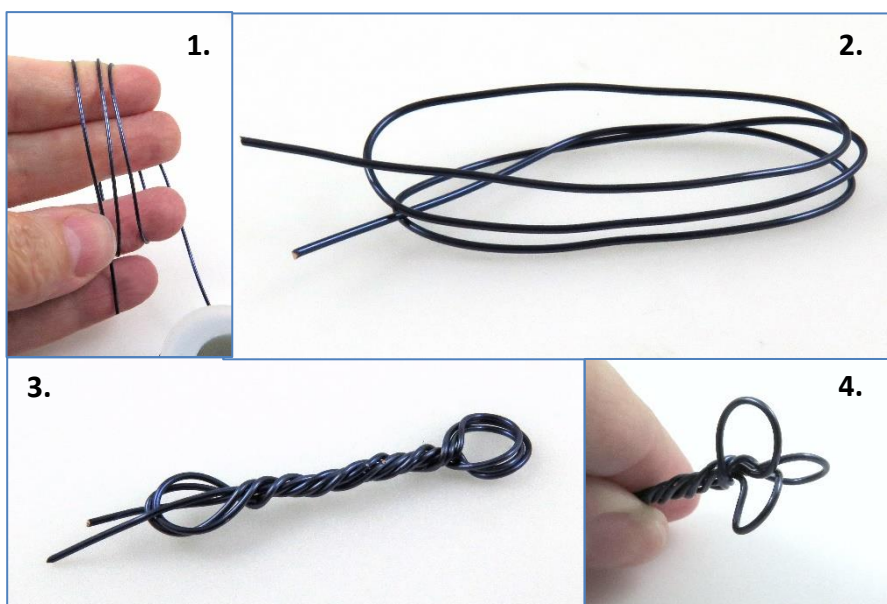


## Hilt Chain/Quad Hilt

Recently, a reader who was trying to learn Hilt Chain and Quad Hilt, asked me if I had a tutorial available. I had to admit that this weave was still on my “To Learn” list. The reader’s inquiry provided the incentive for me to give it a try. Here’s my quick tutorial on the weave. I hope you find it helpful.

Try using jump rings with an AR around 6.5-7.0 (depends on your intended use). The weave is not super flexible, which limits jewelry applications and makes it better suited for sculptural objects. I haven’t experimented with it very much yet. I used 18 SWG, 5/16” id AA jump rings from Metal Designz for this tutorial.

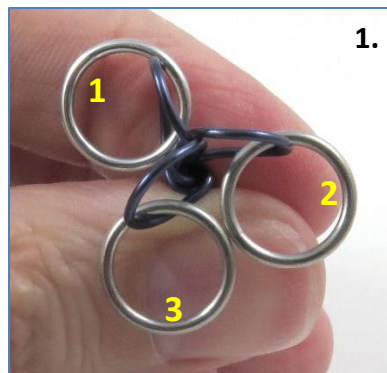
Hilt Chain (by Kendall Silver) is a 6-sided weave. Jump rings are added in rows of 3. There are 3 jump rings at each end, which makes it tricky to start. I made a 3-loop starter from 20g colored craft wire. Here’s what I did.



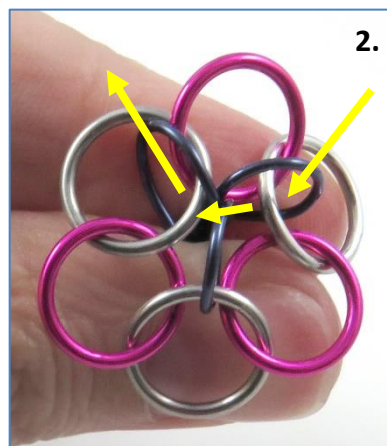
1. Wrap the wire around your fingers 3 times.
2. Remove wrap from your hand.
3. Twist into a bundle.
4. Shape loops at the end of the bundle in a Y shape, as shown. Starter piece complete.

Start the Weave (the start will be unstable):

1. Thread 1 jump ring (silver) on to each loop of the starter. 3 jump rings added. [1]



2. Add 3 more jump rings (pink), connecting the 3 silver jump rings – connect #1 to #2, #2 to #3 and #3 to #1 (avoid wire starter). [2]



3. Repeat step 2 with 3 more jump rings (turquoise). **Each silver jump ring now has 4 jump rings passing through it.** [3]



4. Hang weave upside down to position jump rings. [4]

5. Pinch weave and turn it right side up. Arrange the 4 jump rings (pink/turquoise) passing through the silver jump ring, so that the inner 2 jump rings (pink) sit higher than the outer 2 jump rings (turquoise). [5]



6. Weave 1 jump ring (orange) through the 4 jump rings (pink/turquoise) that pass through the silver jump ring, as shown. [6]



7. Repeat step 6 two more times around the chain to complete the row of 3 jump rings (orange). Now the weave should be stable. [7]



**NOTE – When weaving on the sides of the chain, make sure to choose the 3 sides that looks like this:** Vertical jump rings (silver, orange, purple) stack on top of each other from start to end. Horizontal jump rings (turquoise, pink, silver) form a row of nested V's that point towards the start of the chain.



*(Jump rings on the other 3 sides are in the opposite orientation.)*

Pattern Repeat:

8. Thread 1 jump ring (purple) through the V (pink jump rings) on one side of the chain. This ring should stack above the previous vertical jump ring (orange). [8]



9. Repeat step 8 two more times around the chain to complete the row of 3 jump rings (purple). [9]

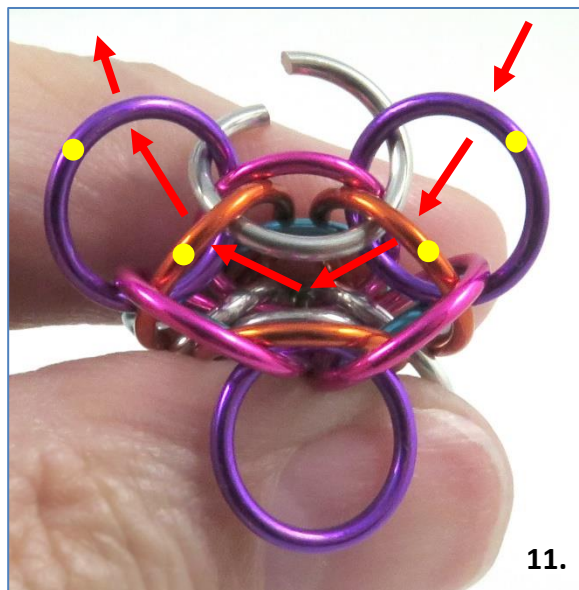


10. Pick up chain to view the top of the weave. Spread apart the last 3 jump rings added (purple). [10]





11. Weave 1 jump ring (silver) through 4 of the last 6 jump rings added (purple/orange) as shown. [11]



11.

12. Repeat step 11 twice more around the chain, completing the row of 3 jump rings (silver). [12]



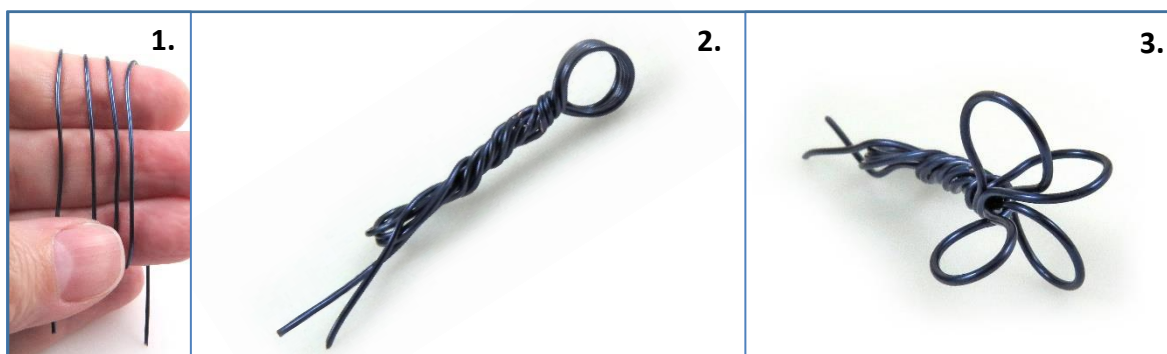
12.

13.



Your weave now looks like this. Repeat steps 8-12 until your chain reaches the desired length. [13]

Quad Hilt is an 8-sided Hilt Chain. Jump rings are added in rows of 4, so there are 4 jump rings at each end of the chain. You will need to use jump rings with a larger AR than those used for Hilt Chain to make Quad Hilt. I didn't have appropriately sized jump rings on hand. I found an AR recommendation of 8.7 on the [M.A.I.L. website](http://M.A.I.L.website). Make a 4-loop starter from 20g colored craft wire to begin Quad Hilt.



1. Wrap the wire around your fingers 4 times.
2. Remove wrap from your hand and twist into a bundle.
3. Shape loops at the end of the bundle in a cross shape, as shown. Starter piece complete.

Weave as follows:

1. Start Quad Hilt in a similar manner to Hilt Chain. [1,2]
2. Weave in the same manner as Hilt Chain, working 4 times around each row instead of 3 times. [3]

