

Metalsmithing 1

Instructor: Sara McGraw

Prerequisite: None

Duration: 30 Hours

This comprehensive workshop introduces the fundamentals of metalsmithing, including in depth information on studio safety procedures regarding tools, chemicals, and proper ventilation. Practice items include a single cabochon pendant with a bail and hanger. Also, a pair of earrings with either posts for attaching half-drilled pearls or stones, or textured shapes with soldered ear wires.

Stones, pearls, and textures are your choice if they are within the tool list parameters. (Your cabochon should be no smaller than 20 mm in diameter and not larger than a 40 x 30 mm oval.) This allows for learning the same techniques while producing test pieces that are to your own individual taste.

Techniques learned include:

Studio safety and simple ergonomics	Appropriate studio habits
When and how to use a bench shear	Sawing and piercing
Hammer texturing and stamping	Filing and sanding
Basics of soldering using four temperatures of solder	How to make a bezel for a traditional cabochon
Roll printing metal	Firescale removal methods
Flex shaft techniques for finishing	Introduction to large machine prep/finishing

DJS provides the hand tools for you to borrow. Stones and bezel wire can be selected at lunch or the end of day one.

Purchase and bring the following items with you on the first day:

NOTE: Items linked to supplier websites are in **BLUE** text below. Get them wherever you like but get the correct item. ***No substitutions without Instructor's prior permission! Thanks!***

ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES:

- 2" x 3" Sterling silver sheet, 20 gauge, dead soft
- 4" Argentium round wire, 14 gauge, dead soft
- 6" Sterling silver round wire, 20 gauge, dead soft
- 1' Plain 26 gauge fine silver bezel, dead soft, with at least 1 mm above girdle of your chosen stone (both will be checked in class)
- 6" each: Extra easy, easy, medium, hard silver wire solder, 20 or 22 gauge, **label & keep separate**
- 6" x 6" Copper sheet, 20 gauge (you will probably have to get a 6 x 12 online)
- 1 cabochon, 20 mm diameter or larger, flat bottom. No facets. Rounded external corners if it has any.
- steel design stamp(s), (**OPTIONAL**, we have many to lend)
- 1 each: 220, 320, 400, 600 grit wet/dry sandpaper (usually dark gray, full sheets 9" X 11")
- 4 each sanding stick blanks (we have them in our office for purchase)
- 1 dozen 2/0 [jeweler's saw blades](#)
- try me pack [abrasive wheels](#) and a pack of [mandrels](#) (there are 6 mandrels in this pack)
- 2: [1" medium natural bristle brushes](#) and [mandrels](#). (we have some in our office for purchase)
- A face mask, disposable (3M particulate respirator, N95 or better)
- pair ear plugs (foam type, roll up and put in your ears)
- 4 very small plastic containers with separate lids for each compartment, 2 contact lens cases will work (for keeping your solder chips from getting mixed up)
- 1 or 2 small containers for your scrap silver and leftover copper pieces
- 1 old kitchen towel (tea or bar towel, to polish on)

OPTIONAL ITEMS:

- An apron
- A bottle of Wite-Out with the brush, generics work (we have some available)
- A pair of disposable gloves to keep hands/rings clean while polishing
- Optivisor or reading glasses (for help seeing up close; 12-18 inch focal length!)
- Didymium plus ACE glasses (for soldering) [D&L Art Glass](#) has these locally

DJS has many of these items for sale, if needed. Call, order, and pay over the phone. Your supplies will be waiting for you on your first day.

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