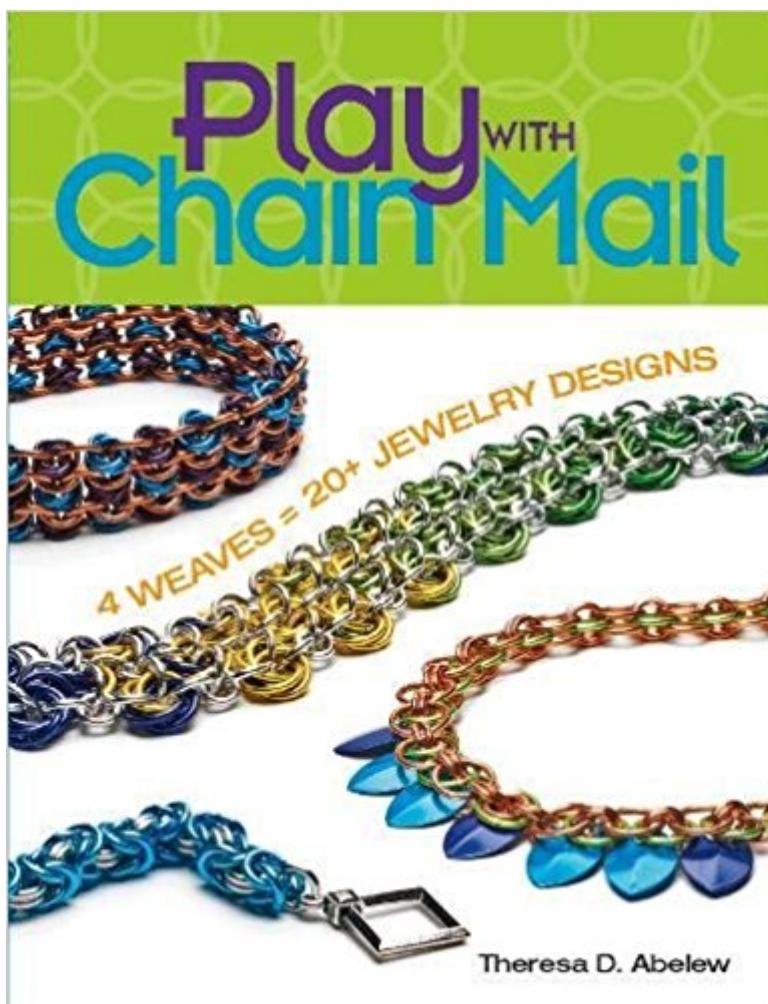


The book was found

# Play With Chain Mail: 4 Weaves = 20+ Jewelry Designs



## **Synopsis**

Play With Chain Mail focuses on using color, proportion, and scale to create multiple contemporary updates to popular weaves. This book is based on four chain mail weaves, Box(including Byzantine), Rosette, 4-in-1, and Helm, each weave is used to make five different jewelry projects. In addition to bracelets and necklaces (each with a twist on the traditional weave), author offers smaller, quick-and easy projects, such as earrings. Almost all the projects are made from affordable copper and colored aluminum; readers will be able to make lots of variations without a huge material investment. This book also offers even more bonuses: A handy chart shows readers at a glance which projects use a specific size or gauge of jump rings (all of the projects in this book can be made with a limited number of different-sized rings).

## **Book Information**

Age Range: 10 and up

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: Kalmbach Books (March 29, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1627001727

ISBN-13: 978-1627001724

Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 0.3 x 10.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,014,762 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #52 in Books > Children's Books > Activities, Crafts & Games > Crafts & Hobbies > Beadwork, Fashion & Jewelry > Jewelry #915 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Jewelry & Beadwork > Jewelry

## **Customer Reviews**

Theresa D. Abelew is the assistant editor for Art Jewelry magazine. She sells her work in galleries and fairs and can be found on Pinterest and Etsy (her shop is 2 Dog Studios). In addition to making chain mail, Theresa is a fire dancer and performs in various venues in the Milwaukee area. She lives in Waukesha , WI.

This is a good book for inspiration but not a good book for beginners. The projects are lovely but the instructions are confusing and not well illustrated. For example, there are instructions for a box weave - the photographs are of rings in blue and purple (very similar in color) where for teaching

purposes, it would have been better to use two highly contrasting colors. The written instructions for the weave were not very clear and the photos were next to useless. The finished bracelet shown was beautiful but that doesn't help you when you're trying to figure out how to make it. I am editing this review: I went back and looked at the book as I felt that maybe I am being unfair. Sure enough most of the other projects featured rings in contrasting colors which makes it much easier to see how the weave is being done. I upgraded my review to 4 stars. There are much better books out there for those wanting to learn chain mail. Learn your weaves and then come back and use this book to be inspired by the author's wonderful use of color.

I'm not really a fan of aluminum jewelry but if you approach the projects with alternative methods of construction, it gave me some great ideas.

Anyone can make chain mail jewelry using this well organized, clear, and very pretty book by Theresa D. Abelew. What's more, the author is a superstar at weaving with colored rings, as you can see from the cover, so if you love intricate patterns with beautiful color combinations, this might just be the book for you. The author's excellent instructions, her designs which she has created from the four basic patterns she has chosen to work with, and her dedication to her readers is ever evident. The book has an introduction by the author which explains, "this book is for the curious beginner". That may be so, but also, the projects range right up to spectacular. Therefore, playing with chain mail, with a teacher like this, is indeed a lot of fun! The basics section has everything from setups to tools and materials, how to make jump rings, and techniques. After this come the four main chapters. Each chapter: Rosette/Mobius, Box Chain & Byzantine, European 4-in-1, and Helm Chain, have five projects for the reader to learn. When I first learned chain mail, it was rare to find anything but silver rings to weave with. That could get very expensive and at times the weaving became a bit boring, even if you loved chain mail as much as I did. Now that we have all these colors (see the cover again, and it only gets better with all the projects offered), the designs have great depth. The woven layers are brought to the fore and become more obvious. With a color expert like the author, the effect is delightful. Additionally, the new "scales" which go so well with jump rings make an appearance in *Play with Chain Mail*. They look really dramatic and cool in the "Opposing Forces" Bracelet, for example. At the end of the book is a very helpful Jump Ring Chart which will show the reader what size and number of rings to order for each project. Easy and super sensible. I think the author must be as bright and colorful as her book. This is charming, solid work. If you have never tried chain mail (or even if you have!), I recommend *Play with Chain Mail: 4 Weaves = 20+*

Jewelry Designs. It is great!

This is also another good beginners book, there are a lot of projects I want to try.

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