

## WHAT IS M.A.I.L.?

M.A.I.L. (maille artisans international league) is an international group of artisans dedicated to the advancement of maille art. Our aim is to create new techniques, weaves, and patterns, expanding the knowledge of both novice and master, and to increase public awareness of the art and industry of maille.

Currently, all the things we do take place on our website (<http://www.mailleartisans.org>). Here you will find articles on all things pertaining to maille, a gallery of maille-related images submitted by members, links to many maille websites across the Internet, a message board, the largest maille weave library in existence, a glossary of maille-related terms, and much more.

## WHAT IS MAILLE?

Maille (also known as mail, or chainmail), is defined as flexible material or chains composed of small interlocking metal rings. Maille historically was used as armour from the Roman era until the late middle ages, in both eastern and western cultures. It is used today for industrial armour, combat reenactment, jewelry, fashion design, and sculpture.

## THIS BROCHURE

This brochure will provide some basic information on maille construction, pictures of a few weaves, and pictures of completed items. For more information, come visit the website.

## COMPLETED PICTURES:

Here are some pictures of completed maille items:

### SHIRT WITH AN INLAY:



### HANDFLOWER:

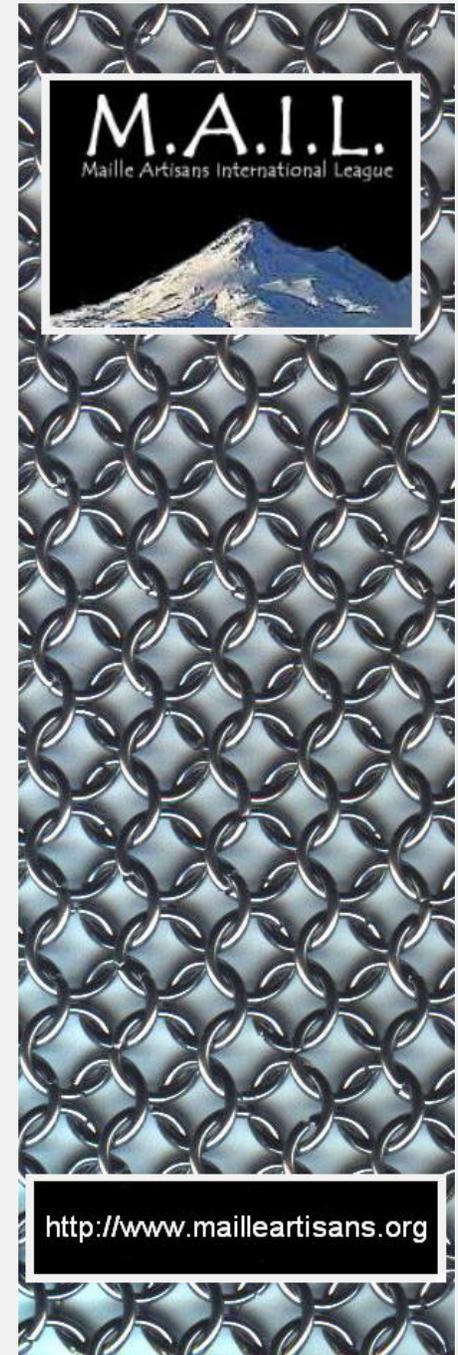


### BASKET:



M.A.I.L.

<http://www.mailleartisans.org>  
Brochure created by David M. Austin.  
<http://www.angelfire.com/on3/chainman>  
Please distribute freely.



## HOW TO MAKE MAILLE

First, a supply of rings is needed. They can either be purchased, or made. To make rings you simply make a mandrel setup as illustrated below:



This instrument is used to wind coils. You drill a hole in the rod, and stick a portion of wire into it and wind the wire until you have a spring:



Next you must cut the coil into rings using a cutting device. Common cutting tools used for this include tin snips, side cutters, and bolt cutters:



Now you will have a supply of rings that can be used to make maille.

## CLOSING RINGS

Closing rings is a simple and repetitive task. Rings are generally closed with pliers.



## WEAVES

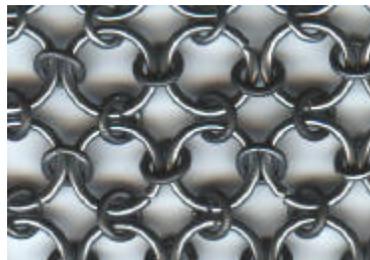
The immediate, repeating pattern into which rings are woven is referred to as a weave.

Pictured are a few common weaves.

SPIRAL:



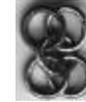
JAPANESE 4 IN 1:



HALF PERSIAN 3 IN 1:



## WEAVING EUROPEAN 4 IN 1



First attach four rings to one ring.



Next add an open ring and two closed rings to it.



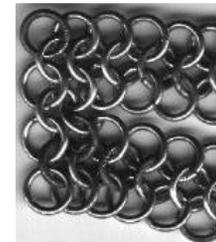
Close the ring.



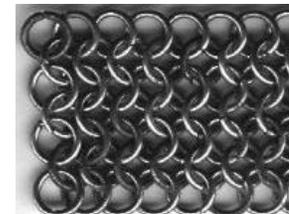
Continue until you have a strand of 4 in 1



Make two strands, and line them up side by side. Add a ring to two rings on the upper, and two on the lower strand and close it.



Add a ring to two of the rings you previously connected in the above step, and the next ring on the bottom, and top strands and close the ring.



Continue until you sew up both strands. Now you have a sheet of European 4 in 1.