Derrinboy Armlets
Derrinboy, Co. Offaly.
Middle Bronze Age, 1400-1200 BC.

Ground Floor
Ór - Ireland's Gold Exhibition

The armlets are part of a hoard found during turf-cutting.

Material
• Gold.

Form
• The armlets are formed from a wide gold rectangular band curved into an open cylindrical form.

Decoration
• Abstract and geometrical motifs.
• The armlet introduces a new combination of decoration, a plain raised row and repoussé markings that create a textured rope-like effect - rope moulding.
• Rows of decoration are repeated horizontally around the width of the armlet.
• The opening of the armlet is framed with three vertical rows of punched dots and plain bands.

Technique
The armlets were created in three stages;
1. Gold ingots may have been hammered into a flat sheet and then cut out into a rectangular shape.
2. Rope moulding decoration was applied by the technique of repoussé and punched dots.
3. The decorated rectangular shapes were finally heated and curved into cylindrical form of armlets.

Function
• The armlet was possibly worn on the wrist or upper arm.
• They could be an decorative version of leather armlets which may have been worn on the wrist for protection in battle.

The Derrinboy Hoard (Image).