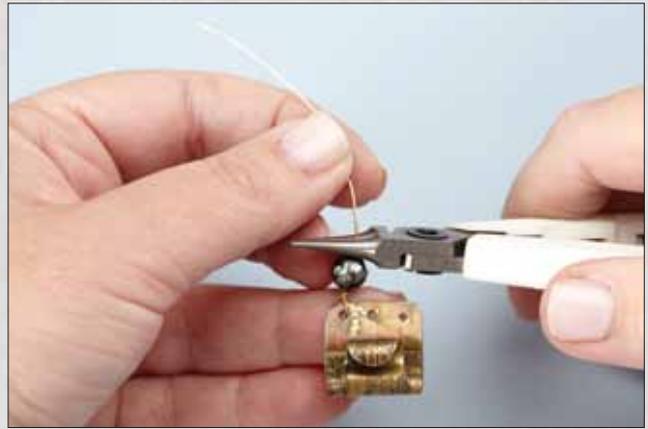
#### 9 Creating Hook

Create a bend in the metal of the other end of the clasp. Use forming pliers to create the bend about 1/2" from end of the metal.



### 10 Finish Forming Clasp Hook

Place round-nose pliers at the end to create the hook and turn metal up in the opposite direction from the previous step.



### 11 Creating and Attaching the Chain

Cut 4" of 22-gauge bronze wire. Approximately 2" from end of wire create a loop with round-nose pliers. Place the loop through the first hole on the clasp. Wrap the wire to close, and trim any excess wire.

Place one 6mm pyrite bead onto the wire. Wrap the wire to close, and trim any excess wire.



### 12 Adding Additional Bead Links

Create another wrapped link, this one with a 7mm vintage crystal and follow that with two more links, each with a 6mm pyrite bead.



### 13 Attaching Chain to Bar

Place the loop of last bead link through top hole on the etched bar. Wrap the wire and trim any excess.

Repeat steps 11 and 12 two more times, mixing up the order of the beads if you'd like, for a total of three attached chains.



### 14 Creating Chain for Other Side

Repeat steps 11 through 13 until there are three strands of beads on the opposite side of bracelet, attaching the other piece of the clasp to the bar.

LOVE BE TRUE  
LAYERED RIBBON NECKLACE



## WHAT YOU'LL NEED

1" x 4" 22-gauge brass sheet metal  
etching kit  
sawing kit  
black wax patina  
soft cloth  
sealing wax  
¼" forming pliers  
brown silk ribbon  
#2 bead cord – pale rose  
5 - 5mm iridescent brown pearls

6 - 3mm mother of pearl beads  
5 - 3mm topaz beads  
18-gauge brass wire  
24-gauge brass wire  
2 - 10mm brass jump rings  
round-nose pliers  
flat-nose pliers  
vice or binder clip  
bench block  
rawhide mallet

### ETCH THE METAL: ETCH THE BRASS METAL SHEETS.

(SEE PAGES 8~13 FOR FULL STEP-BY-STEP DIRECTIONS.)



### CUTTING METAL FOR THE CENTERPIECE AND THE ROLLED ETCHED CLASP

**For the Centerpiece:** Using shears cut a strip of etched metal to measure ½" wide x 2" long. Strengthen the metal by hammering with a rawhide mallet on a bench block. Sand any rough edges.

**For the Rolled Etched Clasp:** Using shears cut a strip of etched metal to measure ¼" wide x 2" long from the remaining sheet metal a strip. Strengthen the metal by hammering with a rawhide mallet on a bench block. Sand any rough edges.



#### 1 Beading

Knot pearls and beads onto a 14" piece of beading cord in this order: one mother of pearl bead, one pearl, one topaz bead.



#### 2 Continue Beading

Continue adding and knotting beads until all beads are on the cord.



### 3 Cutting Ribbon and Tying Cord to Ribbon

Cut one 30" x 1/2" strip of ribbon. Fold the ribbon in half. Tie the bead cord onto the fold of the ribbon. Slide a jump ring into the fold of the ribbon.



### 4 Braiding Ribbon and Bead Cord

Secure the ribbon and beaded cord into a vice or binder clip attached to a bench pin. Braid the three strands together.



### 5 Wrapping Wire

Cut 10" of 24-gauge brass wire. Wrap the wire around the ribbon, approximately 1/2" from fold. Cut excess wire.

### 6 Adding Jump Ring on Remaining Side

Attach a jump ring to the opposite end of the necklace, folding the ribbon and cord down over the jump ring and then wrapping.



### 7 Starting the Clasp

Using round-nose pliers, roll one end of the etched metal piece until it meets the flat portion of metal.



### 8 Completing Formation of Clasp

Using the 5mm side of the forming pliers, roll the adjacent part of the metal in the opposite direction.



### **9** Creating the Hook

Using 4mm forming pliers, roll the opposite end of the metal, again in the opposite direction of the last roll.



### **10** Attaching Clasp

Open the jump ring at one end of the ribbon and add the clasp. Close the jump ring.



### **11** Creating Bale on Centerpiece

Create a bale at the top of the etched metal center-piece by rolling the metal with forming pliers.

Place the bale part of the etched centerpiece onto the ribbon and bead strand. If necessary, crimp the back of bale toward the back of centerpiece with flat nose pliers to secure.

### **12** Filing Rough Edges

Using jeweler's file any rough or sharp edges that remain on the metal.

### **13** Adding Patina

Using a soft cloth apply gilder's paste to the metal. Allow each layer of paste to dry a bit before adding additional layers.

### **14** Sealing With Wax

With a soft cloth apply sealing wax to the top of centerpiece; allow the piece to cure prior to handling.

# TASSLE NECKLACE



## WHAT YOU'LL NEED

etching kit	15mm crystal bead	brass filigree bezel
2" x 2" - 24-gauge brass sheet metal	4 yards assorted fabric, ribbon and trim	drill
¼" brass tubing	2 - 5mm cushion crystal	⅛" drill bit
½" brass tubing	2 - 5mm silver bead cap	center punch tool
stamps	2 - 2mm topaz crystals	sewing kit
black solvent ink	3 - 4mm brass jump rings	metal sheers
black permanent marker	copper bird charm	wire cutters
20" rhinestone chain	1 - 9mm grey rhinestone bead	circle cutter
metal darkening solution	1 - 9mm apricot rhinestone bead	doming block
15" brass chain	1 - 3mm crystal	round-nose pliers
2" 5mm brass chain	1 - 3mm rondelle	flat-nose pliers
30" copper chain	2 brass headpins	hammer
10" pearl rosary chain	4 silver headpins	bench block
1½" - 5mm brass chain	resin kit	rawhide hammer
18-gauge gunmetal wire	15mm silver bezel	adhesive
		½" dowel

### ETCH THE METAL:

ETCH THE BRASS METAL SHEET AND NICKEL SILVER SCRAPS.

(SEE PAGES 8~13 FOR FULL STEP-BY-STEP DIRECTIONS.)

DARKEN BOTH METALS BEFORE PROCEEDING.

(SEE PAGE 20 FOR FULL STEP-BY-STEP DIRECTIONS.)



### 1 Cutting and Embellishing Tubing

With a jeweler's saw and a bench pin, cut a piece of ¼" tubing to a length of ¾". File any sharp edges if needed.

With a jeweler's saw and bench pin cut a piece of ½" tubing to a length of 1". File any sharp edges if needed.

Using heavy duty adhesive, adhere 1" of rhinestone chain to the center perimeter of the piece of ½" tubing.



## 2 Creating Loop

Cut a piece of 10" piece of 18-gauge gunmetal wire. Bend the wire 4" from the end.

## 3 Creating Tassel Strands

Cut ribbons and fabrics to various lengths and fold in half.

## 4 Arrange Ribbon and Chain

Arrange the ribbons and fabrics in the fold of the wire, alternating with strands of rhinestone and rosary chain.



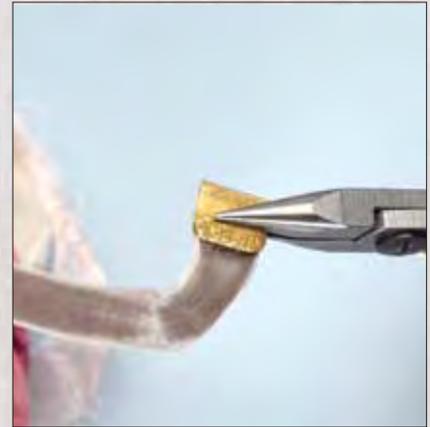
## 5 Creating Ribbon Tab

Cut the etched metal to create a tab that is  $\frac{1}{2}$ "  $\times$   $\frac{5}{8}$ " wide. Round the corners of the tab with metal sheers.



## 6 Filing Rough Edges

Use a metal file to eliminate any rough edges from the ribbon tab.



## 7 Placing Tab

Place the ribbon tab on a hard surface and bend it in half until it is almost closed.

Place the tab on end of a piece of ribbon, and crimp the tab closed with flat-nose pliers.



## 8 Creating Bead Cups

With a circle cutter create three  $\frac{3}{8}$ " circles from a sheet of etched metal.

## 9 Drilling Circles

With a center punch tool create a guide mark in the center of two of the circles and at the top of the third circle. With a drill fitted with a  $\frac{1}{16}$ " drill bit, drill a hole through each guide.

## 10 Doming Circles

Place the  $\frac{3}{8}$ " disc in the 1" doming round on the dapping block. Using a dapper and hammer, hammer the disc until it begins to form a cup, moving the dapper as you work in a circular motion. Once the disc begins to dome, change to a smaller dapper while the disc remains in the same round. Once the sides begin lift toward the top of the round, move the disc into a smaller round and repeat the process.

## 11 Creating Bead Cups

Place one 2mm crystal onto each of two brass headpins. Place the end of the headpin through the drilled hole in the bead cup, and repeat with the remaining bead cup.

## 12 Attaching Cups

With round-nose pliers, create a loop in the wire at the top of the bead cup. Place the loop through a piece of copper chain,  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from one end of the chain. Wrap the loop closed and trim any excess wire. Repeat with the other bead cup, attaching it  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " from the end of the chain.

## 13 Attaching Rhinestone Beads

Place one rhinestone bead onto each of two brass headpins. Create a wire loop at the top of the bead and attach the loop to the end of the copper chain. Repeat with the apricot bead, attaching it  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " from the end of the chain.



## 14 Attaching Etched Bird

Cut 4" of 22-gauge gunmetal wire and create a loop in one end with round-nose pliers. Place the loop through the top hole in the etched bird. Wrap the wire around the loop to close and trim any excess wire.

Attach one 2mm crystal bead and one 2mm rondelle to the remaining wire. Create a second loop and attach it to the chain. Wrap to close.

## 15 Creating and Attaching Heart Charm and Bead Dangle

Using jeweler's saw, cut out a heart shape (or a tab that includes a heart shape) measuring  $\frac{1}{2}$ "  $\times$   $\frac{3}{4}$ " from a piece of etched metal. File the heart to round the edges. Create a hole using center punch tool and drill fitted with  $\frac{1}{16}$ " drill bit.

Place one 4mm brass jump ring through the hole in the heart charm and attach it to the last link of the shorter piece of copper chain.

Place one 5mm cushion crystal onto a silver headpin and add one 5mm bead cap. Create a loop using round-nose pliers. Place slide the loop through the same you attached the charm to. Wrap to close and trim excess wire.



## 16 Creating Resin Charm

Fill the silver bezel with artwork and/or text. Mix resin and pour into bezel (follow manufacturer's directions). Once the resin has cured, adhere the resin charm to the brass bezel.



## 17 Drilling Brass Bezel

Create a guide hole with a center punch tool at the top of the brass bezel. Drill a hole with drill fitted with a  $\frac{1}{16}$ " drill bit. Place a 5mm brass jump ring through the hole.



**18** **Placing Resin Charm**  
Attach the resin and bezel charm to the bottom of a ribbon strand: Slide charm and ribbon through a jump ring and close the jump ring.



**19** **Finishing Tassel**  
Wrap one end of the wire around the other, making the wrap at tight and close to the ribbons and chains as possible. Trim any excess wire.



**20** **Attaching Tassel to Bale**  
Place the tassel wire through bale.



**21** **Placing 15mm Crystal**  
Place the 15mm crystal onto the wire.



**22** **Securing Tassel and Crystal and Adding Brass Chain**  
With round-nose pliers create a loop. Slide both pieces of brass chain to the loop, and wrap the loop closed. Trim excess wire if necessary.



**23** **Attaching 1/4" Tube to Chain**  
Open links on the end of both pieces of chain using flat-nose pliers. Slide the piece of 1/4" tubing onto the chain. Close links.



## 24 Creating Frayed Tab

Cut  $\frac{1}{2}$ "  $\times$  1" piece of etched metal. Round and file the edges. At the bottom of one narrow edge, cut into the metal in a random manner. Turn the ends of these small strips in different directions to resemble movement.

At the top of the tab create a guide hole with center punch tool, and drill a hole with drill fitted with a  $\frac{1}{16}$ " drill bit.



## 25 Attaching Frayed Tab to Chain

Place a jump ring through hole and attach to the jump ring to the 5mm chain.

Open the link on the other end of the 5mm chain and attach it to the long end of the brass chain. Close the link.



## 26 Creating Clasp

Cut a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " piece of 18-gauge gunmetal wire. At one end of the wire, use the round-nose pliers to turn a loop. Wrap the wire tail around the  $\frac{1}{2}$ " dowel. Using the round-nose pliers, wrap a loop at the wire end.

## 27 Attaching the Clasp

Place the loop of the clasp through the first link of the 5mm brass chain, wrap excess wire around the loop to close. Onto the adjacent piece of chain, place a 5mm brass jump ring and close.