

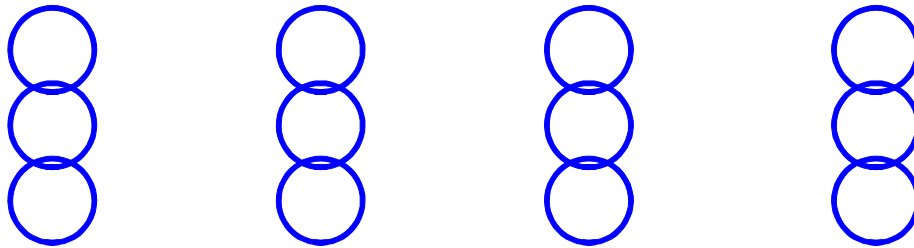
---

# Jeweler's Lament

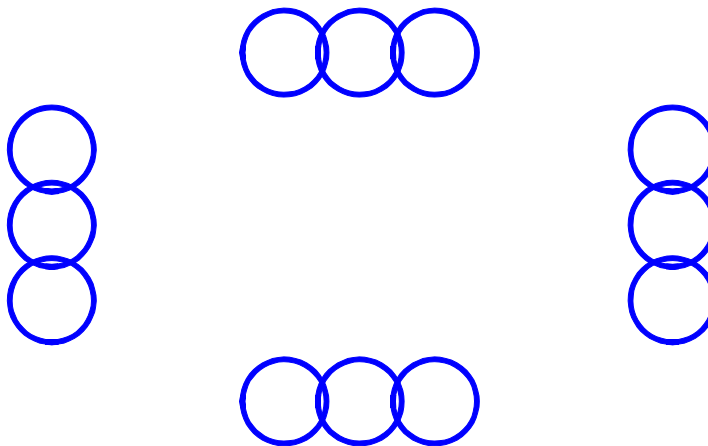
---

Some barriers to results can be overcome only when the constructs of the barrier are reorganized into a new pattern. It can require some creative mental "juggling," as with the challenge below. See if you can solve this "Jeweler's Lament."

A woman returned from a vacation in Europe, bringing back as a souvenir four pieces of solid gold chain, each consisting of three links:



The woman felt the pieces would make a lovely necklace if joined together. She went to a jeweler and said, "How much would it cost to join these four pieces of chain into one complete chain?" The jeweler arranged the four pieces into this pattern:



"I charge \$3 to break a link of chain, and \$3 to solder a link together," he told her.

"Since you have four corners, it will cost you \$24."

"That's too much," the lady said. "You can do it for \$18." And she was right. The challenge, then is to be as creative as the lady. How would you construct a necklace, breaking and joining only three links?