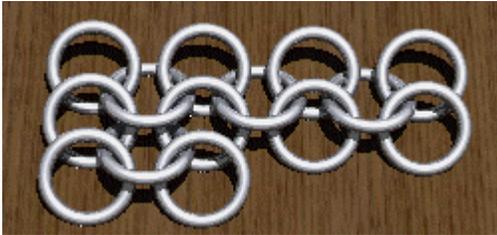


6. Add two closed links to the open link and close it, then lay your work out so it looks like this.



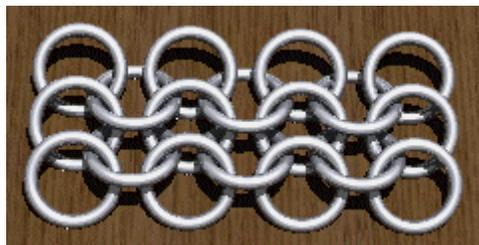
7. Open a link and insert it into the weave as shown



8. Then add a closed link to the open link and close it and lay the work out.



9. The pattern should now be apparent – you can finish the row by repeating the last two steps until you get to the end of the row.



You now have a piece of mail which can exist on its own! But you'll surely want to add more rows. To do so, simply repeat steps 4-9 until your piece of mail is as big as you want it to be!

Pat yourself on the back! You've just made your first piece of maille.

There are a number of good online resources which contain extensive chainmail tutorials and discussion boards. A few of the better ones are:

Dylon White's Art of Chainmail
<http://www.artofchainmail.com>

MAIL (Mail Artisans International League)
<http://www.mailleartisans.org>

CGMAILLE.COM
<http://www.cgmaille.com>

Chain Maille Ring Yahoo Group
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CHAIN_MAILLE_RING

Have Fun!

This Tutorial Created by:



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<http://www.chainmaildude.com>

WEST COAST CHAINMAIL

Presents

The Quick and Dirty Guide to Making Chainmail

Or

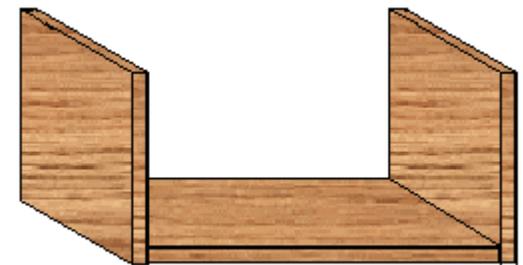
How to Make Chainmail in One Page
 (Front and Back)

Step One: Wind some coils

For this step you will need:

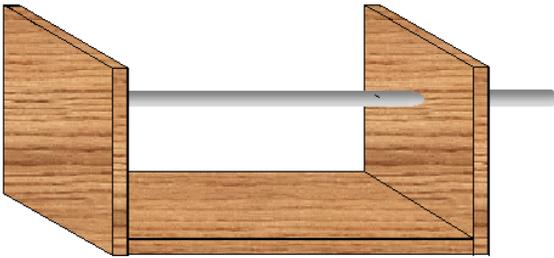
- Scrap wood, a dresser drawer, or equivalent
- Screws (if using scrap wood)
- A Steel Dowel (recommend 5/16" diameter)
- A Power Drill or drill press
- Drill bits
- Wire (recommended 16 ga (0.0625"))
- Gloves

If you are using scrap wood, construct a bracket which is capable of holding your dowel. The construction could look something like this:



Make sure you have at least 1 foot of winding room, otherwise your coils will all be quite short.

Next, drill a hole with the same diameter as your steel dowel in one end of the bracket. You may wish to ream this hole slightly to allow the dowel to rotate freely when placed through the hole. Now drill a hole halfway through the other side of the bracket such that the dowel can be inserted through the first hole and set into the second hole while in a horizontal orientation. The set up should now look something like this:



Drill a small hole (but large enough for the wire you are using) through the dowel near the end which is closest to the set hole. Most drill bits are capable of drilling steel, but take your time! Going too fast can dull your drill bit and make the process take even longer. A little bit of oil typically helps the process go faster

If you wish to use a variable speed power drill to turn your coils, cut off the dowel about 2 inches past the point that it sticks out of the bracket. If you wish to hand wind your coils, bend the dowel into a suitable crank and cut off the excess.

To wind coils, insert the wire into the hole which you drilled in the dowel. Guide the wire with one hand and operate the crank or drill with the other. Go slowly at first and increase speed as you gain proficiency. When you finish winding a coil, cut off the wire and slide the coil off of the dowel. Repeat until you have run out of wire or have enough coils to keep you busy for a while.

WARNING! Using a power drill to wind coils can be dangerous. Use of a variable speed drill is highly suggested. Start out slowly! Winding your hand into the coil can break bones at worst and is generally painful at best...

Step Two: Cut some links

For this step you will need:

- Coils made in step one
- Cutters capable of cutting the wire you are using
- A container for the links (optional)

Take a spring and hold it in your off hand while wielding the cutters in your primary hand. First, cut the “tail” off of the coil. Now position the cutters just past the cut on the next turn of the spring and cut. You should have one link (with some cutters it is possible to cut more than one link at a time). Place this link in a suitable container. Repeat until you have enough links to keep you busy for a while or you run out of coils.

Step Three: Assemble some Maille!

For this step you will need:

- Links, which you purchased or made yourself
- Two pairs of Pliers
- Lots of spare time

1. First, close a number of links. To close a link, grip each side with the pliers and twist the ring such that the ends meet up. This takes a little practice, and there are many different ways to hold the pliers. Experiment until you come to a method which is comfortable for you.

The quality of the closure determines the quality of your chainmail, so check each one closely and make sure it is aligned properly. Repeat until you have a fair sized pile of “closed” links.

2. Now open one link by gripping each side of the link with the pliers and twisting such that the ends of the link are separated from one another enough to allow links to be placed onto it. Place four links onto this one link as shown:



Now close the link:



3. Now open another link and thread it through two of the links which you added to the first link. Add two more closed links to that and close it. Repeat. You should now have a 2-1-2-1-2-1-2 chain which looks something like this:



4. Now comes the tricky part. Lay the chain out on a flat surface as shown below:



5. Open a link and place it through the two lowermost, leftmost links.

