

# Dragon Tail Keychain

Order of the Golden Lion ([www.tcnj.edu/~goldlion](http://www.tcnj.edu/~goldlion))  
(Four in one Weave Maille)

Mail (also known as chain mail, chain maille, malla, mayle,) is armor or jewelry made of small linked metal rings that form a mesh. Artifacts of this special weave have been found in Celtic burial grounds in Romania and date to the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC. The Romans used it in conjunction with the lorica segmentata (segmented armor). Mail as armor reached its peak use during the High Middle Ages (13<sup>th</sup> century) before plate armor emerged during the 14<sup>th</sup> century. As it was very expensive to produce, many soldiers used brigandines or bare padded jackets through this century. Methods of historical manufacture involved meticulously riveting together alternating rows of the 4-in-1 pattern using wrought iron. Modern tests show that Medieval Mail was very effective in stopping slashes from edged weapons but would still transfer some of the blunt impact to the user, and may still suffer a broken bone. There is evidence however, that physicians during this period could set and mend broken bones, but were not prepared against infections from slash wounds.

Some terms:

*Coif* – Chain Mail Hood

*Camail / Aventail* – Mail Collar that hangs from a helmet

*Chausses* – Mail Legs

*Hauberk* – Chain Mail Shirt

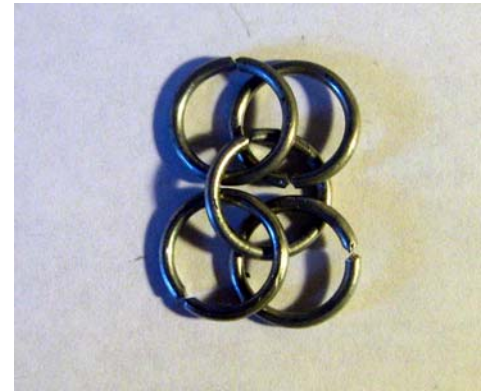
*Haubergeon* – Mid thigh length Chain Mail Shirt

*Byrnie* – Waist length Chain Mail Shirt



OK! Let's make a keychain!

1. The base of the four-in-one weave is that every ring connects to four other rings. It will be a little different since we have a diamond shaped keychain, but the weave is the same.
  - a. Start with one open ring and four closed rings.
  - b. Put the four closed rings into the open ring.
  - c. Close the open ring.
  - d. Admire your first bit of chain mail weave.



2. We're going to make a chain and move to the right.
  - a. Get another open ring and put two closed ones in it.
  - b. Close the open ring around the two rightmost rings on the top and bottom.
  - c. Huh? It is a little hard to explain, but work the ring as in the second picture. The ring that you just closed should now be touching four rings.
  - d. Important! Keep your orientation. We're working to the right with the top and bottom rings facing to the left. The middle row faces right.



3. Continue this row until you hit... 4 middle rings. We're going to work from the center of the diamond out to each point. The tips on the narrow part get weaved in now and only touch two rings. Weave them in so they match the middle row.

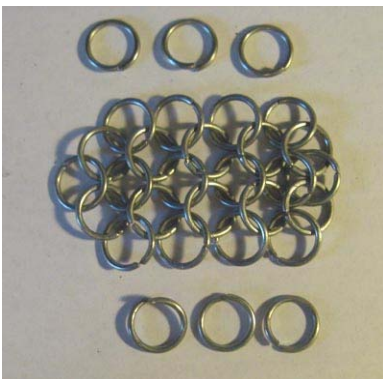


4. Now you have a row. If we were making a hauberk or any large piece of mail, we would keep making long chains and then weave the chains together. Since this is a small diamond, it is easier to weave each link individually after this. The next two rows go on either side and use four rings each. I find it easiest to work from left to right. These rings will face the same direction as the middle row.

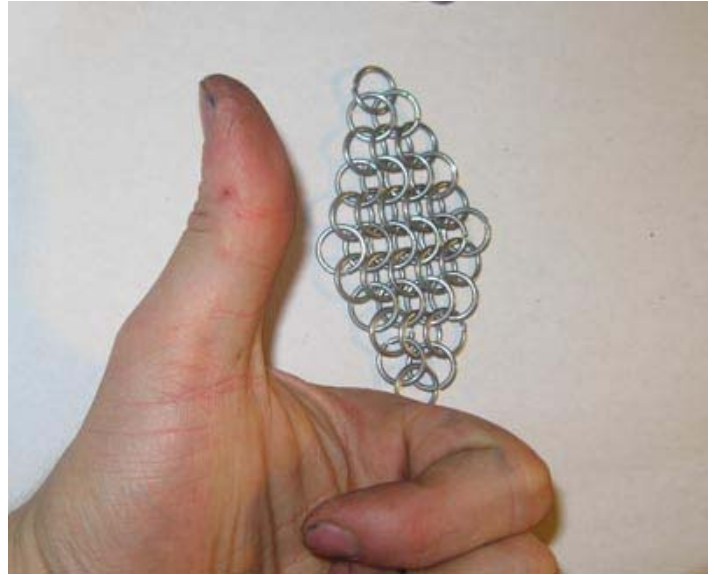
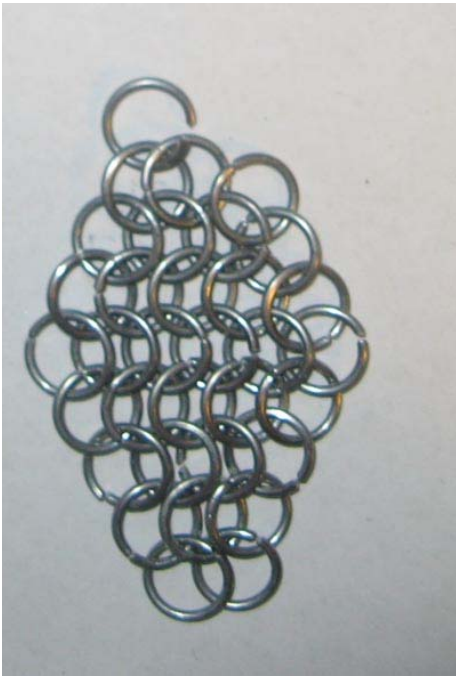


a. The second photo shows a completed top row.

5. Start the next row set (3 rings) It's just like the last row of four. The right photo shows a detail shot of this weave.



6. Continue alternating the direction of the rings and subtracting one ring each time you complete a row. (So the next two sides have two rings, then one)



7. Close the last ring and relax. Admire your work. Now your keychain has +5 Mail Armor protection.



“Hey! You didn’t leave a hole for the face!”

Enjoy!