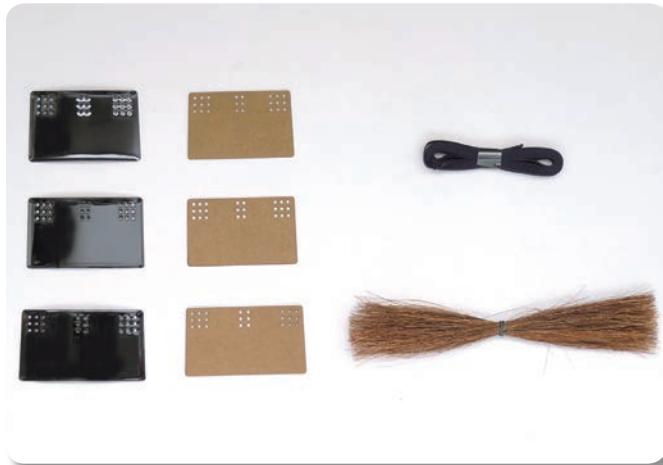


## The tasset plates, mask beard and moustache



### Your parts

Tasset plate and backing (first)  
 Tasset plate and backing (second)  
 Tasset plate and backing (third)  
 Lace (approx. 150cm)  
 Beard/moustache hair bunch

### Tools & materials

Toothpick  
 Glue  
 Instant adhesive  
 Thread (white)  
 Black paint  
 Scissors



### The tasset plates



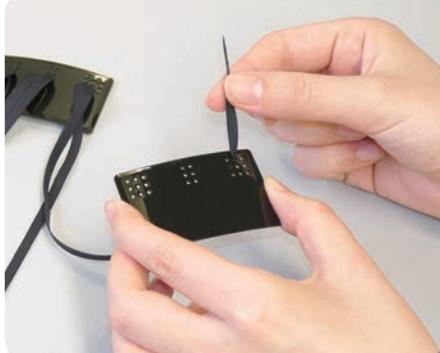
1 Attach the backings to the three tasset plates, making sure to line up the holes on each part. Next, cut the lace into three equal lengths, with sharpened and glued tips, as you have done for previous tasset laces.



2 Thread the three laces through the bottom inner holes of the lower row so that your tasset looks like the photo to the right.



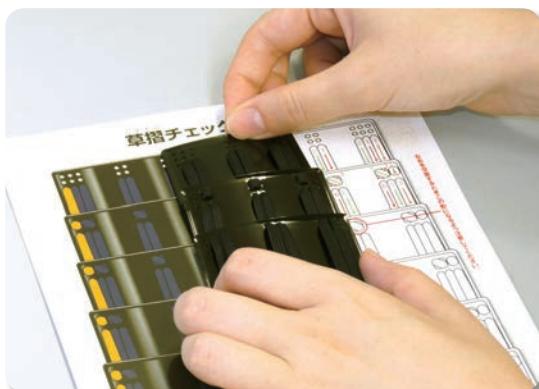
3 Next, thread the laces through the holes in the second tasset plate, referring to the tasset check sheet to ensure you have the correct space between plates. Then, cross the two ends over, pass through the holes in the next row down, then pull back through to the front.



4 Your first two tasset plates should look like this, with the laces protruding over the front of the second plate, ready for the third. Double check that yours looks exactly like the ones in the photo.



# SAMURAI ARMOUR SET: STEP BY STEP



**5** Use the tasset check sheet to line up the third tasset plate, then lace through the holes accordingly.



**6** This stage is complete, and your set of three tasset plates should look like this. Check against the tassets you have built previously, and the check sheet, that you have assembled the tassets correctly.

## The mask beard



**1** Remove the wire from the middle of the hair bunch, and select roughly 40-50 strands.

**2** Stack the bunch together and trim any hairs that exceed 20cm in length. Tie in the middle with some thread. Apply some PVA to the knot to prevent the thread coming undone.



**3** Hold the ends of the thread together and insert from the front into one of the holes on the face mask directly below the mouth.

**4** As you did with the lower part of the beard, pull the threads through the hole until the lengths of hair fold in half and enter the hole themselves.



**5** Using a toothpick, dab the knot with some superglue, then pull the hairs from the front so that the knot rests against the inside of the mask.



**6** Cut the thread with scissors, leaving only the knot visible inside.



**7** Repeat Steps 1-6 for the remaining two holes beneath the mouth.



**8** Using scissors, trim the beard to about 2.5cm.



# SAMURAI ARMOUR SET: STEP BY STEP

## The moustache



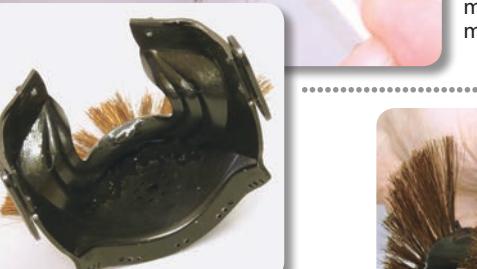
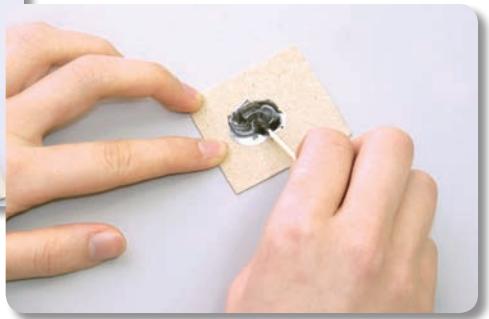
2 Repeat for all the remaining holes.

3 Trim the moustache with scissors to a length of around 3cm, shortening to 2.5cm in the middle to achieve an even curve.

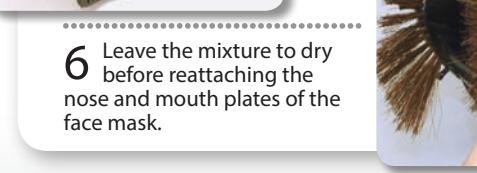
1 Remove the nose from the face mask. Add the hairs of the moustache in exactly the same way as you did for the beard on page 90, cutting the excess thread and dabbing the knot with glue.



4 Mix PVA glue with black paint to a ratio of 10:1.



5 Paint the white knots on the inside of the mask with the black mixture.



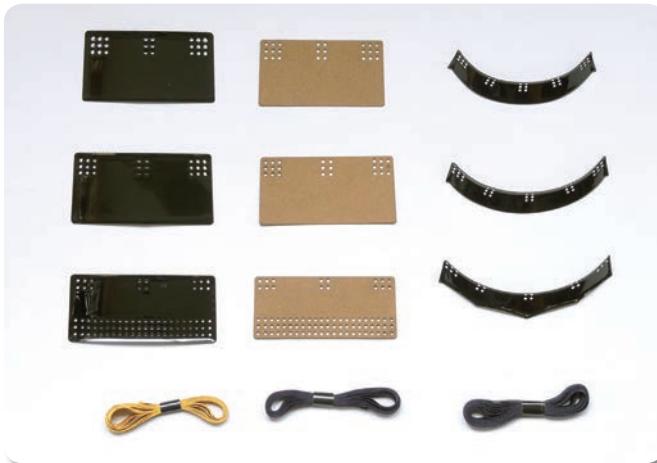
6 Leave the mixture to dry before reattaching the nose and mouth plates of the face mask.



## Assembled parts



## The tassets and neck guard



### Your parts

Tasset plate and backing (fourth)  
 Tasset plate and backing (fifth)  
 Tasset plate and backing (sixth)  
 Neck guard plate (first)  
 Neck guard plate (second)  
 Neck guard plate (third)  
 Yellow lace (approx. 90cm)  
 4mm lace (approx. 105cm)  
 5mm lace (approx. 100cm)

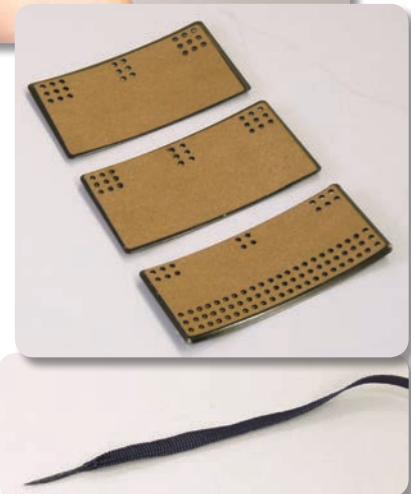
### Tools & materials

Toothpick  
 Glue  
 Scissors  
 Tweezers  
 Ruler  
 Cotton buds



### The tasset plates

1 Fix the backings to their respective tasset plates. Prepare the thicker 5mm lace as you have done before, with one shaped end and one sealed end for the sixth plate.



2 Thread one length of lace all the way through the third hole on the front side of the sixth plate.



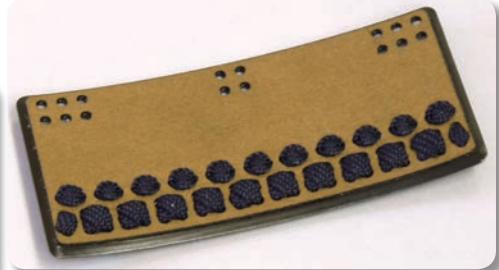
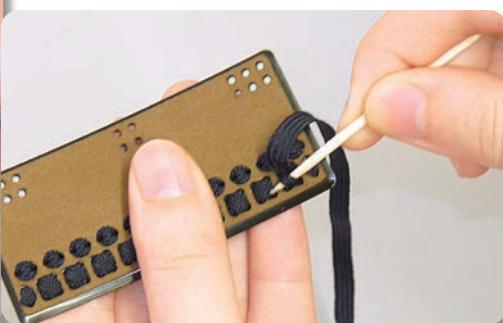
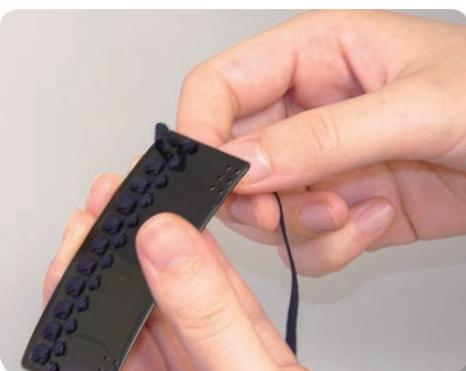
3 Pass the lace from the back through to the front, then through to the back again, and repeat for the entire row. Tie a knot at the end, cut away any excess lace, and apply PVA glue to the knot to secure it.



4 Prepare the length of lace again, and thread it through the bottom hole of the third column of the sixth plate.



# SAMURAI ARMOUR SET: STEP BY STEP



5 Cross over to the fourth hole of the middle row and thread back through. Complete the lacing along the two bottom rows of the sixth plate, as detailed on page 10 (Stage 3).

## The tasset

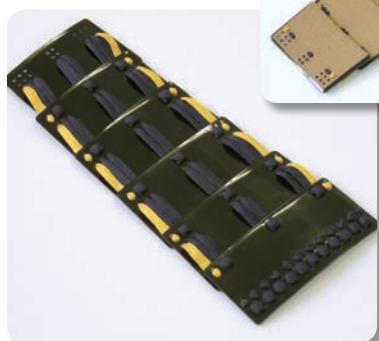


3 Pass the lengths of lace through to the back of the sixth plate and tie a ball knot at the end of each length. Cut away the excess, and apply PVA glue to the knots to secure them.

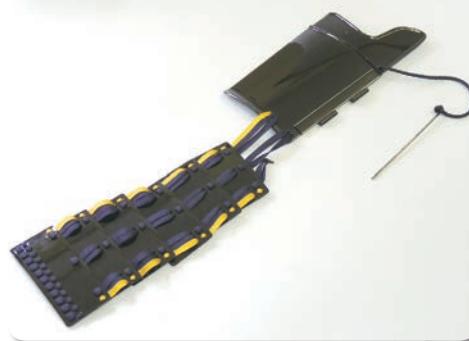
1 Retrieve the three plates assembled in Stage 25, and lace the fourth plate onto the other three. Remember to check the positions against the other tassets and the check sheet.



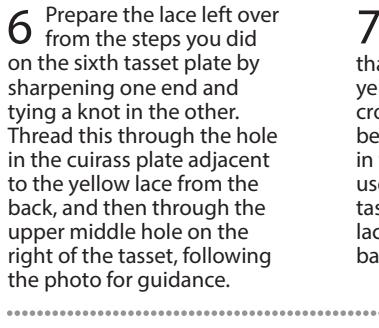
2 Lace the fifth and sixth plates onto the rest of the tasset.



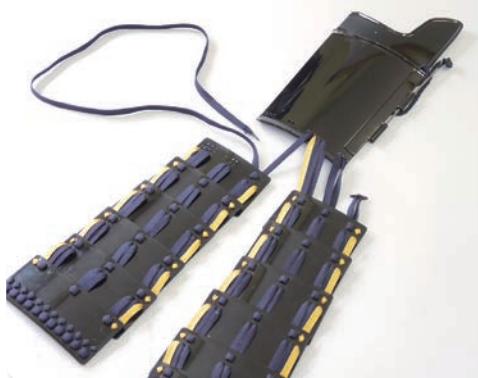
4 Thread the yellow laces down both sides of the tasset, following the same procedure as you have done before. Refer to previous stages and the check sheet, if necessary.



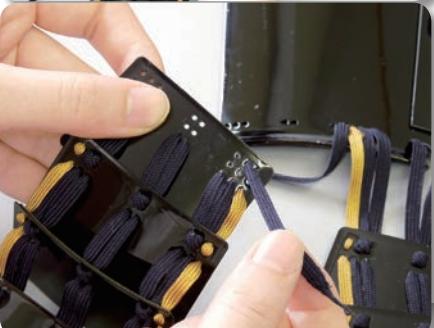
5 The tasset will be fitted on the right side cuirass plate (front), next to the one you fitted previously. It may be easier to disconnect the side plate for the following steps.



6 Prepare the lace left over from the steps you did on the sixth tasset plate by sharpening one end and tying a knot in the other. Thread this through the hole in the cuirass plate adjacent to the yellow lace from the back, and then through the upper middle hole on the right of the tasset, following the photo for guidance.



7 Adjust the length of the lace so that it matches the yellow lace, then cross the lace over between the holes in the diagonal style used for the previous tassets, so that the lace ends up at the back of the plate.



8 Thread the lace back through the hole in the front of the cuirass plate, as shown, then loop the lace around the back of the plate and out of the next available hole along.

# SAMURAI ARMOUR SET: STEP BY STEP



**9** Repeat Steps 7 and 8 until the tasset is attached to the cuirass in three places. At the final hole, tie a ball knot on the inside of the plate to secure the parts. Make sure the last hole of the cuirass plate is left open.

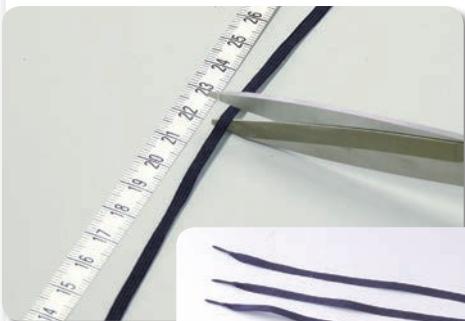


**10** Sharpen one end of the remaining length of yellow lace and tie a knot at the other. Thread this through the back of the hole already containing yellow lace and into the back of the top right hole of the tasset. Loop over and back through the hole beneath, tying a knot at the back to secure it.



**11** Cut off the remainder of the yellow lace after tying the knot, and repeat Step 10 to connect the far side of the tasset plate with the cuirass. This stage is complete.

## The neck guard



**1** Cut a 22cm length from the thinner 4mm lace and keep this to one side. Then cut the remaining lace into five equal lengths, and sharpen both ends of each.

**2** Pull the end of one of the five laces through the middle hole on the right of the chin, then pull the other end through the left hole, as shown.



**3** Repeat with the other four lengths of lace along the rim of the face mask. Where there are three holes, leave the outermost one empty.



**4** Thread the laces through the corresponding holes along the top row of holes on the first neck guard plate. Leave the two outermost holes free.



**5** Pull the laces so that the gap between the face mask and the first neck guard plate is around 6mm in the middle. Due to the curvature of the neck guard, the gap will be slightly wider at each end.



**6** Perform the same diagonal cross-over that you used for the tassetts, so that the lace ends up at the back of the plate (see photos).



# SAMURAI ARMOUR SET: STEP BY STEP



**7** Pull the lace through from the back of the neck guard plate so that it ends up at the front. Repeat Steps 6 and 7 for the remaining four laces.



**8** As you did with the first neck guard plate, lace through the second plate, using the photo as a guide.



**9** Pull the laces so that the gap between the first and second neck guard plates is around 6mm in the middle. As you did for Steps 6 and 7, perform a cross-over between the top and middle rows of holes, then looping the lace through the bottom row so that the ends come out at the front of the plate. Tweezers may help if you are struggling to work between the plates.

**10** Follow the same procedure to attach the third (largest) neck guard plate. This time, instead of looping the lace back through to the front, tie it off in knots on the inside, dabbing with glue to secure.



**11** Trim off the excess lace after the knots are tied and glued. Check against the photos that your mask and neck guard assemblies look like this.



# SAMURAI ARMOUR SET: STEP BY STEP

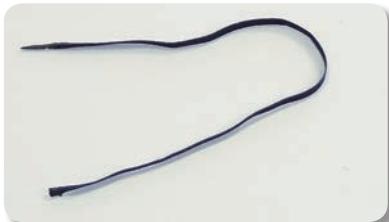


**12** Prepare the yellow lace left over from the tasset by sealing one end and sharpening the other. Thread the lace through from the back of the farthest left hole in the face mask. Then thread through the top hole in the back of the first neck guard plate, back through the middle hole, then out to the front through the lowest hole (see photo).

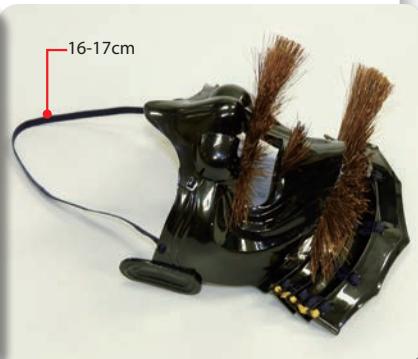


**13** Repeat through the three neck guard plates, then once through the final hole, and trim and seal the lace. Repeat for the other side of the mask and neck guard.

**14** Prepare the 22cm length of 4mm lace you cut in Step 1 by sealing one end and sharpening the other.



**16** Loop the lace back through the adjacent hole, then over to the corresponding hole near the ear on the other side of the mask. Pass through the adjacent hole, adjusting the lace to a length of 16 to 17cm and tie a knot to secure.



**15** Thread the lace through from the inside of the cheek, underneath the eye, at the second hole from the ear guard (circled). Pull the lace through so that the sealed end stops at the inside of the mask.

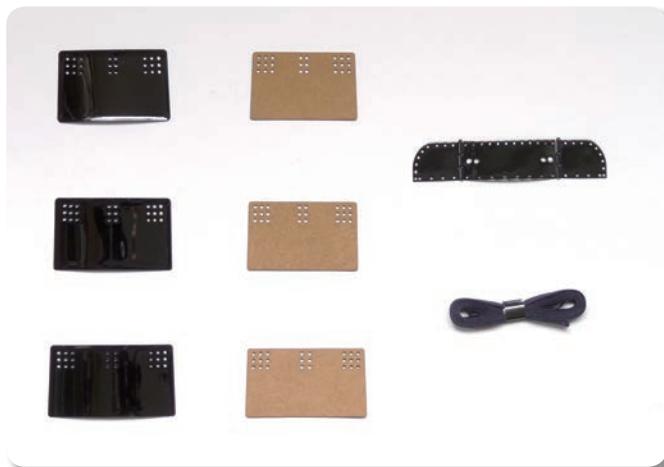


**17** This completes the neck guard and mask strap. Hang the mask on the armour stand, using the strap as shown, then rest the helmet on top.

## Assembled parts



## The tasset



### Your parts

Tasset plate and backing (first)  
Tasset plate and backing (second)  
Tasset plate and backing (third)  
Gauntlet crown plate  
Lace (approx. 150cm)

### Tools & materials

Toothpick  
Glue  
Superglue  
Scissors



## The tasset



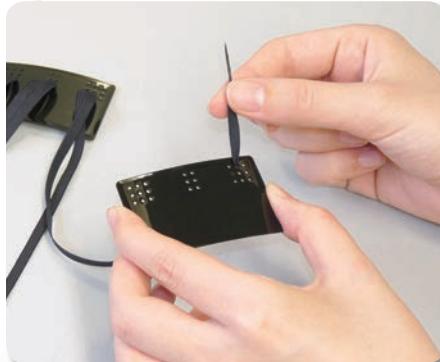
1 Attach the backings to the three tasset plates, making sure to line up the holes on each part. Next, cut the lace into three equal lengths, with sharpened and glued tips, as you have done for previous tasset laces.



2 Thread the three laces through the bottom inner holes of the lower row so that your tasset looks like the one in the photo.



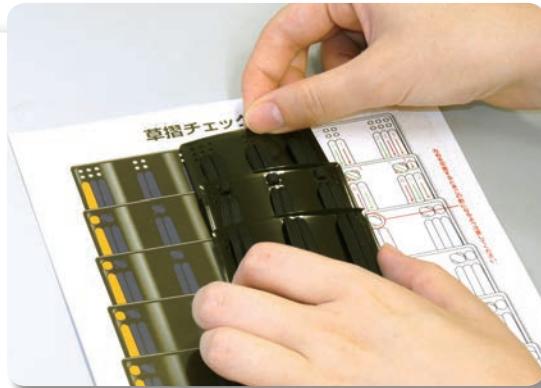
3 Next, thread the laces through the holes in the second tasset plate, referring to the tasset check sheet supplied with Pack 1 to ensure you have the correct lace pattern and space between plates.



4 Your first two tasset plates should look like this, with the laces protruding over the front of the second plate, ready for the third. Double check that yours looks exactly like the ones in the photo.



# SAMURAI ARMOUR SET: STEP BY STEP



5 Attach the third plate to the first two, using the tasset check sheet as a guide.

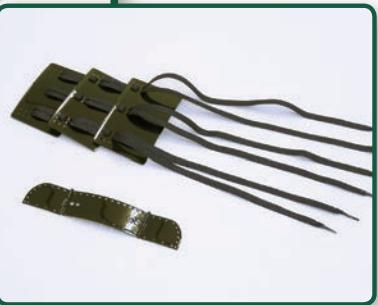


6 The ends of the thread should protrude out of the lower row of holes at the front of the third plate, as shown. This stage is complete, so store your parts away safely until next time.

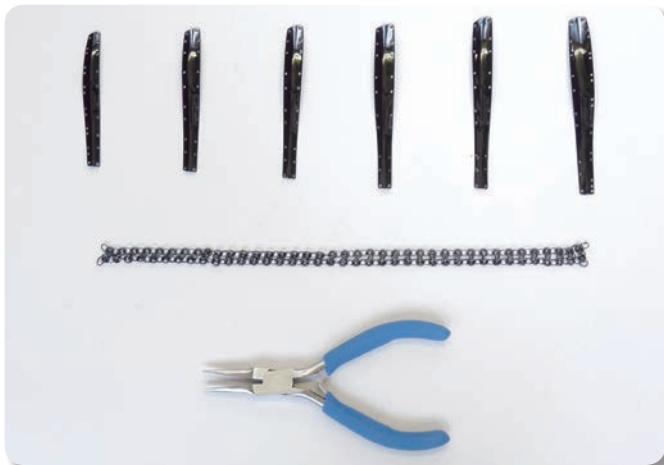
## Assembled parts



At the end of this stage, you are nearing completion of the core of your samurai armour, having assembled the bulk of the helmet, mask and cuirass, and working through the waist tasset plates. In the coming stages, you will begin working on the first of the two gauntlets – the articulated armour-plated gloves that provide protection from the fingers to upper wrist and forearm.



## The gauntlet



### Your parts

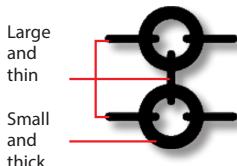
Wrist plate (first, smallest)  
 Wrist plate (second)  
 Wrist plate (third)  
 Wrist plate (fourth)  
 Wrist plate (fifth)  
 Wrist plate (sixth, largest)  
 Chain  
 Needle-nose pliers



### The wrist plates



1 Individual units of the chain supplied for this stage will be used to link the wrist plates that make up the lower wrist section of the gauntlet. In the diagram above, rings are allocated either red or black shading. Each single unit to be used is represented by black shading, and consists of two small and thick rings joined by five larger and thinner rings. Rings shaded in red will not be used.



One ring unit

2 Hold the chain in between your fingers and very carefully open two parallel sets of the larger rings (the four horizontal black links shown in the diagram, left) using the pliers. Unhook the section, so you are left with a separate unit of two small rings and five larger ones, as in the photo (far right). Be careful not to scratch the paint.



One ring unit

# SAMURAI ARMOUR SET: STEP BY STEP



**3** Carefully fit the open rings through the holes in the straighter edge of the first (smallest) wrist plate. Follow the photographs to make sure you fit through the correct holes. Use the pliers to close the ends of the open rings, making sure not to overtighten or twist any part.



**4** To add another chain unit to the first wrist plate (see photo of Step 5), separate a second seven-ring unit from the chain, to duplicate the one used in the previous step. The remaining two small rings and one large ring shown in the photo above (marked in red on page 99) will not be used at this stage.



**5** Repeat Step 3 to attach the second set of rings. Your assembly should now look like the one in the above photo.

**6** Repeat Steps 2 and 3 to attach the subsequent two ring units, so that there are four sets of rings lining the first wrist plate. Make sure the holes at both ends are left empty.



**7** Repeat Steps 2 to 6 for the second, third, fourth and fifth wrist plates, but not the sixth. Each should have four ring sections attached to their straighter sides, and have their outermost holes left empty. Check against the photo that you have performed this step correctly.



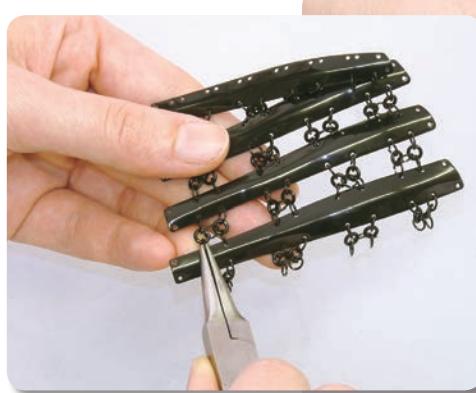
# SAMURAI ARMOUR SET: STEP BY STEP



**8** Connect the first and second wrist plates by opening the free larger rings of the first using the pliers, and then fitting them into the corresponding holes on the curved side of the second. Close the rings carefully with the pliers to complete the link (see photo, right).



**9** Repeat Step 8 for the remaining three ring units.



**10** Repeat Steps 8 and 9 to join the third to sixth wrist plates. Once complete, your first to sixth wrist plates will be fully connected, as shown in the photo, right.



**11** Keep all the left-over rings from the chain, in case any spares are needed at a later date. This stage is now complete.

