

opening and closing rings

by jeanpower

The best way to open and close jump rings and findings.



Materials

- Jump rings or findings with attachment rings that can be opened

Tools

- Two pairs of flat or chain nose pliers

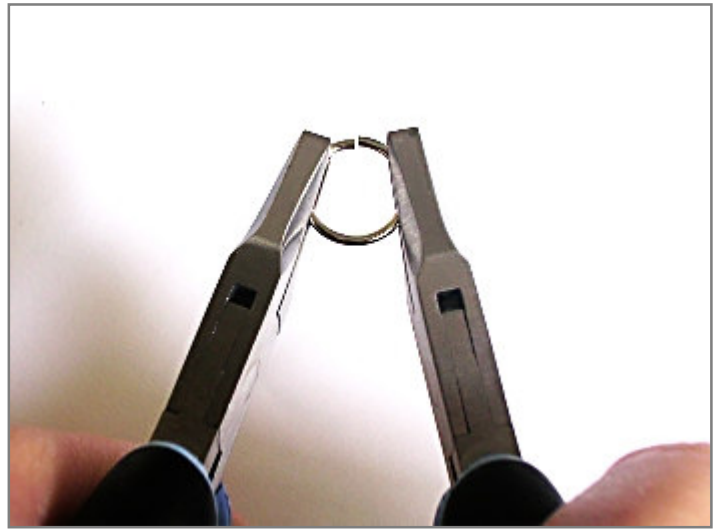
Tips

Pliers with flat inner jaws will give you a better hold and grip and reduce the chance of marking your ring.

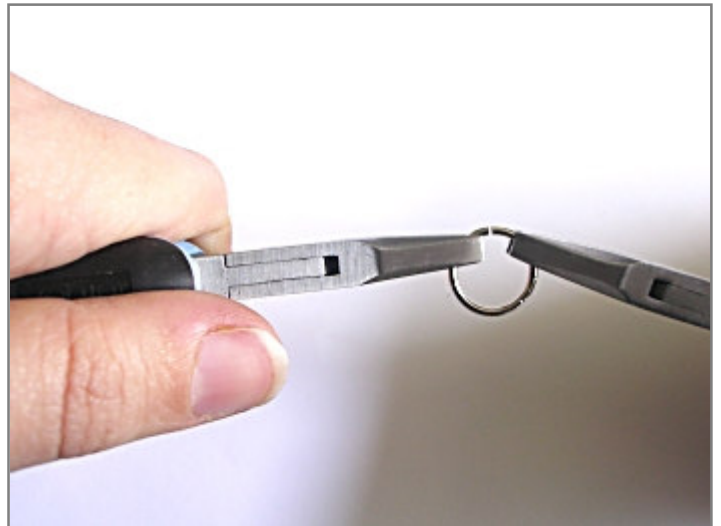
If your pliers have ridged inner jaws you can cover them with layers of masking tape to protect your rings, but ensure you replace it regularly as it will get worn away.

Steps

1. Hold your jump ring with two pairs of pliers, one each side of the 'cut' in the ring. You'll find it easier to control your work if you hold the pliers across as much of the ring as you can.



2. Try not to hold your ring like this. It gives you less control over what you're doing.



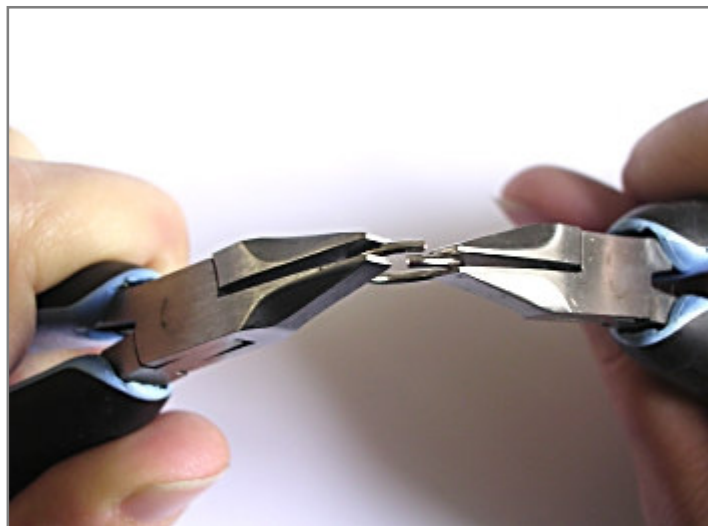
3. Pull your dominant hand towards you. This is your right hand if you're right handed. Doing it this way makes it easier for you to link rings. You just want to open the ring enough to be able to thread on any other item.



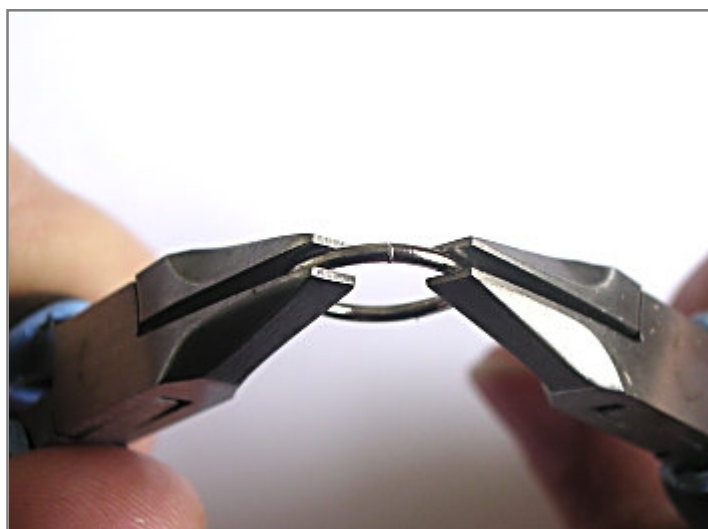
4. Once you've joined your ring, or threaded on the other item, reverse step 3 and push your dominant hand forwards. You now need to close any remaining gap and add more security to the closed ring. Push your dominant hand slightly forwards so that the ends of the ring are no longer level. Then push your hands together slightly so that the ends of the ring cross each other as though you were squashing the ring- be careful you don't accidentally do that!



5. Pull the ring back and take the ends so that they cross each other in the opposite way.



6. Next adjust the ring so that the ends meet again. Steps 5 and 6 will have hardened the ring slightly so that when brought together the ends want to push past each other and the gap should disappear. You may have to repeat the steps a few times or adjust the ring slightly to get a perfect finish.



7. If one end sticks up above the other, push the ring in your pliers and press down to level them out.

