

Beginning Jewelry Fabrication

Instructor: Cas Alexander

- Copper and/or brass wire: 14, 16, or 18 gauge, your choice depending on how chunky you'd like your chain project to be. 4-oz spools are plenty—Beadworld is a local supplier.
- Copper and/or brass sheet:
 - 16 gauge, 1x3" minimum for ring-making.
 - 20 gauge, 3x3" minimum for other projects.
- FINE silver bezel wire (not sterling!) – 26 gauge, 4mm width. 4" length minimum.
- 2 round or oval cabochon (flat-backed) stones of your choice. Cabochons should be at least 10mm in diameter. You may purchase other shapes or smaller sizes in addition to the required ones if desired, but they will be trickier to work with. NW Rockhounds is a great resource!
- Hard, medium, and easy silver solder. Either 1 foot of wire solder in each hardness (3 ft total) OR 1 DWT of 28g sheet in each hardness (3 DWT total). DWT is a unit of measurement for fine metals. Seattle Findings sells a solder kit with 1 DWT of each kind of sheet solder.

Supplies:

- 3 packs of 12 jeweler's saw blades, size 2/0. Make sure to get size 2/0, not size 2!
- Sandpaper (220, 400, 600, 800 grits). Multi-grit packs are available at most hardware stores.
- N95 or KN95 masks (worn in the studio at all times). Available at hardware stores.

Optional: Xuron 9180NS shears or similar. Fantastic for cutting solder and wire cleanly.

<https://www.gesswein.com/bench-tools/pliers-nippers/nippers-cutters/xuron-9180ns-hd-scissor-shear/>

Recommended Suppliers:

- NW Rockhounds – www.nwrockhounds.com. Great local source, especially for stones and small quantities of metal.
- Beadworld Seattle – <http://beadworldseattle.com/home.html>. Primarily beading supplies, but has a nice selection of small tools and non-bulk quantities of wire.
- RioGrande – www.riogrande.com. Just about everything you'll need, but base metals are sold in larger quantities. Fast shipping.
- Seattle Findings – Lynwood (appointment required) – www.seattlefindings.com. Receive 10% discount as a student.

The studio has a wide selection of equipment (saw frames, hammers, pliers, drill bits, etc.) available to use, but you're welcome to bring your own. I recommend waiting to make any major tool purchases until after you've had a chance to use the studio tools and learn what you like.

Questions?

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