

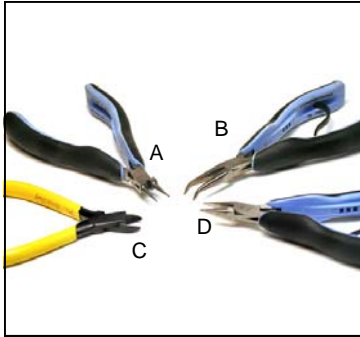
## Gem-Framed Chain Earrings



Skill Level: Intermediate

Prerequisite: Stringing and Jump Ring experience recommended

These earrings have a wonderful, fine jewelry quality to them. They're crowd pleasing and easy to make!



## Ingredients for Gem-Framed Chain Earrings

### TOOLS NEEDED

- A. Round-nose pliers
- B. **Bent-nose pliers**
- C. **Wire cutters**
- D. **Needle-nose pliers**

### STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

[Getting Started](#)

[Making the Chain Structure](#)

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3mm faceted rondelles, with even sizing. Gems should be roughly 1-1.5mm thick. Thicker is possible, but you will need to adjust the quantity to fit around the frame neatly.



1 pair of ear wires or posts.  
Different kinds of posts will be covered in the instructions.



40 x 6mm 20g jump rings



10" Soft Flex per earring



2 micro crimp beads

## Part 1: Getting Started

### Step 1

The first step is to select the kind of earring you would like to use, as it will affect the technique. Here are a few examples:



**Example A**  
Stud or post with flat-facing loop.



**Example B**  
Hook or post with side-facing loop.  
Earring is set above the design.



**Example C**  
Hook or post with side-facing loop.  
Earring is set deep into the design.

Once you have decided on the look you want, we're ready to begin!  
If you're unsure you can always switch it out later.

**Part 2: Making the Chain Structure**



**Step 2**  
Open 18 jump rings.  
If you need a refresher, there is a tip page at the back of this handout.



**Step 3**  
Make a chain of 3 pairs as shown.



**Step 4**  
Connect 3 more pairs to the last of the chain.



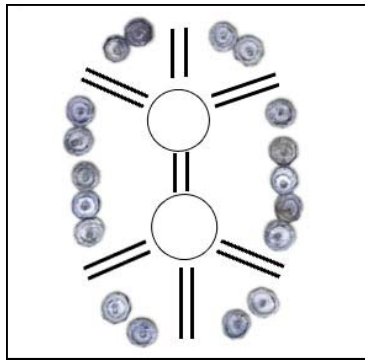
**Step 5**  
Repeat step 4 for the other end.



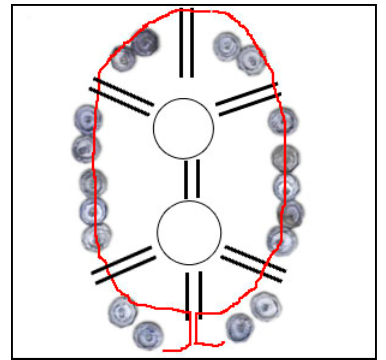
**Step 6**  
Your jump ring structure should now look like this:  
3 connected pairs  
6 rings at each end



**Step 7**  
Lay out your gemstones in the pattern pictured.

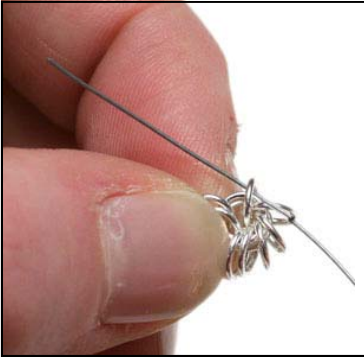


**Step 8**  
Your jump ring structure will be eventually laid out as pictured, where one line represents one jump ring.



**Step 9**  
You will be stringing in the above pattern, where the red represents the Soft Flex.  
Next page: more detail on how to get started.

### Part 3: Stringing the Beads



**Step 9**  
We're ready to string!  
With Soft Flex, string one jump ring from the bottom pair of rings (see previous picture).  
Use Soft Flex to string the jump ring as though it were a bead.



**Step 10**  
String two gems from the bottom of the laid out pattern.  
  
If your beads do not fit comfortably on the Soft Flex, switch to something thinner like .010 Beadalon.  
DO NOT force the beads. They will crack.



**Step 11**  
String the next pair of rings, continuing around the pattern.



**Step 12**  
String five more beads, then pick up the first pair of rings on the other side of the pattern.



**Step 13**  
Here is the earring half strung, laid against the gems to show the pattern in progress.  
It is now starting to look like the finished shape.



**Step 14**  
Finish stringing the entire pattern. The ends should look like this.



**Step 15**  
Tape the Soft Flex to stop the beads escaping.



**Step 16**  
The basic frame is now complete. We're ready to start adding an ear wire.  
If you haven't selected a style yet, now's the time! Refer to page 3 to see the different options and how they affect the design.

**Don't Forget!**



## Part 2: Adding the Ear Wire



### Step 17

If you are using either Example A or B, open another pair of jump rings. If you chose Example C, skip ahead to step 23.



### Step 18

Gently separate the top pair of jump rings and loop one of the new ones over the Soft Flex. Be sure you only pick up the Soft Flex before closing. You should not be looped through any other jump rings.



### Step 19

Add a second ring next to the first, again only picking up the Soft Flex.



### Step 20

If you chose Example A, you can now carefully open each ring and insert the loop of the ear wire. If the loop of the ear wire can be opened, and is not soldered, you can also open that and feed it through the extra pair of rings.



### Step 21

If you chose Example B, take another pair of jump rings. If you have some slightly smaller rings handy, they will look less pronounced, but using the same kind as the rest of the design will also work fine.



### Step 22

One at a time, use the jump rings to attach the ear wire to the rings from step 17-19. This will ensure the earring hangs in the right direction. Now skip to step 24 to see how to close the Soft Flex.



### Step 23

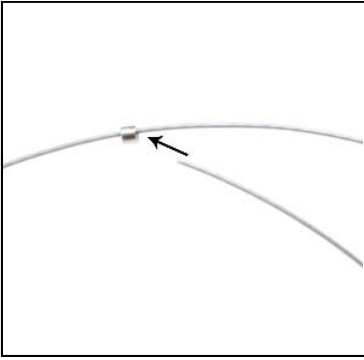
If you chose Example C, open the loop of the ear wire as far as you can without stressing the metal. Gently separate the top pair of jump rings and feed the ear wire over the Soft Flex. Be sure you only pick up the Soft Flex before closing. You should not be looped through any other jump rings. Close the loop of the ear wire.



### Step 24

Adding the ear wires at this stage ensures that there will be enough space in the Soft Flex once it is crimped closed. If you decide you prefer another look after you have crimped, simply unhook the ear wire and complete the steps for another of the examples. You will find that the jump rings or ear wire will fit.

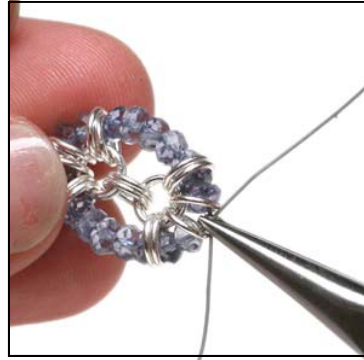
### Part 3: Crimping and Finishing the Earring



**Step 25**  
Remove the tape and thread on a micro crimp bead to one side, then the other to complete a loop as shown.



**Step 26**  
Pull the Soft Flex firmly to bring the crimp into the earring. Do not pull so hard that you risk cracking the beads. There should be a tiny amount of slack once it is crimped.



**Step 27**  
With needle-nose pliers, squeeze down on the crimp bead to flat crimp it.



**Step 28**  
Trim the excess wire with cutters. The flat side of your cutters should be facing the crimp bead to get a nice flush cut.









**Step 29**  
Use pliers to position the bottom jump rings over the crimp. If it is still too visible, add a third ring over the top to hide it. If you do add a ring, you will need to do the same thing for the second earring so that they match.



**Step 30**  
All done!  
Repeat all the steps to create your second earring and you have a stunning pair of Gem-Framed Chain Earrings.

**Tip: Opening and Closing Jump Rings**

				
<p><b>Opening Rings</b>  <b>Step 1:</b>          With the cut in the jump ring at the top of the ring, hold it with the pliers as shown: chain nose in left hand and bent nose in right (reverse all steps for left-handed)          The plier jaws should be parallel with the cut in the jump ring with the tips pointing to the sky.</p>	<p><b>Step 2:</b>          Imagine you want to twist the point of metal opposite the cut in the jump ring. This is the only part of the jump ring that will actually be moving.</p>	<p><b>Step 3:</b>          Without exerting any inward or outward pressure, twist your right hand so that the tip of the plier comes towards you.</p>	<p><b>Step 4:</b>          Your ring should look like this.</p>	

		<p><b>Tips:</b>          If your jump rings won't close you probably applied pressure in the wrong direction when opening them. Be careful to only twist that one point of wire opposite the cut.          Once distorted, jump rings will not reform easily, and should just be thrown away.          Getting a flush close is very important to prevent rings snagging or pulling open too easily.          While you can open jump rings by twisting your bent nose plier away from you, you will find this method makes the jump rings a little easier to use when feeding them into jewelry or chain mail weaves.</p>
<p><b>Closing Rings</b>  <b>Step 1:</b>          Holding the pliers the same way, gently twist the right plier back towards the left, without any inward or outward pressure.</p>	<p><b>Step 2:</b>          Since wire is springy, you may need to gently "rock" the pliers back and forth past the closed point until the jump ring remains closed. You should be able to achieve a very flush close with no gaps.</p>	