

# RECOMMENDED JEWELLERY TOOLS For JTS Silver Level



## Setting up your jewellery training workshop

It's amazing what you can create with so few tools. A lot of them not that expensive either, if you shop around. The following list of tools are recommended to help you advance through the Silver Level Training course and hopefully further.

You probably have some or most of them, but we jewelers all have a tool wish list. Hopefully this will help you plan & prioritize.

The list could continue on, and on.

It's hard for me to know when to stop adding recommendations, and no doubt you will see me use a different tool in my tutorials that has not been included. However you will also find that I demonstrate alternative ways to achieve the same result sometimes using very basic methods and tools. My aim is to make jewellery training convenient inexpensive and inclusive as possible, and hopefully help you to turn your hobby into a career.

There is of course one more important addition to the list. A strategically positioned media player to view the JTS tutorials. Happy training.

Yours Sincerely Peter Keep

### HAND FILES



You can start your collection with just two shapes, Flat and Half Round.

It's a good idea to get a '0' cut file for heavy filing and a '2' or '3' cut for removing the heavy marks before sanding.

### SANDING (BUFF) STICKS



Wooden or MDF off cuts should cost you next to nothing. Make sure you find a piece of doweling too for finishing inside rings.

Emery paper grades P180 P400 P800 P2000 will get you started.

### PLIERS



Round, Half Round, Chain nose and Parallel pliers are essential. But add a pair of Soft jaw (nylon) pliers for minimising tool damage as soon as you can.

### SIZE STICK & RING GAUGE



Ring size stick, ideally with letter markings.

Note; Some mandrels have size markings. Finger size rings including half sizes.

Note; For wide wedding rings use the wider finger size rings

### MANDRELS



A good quality steel mandrel and a chasing hammer for shaping and sizing ring shanks is a must. You can also add a bangle mandrel to the list but it's not going to be necessary for Silver Level and fine jewellery making.

### SAFETY FIRST



The most important thing in your workshop is your health and safety. Make sure you have the necessary safety gear on hand. Extractors should be in use over soldering and pickle areas. Also consider using an Optivisor for close up work.

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### PIERCING SAW



Every jewellers best friend is the piercing saw. 4/0 and 2/0 blades will get you through most lessons.

Other cutting tools to add to your list are Tin Snips & a pair of End Cutters

### MEASURING DEVICES



My choice of measuring device is the gemstone dial gauge, it's quick and easy to read. Traditionally jewellers would generally use a steel Vernier or caliper gauge. Consider the digital or dial type.

### NEEDLE FILES



Needle files come in full sets covering all the shapes. Ensure you buy quality files. Later on you can add escapement files for ultra fine work.

### MICRO MOTOR OR PENDANT DRILL



Ever since I bought a micro motor I've not used my pendant drill. It was a game changer for me especially for setting. They're not that expensive now. Just be aware that the motor is in the hand piece so allow it to cool down if you are over working it.

### MARKING TOOLS



Good quality dividers are a must. A small steel rule, scribe set square and protractor for working out angles will be needed. Also add a scalpel to the list as this is a handy tool for marking out settings.

### DIAMOND SHARPENING STONE



Eze-lap diamond hone & stone sharpeners are my weapon of choice, they are great for quick sharpen ups of drills and gravers. But if you are use to natural sharpening stones its fine to stay with it.

### BURS & DRILLS



The list for burs and drills could be a really long one so just make sure you have to start off with; 0.8mm, 1mm 1.2mm & 1.5mm drills & 0.7mm 1mm 1.2mm 1.5mm 2mm & 2.5mm round burs.

This will get you started.

Then later add hart burs bud burs, cup burs & tapered burs for setting.

### FINISHING BURS



There are so many finishing discs & mops to choose from. I recommend a Split mandrel, a snap on mandrel (& Moors discs) Silicone carbide rubber polishers, Goats hair brush mops & cotton mops. This can be expanded on later.

### BENCH BLOCKS



A steel bench anvil is really useful as you can form around the shapes. A steel block is good for heavy duty work

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### SOLDERING KIT



As well as a charcoal block I really like the ceramic soldering boards, they are clean and handle high temperatures well. You will also need soldering tweezers a third hand for setting up operation. I use the versatile Tenacity 4A flux paste. I pickle my work in warm sodium bisulfate & neutralize the acid with sodium bicarbonate.

### MINI TORCH



The type of soldering torch that you invest in will make a huge difference with your training pathway. Hobby jewellers generally start out with a butane or gas only torch and the results can be great. However it is extremely difficult to control the heat and practice precision soldering. If you intend to advance further than stage four then the torch of choice is 'The Little Torch' You can fix a melting tip to this too. You will need gas & air bottles and a regulator.

### INGOT MAKING KIT



Once you have a crucible and ingot mold you can salvage your scrap metal and reduce the need to keep buying stock gauge precious metals. This set up is only applicable if you have an oxy/gas set up.

### DRAW PLATES



Start off with a round draw plate 0.05mm-3mm, this will cover most projects, I rarely use anything else. You can use good gripping pliers to pull the wire through, but hand draw tongs make the task easier. I use the bench vice to hold the draw plate, so only think of buying a draw bench if you are pulling really thick wire.

### RING BENDER



I use my ring bender a lot, so put one on your wish list. There are a few choices including the plier type. Ensure you buy quality.

### STAKES & HAMMERS



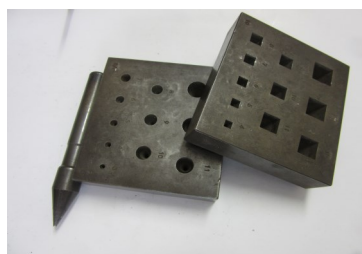
A good quality solid bench vice and a flat stake for forging will help to cold work metal. Find a good quality cross peen hammer. A large anvil is even better. I also use a nylon mallet for dent less forming rather than a rawhide mallet.

### DAPPING/DOMING SET



There are lots to choose from. Just make sure they are good quality, otherwise you will be replacing them.

### COLLET BLOCKS



Making settings becomes so much easier once you add collet blocks to the list. Start with a 17 degree round block & punch. You can add to the collection later.

### SWAGE BLOCKS



It's worth spending the money to buy the complete forming set which includes swage blocks and a mini anvil.



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## ROLL MILL



The roll mill is a big investment so be sure to purchase good quality (beware of substandard Indian or Chinese mills) Having reduction gears is not essential, but having wire and sheet option is. Even better if you have the half round option too. There are quite a few training tutorials that do not involve the roll mill so you can get started before you commit to buy.

## RING HOLDER



A good quality ring holder saves wear and tear to your fingers. Its also worth buying a pin vice that can hold burs. Add a Benchmate to your wish list, you will need it for stone setting.

## ULTRASONIC &amp; TUMBLER



Its nice to have an Ultrasonic & Tumbler, but you can get by without them until you can afford to add them to your wish list.

## POLISHING MOTOR



You can spend a fortune on a motor & extractor combination. But you can get by with an off the shelf 2800 RPM 1/5 HP motor (a slight variation is fine) Just make sure it has tapered spindles or you can at least fix one on. Also be aware that a lot of dust is generated, so mask up. My compound of choice is Hyfin for cutting and Rouge for finishing. A grinding machine is also useful for shaping tools but do not combine polisher with grinder as your mops will get contaminated.

## GRAVERS



There is a separate tools list in the Platinum Level setting course that details setting tool essentials. My preferred gravers are Half round, Flat, Ongette, Lozenge & Square. You can expand from there. I will also show you how to make your own setting tools

## SCALES



You can pick up Digital Scales quite cheaply now. If you can get one with a Carat weight option that's even better

## BURNISHERS



I use my straight oval burnisher for hardening and applying a bright finish to metal without removing any. You can make your own too.

## HALLMARK PUNCHES



If you live in a country that allows self stamping then you will need to collect the hallmark stamps or use the plier punch. You could also have a personal initial stamp made to identify your work.



The Dremel is an absolute favorite of mine and not too expensive. It will make riveting and setting a lot easier.