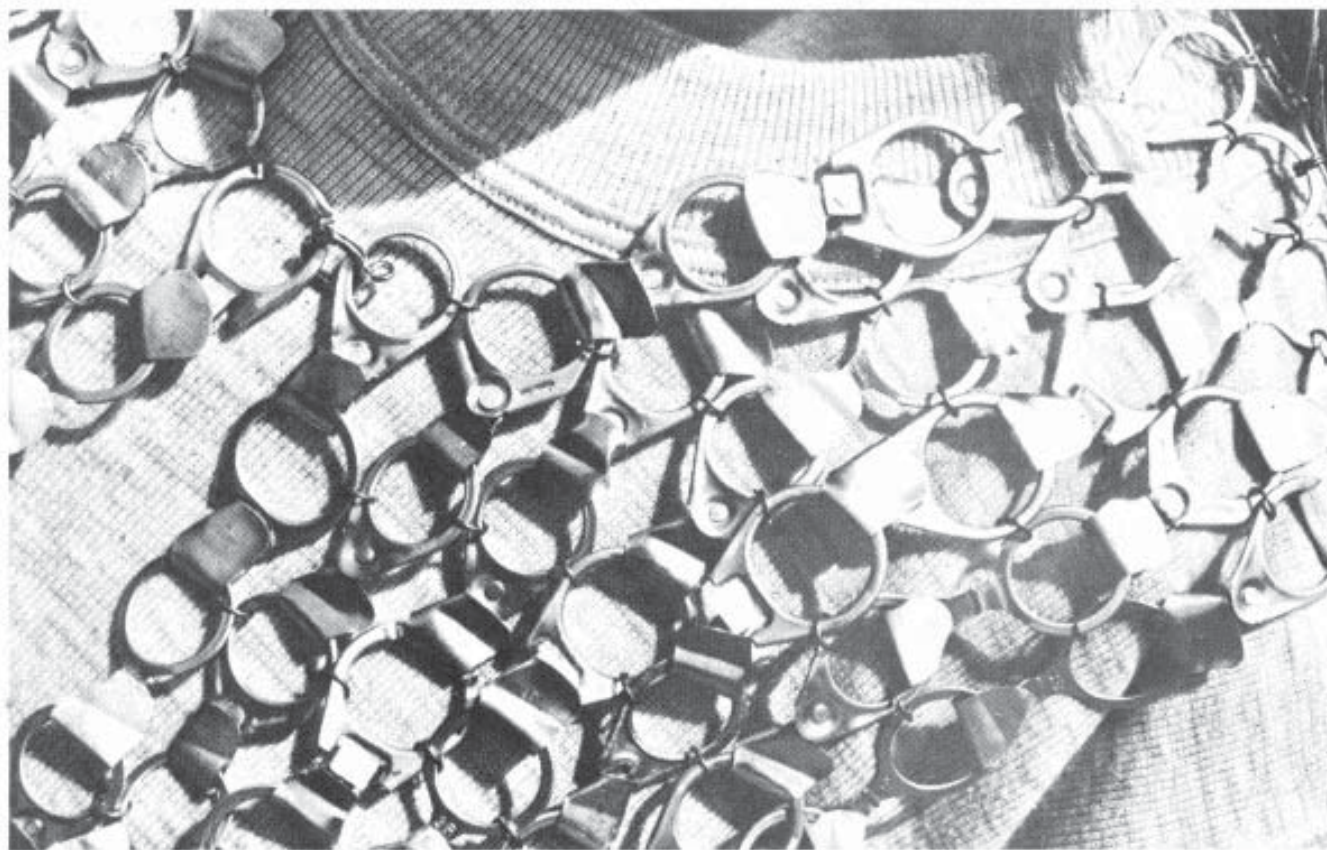


WASTE NOT



By Laura Torbet

It all started because—like everyone else—as a kid I collected bottle caps, hoping to create some fantastic thing that never quite materialized. I did have a friend who nailed rows of them to plywood to make a doormat (terrible for your shoes but even worse if you happened to trip on it).

So here I was saving pull tabs out of nostalgia and a vague sense of conservation.

To make your own beer-can-pull-tab vest, you need about 300 pull tabs—assorted sizes and styles allowed—two packets of jump rings (about 50 each at hobby and crafts shops), tweezers (preferably blunt-end), snout-nosed pliers and a small con-

tainer of Elmer's-type glue.

The principle is very simple. Tabs are connected vertically by hooking the tab section from one pull tab through the ring section of the one below. Bend the tab back against itself and squeeze it tightly with the pliers. Make two vertical rows of tabs, then connect the ring sections horizontally by attaching each two with a jump ring. (Holding the jump ring with the tweezers and opening and closing it by hand seems to work best.)

Make the vest in three pieces—back, left front and right front—according to the pattern illustrated. As each major section is completed, put a dab of glue at the point where each

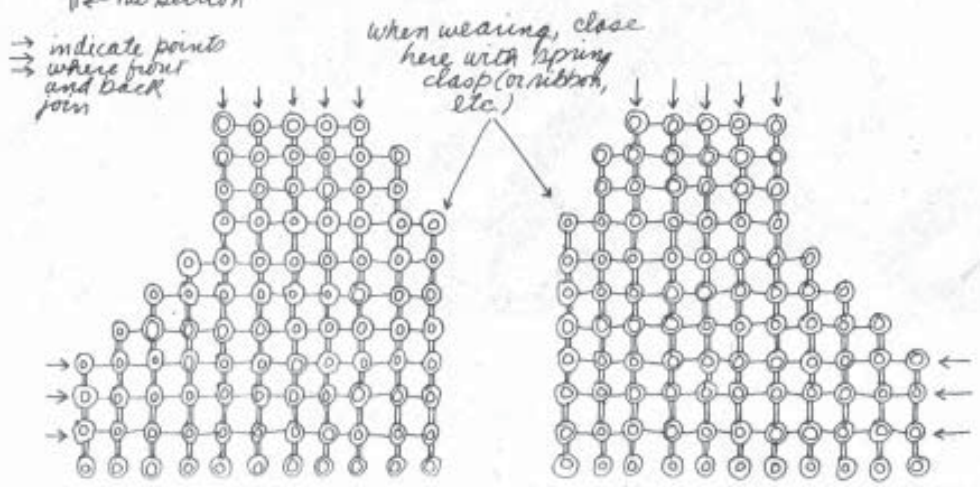
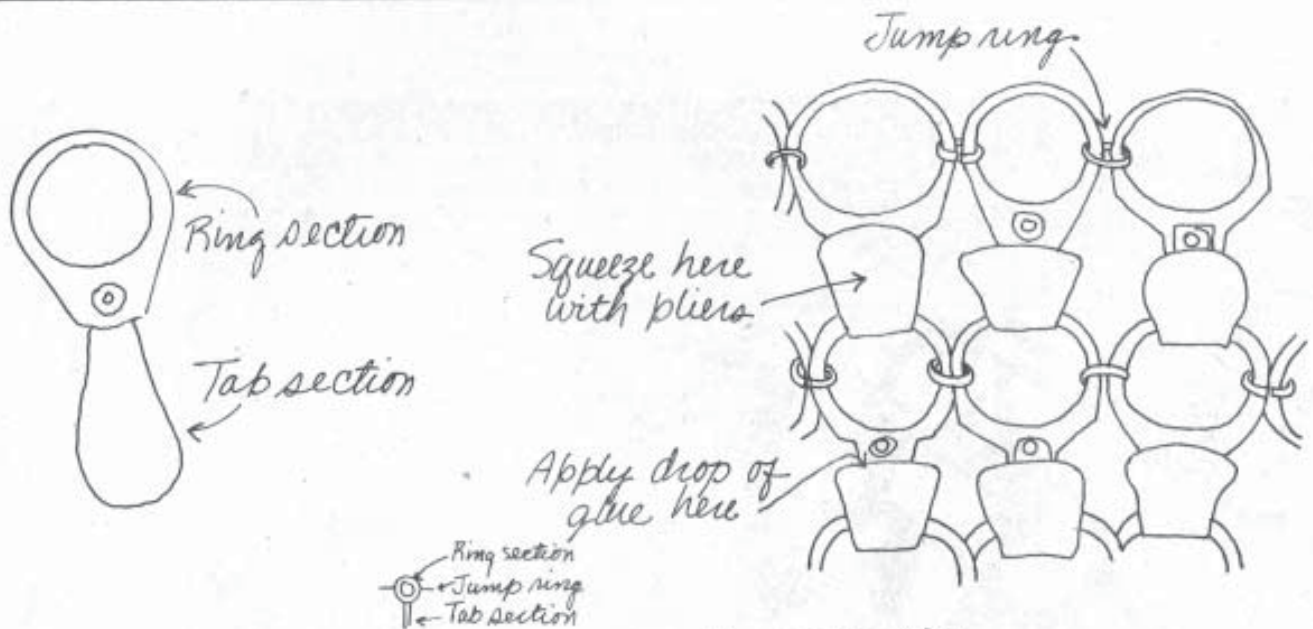
tab turns back on itself so that the ring cannot slip out.

Note: pull tab section off the last pull tab in each row and do not connect horizontally. This leaves a row of free-swinging rings all around.

To join pieces, lay back of vest on table (side with tabs showing should face the table). Match left and right fronts to back. Simply join the five rings at each shoulder and the three at each side. A double ring is helpful here for reinforcement.

A bit tedious to make but fun to have: you'll make friends on the street ("D'ja drink all that beer, yerself, girlie?"), and everyone will know you've done your part to Keep America Clean. 🍻

WANT NOT



You'll make friends on the street: "D'ja drink all that beer yerself, girlie?"

