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Link Up with Chain VIRTUAL CLASS

Instructor: Leslie Perrino

- Email: artnun@jps.net
- Facebook: Leslie Anne Perrino

Welcome! In this class we will discover how fun and relaxing it is to make eye-catching chains from home. We will start by making links without heat, then progress to mastering the butane mini torch to create classic fused loop in loop chains with endless variations. You will finish with your own custom designs using copper, brass, fine silver, and argentium, and more.

This detailed supply list will guide you on what to purchase to build your home studio. Yes, it's a long list, but you don't need to have everything for the first class. I can answer your questions about supplies when we meet, or feel free to contact me via email or Facebook!

WIRE

Keep in mind that as you decide on what projects to focus on, you may need to purchase more materials.

Copper or brass wire

18 and 20 gauge

This wire is inexpensive and is great to practice with before you move to silver wire.

- Copper <https://www.acehardware.com/departments/hardware/chain-and-rope/wire/50600>
- Brass <https://www.riogrande.com/product/Jewelers-Brass-Round-Wire-4-Oz-Spool-20-Ga-DeadSoft/130503>

Fine Silver wire

- 20 gauge, get 1/2 ounce to start. <https://www.riogrande.com/product/999-Fine-Silver-Round-Wire-16-Ga-Dead-Soft/10531>
- 16 gauge, get 2 feet to start. <https://www.riogrande.com/product/999-Fine-Silver-Round-Wire-20-Ga-Dead-Soft/105320>

Argentium wire

- 20 gauge, get 3 feet to start. <https://www.riogrande.com/product/Argentium-Silver-Round-Wire-20-Ga-Dead-Soft/103320>

Jump rings

- A range of sizes is helpful but not required. <https://www.riogrande.com/product/Argentium-Silver-4mm-Round-Jump-Ring/696920>

Other options: you can try gold-filled, or colored craft wire for non-soldered designs. You can use sterling silver wire, but you will need to buy solder and flux if you want to solder it. You may need to buy more wire depending on your project.

TOOLS

Most links are for RioGrande.com, the best online location for the purchase of jewelry tools. You can find jewelry tools many other places, but Rio is going to have everything you need (both tools and wire) for one-stop shopping. These are all basic jewelry-making tools that you will use over and over, so they are a good investment! (You could also use curbside pickup from your local hardware store for some items.)

Pliers

- Round nose: <https://www.riogrande.com/product/round-nose-pliers/111913>
- Flat nose: <https://www.riogrande.com/product/slimline-flat-nose-pliers/111901>
- Chain nose: <https://www.riogrande.com/product/chain-nose-pliers/111911>

This specialty pliers is super helpful for making chains.

- Bail-shaping pliers: <https://www.riogrande.com/product/bail-shaping-pliers/111957>

Cutting tools

- Flush wire cutters: <https://www.riogrande.com/product/xuron-light-duty-micro-shear-flush-cutters-without-retainer-17011/111274>
- Alternate cutters: https://www.amazon.com/Professional-Electronic-Cutting-Nippers-Electrical/dp/B07WQV9Y1Q/ref=sr_1_16?crd=2LU4OAHRE1V4&dchild=1&keywords=flush+cutters+electronics&qid=1589496519&sprefix=flush+cutter%2Caps%2C176&sr=8-16&pldnSite=1
- Shears: <https://www.riogrande.com/product/soft-metal-shears/111232>
- Jeweler's saw: <https://www.riogrande.com/product/jewelers-adjustable-4-saw-frame/110132>
- Saw blades, size 3/0: <https://www.riogrande.com/product/Laser-Gold-30-Saw-Blade-Pkg12/110305>

Dowel rods

Wooden dowel rods (1/2-inch diameter) are great for wrapping wire to make uniformly sized rings for chain. *Optional: collect other sized dowels, old knitting needles, etc, as needed. You'll find it fun to experiment with different sizes.*

Steel Bench block (two options, you only need one)

- From Rio: <https://www.riogrande.com/product/Steel-Bench-Block-2-x-2-x-34/112560>
- From Amazon: https://smile.amazon.com/Steel-Bench-Block-2-5-Square/dp/B01DYEDLC2/ref=sr_1_28?crd=2EV58I93PVI4Y&dchild=1&keywords=steel+bench+block+for+jewelry+making&qid=1589497351&sprefix=steel+bench+block%2Caps%2C158&sr=8-28

Hammer

A basic household claw hammer is fine, but if you are buying one, get a ball peen hammer: https://www.harborfreight.com/16-oz-ball-peen-hammer-69010.html?_br_psugg_q=ball+peen+hammer

Swivel vice

You may not have to buy this, check your basement or garage! You can use any regular vice that may be in your home. If you need to buy, here are three good choices:

- Tabletop swivel vice: <https://www.riogrande.com/product/tabletop-swivel-vice/113147>
- Bench clamp swivel vise: https://smile.amazon.com/MaxWorks-80743-Universal-Electronics-Inspection/dp/B074NDNWNH/ref=sr_1_9?crd=2DM5RUXZLOHJ&dchild=1&keywords=small+swivel+vise&qid=1589498839&srefix=smal+swivel+vise%2Caps%2C182&sr=8-9
- Mini bench vice (make sure this one is wide enough to clamp to your table!): https://smile.amazon.com/Tanjin-Jewelers-Clamps-Repair-Portable/dp/B07F67MR52/ref=sr_1_36?crd=2DM5RUXZLOHJ&dchild=1&keywords=small+swivel+vise&qid=1589498839&srefix=smal+swivel+vise%2Caps%2C182&sr=8-36

Butane torch

We will be using a small, refillable butane torch to fuse our metal. This is a good, inexpensive one:

https://smile.amazon.com/gp/product/B08215QV64/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o00_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1

Fuel for torch (butane)

It is better to buy this at the hardware store or Walgreens (behind the counter near the cigarettes), but you can purchase online. Get the universal fueling tip:

https://www.amazon.com/Ronson-99146-Lighter-Butane-Refill/dp/B007OWQFA6/ref=zg_bs_10342348011_14?encoding=UTF8&psc=1&refRID=B97VHZ4P6M0M9PZKRWT6

Heat Protection

It is important to protect the surface of your workspace when using a torch. You can use a couple of 10x10 inch ceramic floor tiles, or an old cookie tin, or an old enameled or steel tray, etc. Put a rag or washcloth beneath to protect table surface.

Soldering surface

This is a specialized material that absorbs heat from the torch. You'll place this on top of your metal or ceramic surface.

- Solderite pad: <https://www.riogrande.com/product/Solderite-Pad-Hard-6-x-6-x-12/502063>

Small glass bowl for water, used for quenching hot metal

Tweezers

- Basic tweezers, can be any kind, here's an example: <https://widgetsupply.com/product/sda2-58511tw.html>
- Cross lock tweezers (super useful when fusing): <https://widgetsupply.com/product/bbc04-510tw.html>

Polishing material

- 0000 steel wool (you can grab this at the hardware store)
- polishing cloth: <https://www.riogrande.com/product/sunshine-cloth-single-pack/337039>
- optional Satin polishing cloth: <https://www.riogrande.com/product/sunshine-satin-cloth-single-pack/337086>

Basic stuff

- 6" ruler: a steel ruler is ideal but any ruler will do
- Pencil, Paper or index card
- Paper towels or rags