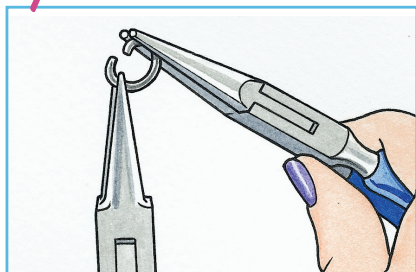


Jewellery School

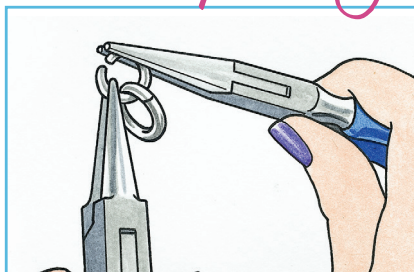
We give you the low down on the basic techniques to start jewellery making

Here's our guide to opening and closing jump rings and creating neat knot covers so that your jewellery pieces are connected correctly. Plus, this month's expert is Charlotte Turner from The Goldsmiths' Company Assay Office, who answers your questions on working and selling precious metal jewellery.

Open and Close a Jump Ring

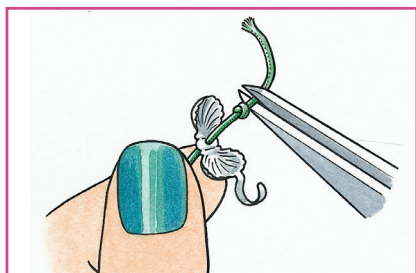


1 Hold the jump ring with two pairs of pliers, either two flat-nosed or flat and round-nosed. To open, bring one of the pliers towards you.

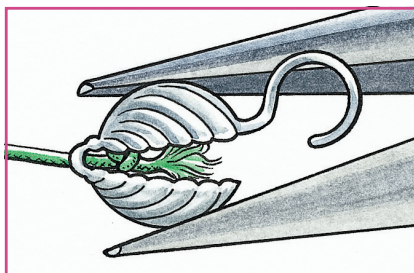


2 Attach another jump ring, chain or jewellery finding, such as a calotte. Simply reverse the action to close as shown.

Knot Covers

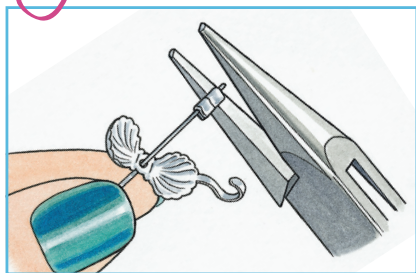


1 Feed the open calotte onto the cord or ribbon and tie a knot. Trim the end close to the knot.

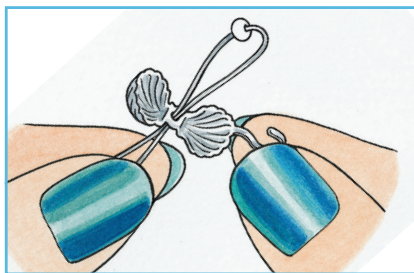


2 Bring the calotte down so that it covers the knot. Close the calotte with the pliers or your fingers.

Nylon-coated Wires



1 When using coated wires that do not knot easily, secure the end with one or two crimp beads, then close the calotte to hide the crimp.



2 Alternatively, pick up a clamshell and seed bead, then take the tail back through the finding.

Q&A



Charlotte Turner is the Marketing Manager at The Goldsmiths' Company Assay Office, and has a wealth of knowledge about working with and hallmarking precious metal jewellery.

"I make jewellery and would like to start using gold as the main ingredient - is there a way that I can work with it for small scale pieces that isn't too expensive?"
Susie Cooper, Maidstone

Charlotte says...Have you thought about adding gold detail to silver? It creates a stunning effect and can still be hallmarked. Where a mix of gold and silver are used we'll hallmark to the lowest standard metal. You can request a 'part mark' on the higher standard so that your customers can still clearly see that gold has been used. A part mark is a partial or peripheral mark showing the other standard of metal. You could also use 9ct gold which is less pricey than 18ct. Alternatively, try gold plated silver to give the effect of gold also known as 'vermeil'. By law, this can be two microns thick, however we can hallmark the piece to the standard of the metal beneath the plating. For instance, gold plated silver would have a silver hallmark only.

If I sell silver metal clay jewellery, do I need to get it hallmarked and how do I go about it?
Helen Jones, Newport

Charlotte says...You must have PMC pieces hallmarked if they are over the required weight (7.78g), prior to them being offered for sale. The Assay Offices recognise that most PMC silver is 999 fineness (also known as fine silver) and most commercial fittings are only available in 925, known as sterling silver. If you were to send in a PMC pendant, which had a commercially made sterling silver bail, we could hallmark the PMC piece with a 999 hallmark, and the bail with a 925 part mark. You would need to tell us that you have made the piece from PMC when you submit the article for hallmarking, or we would naturally mark the article to the lower 925 standard.

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