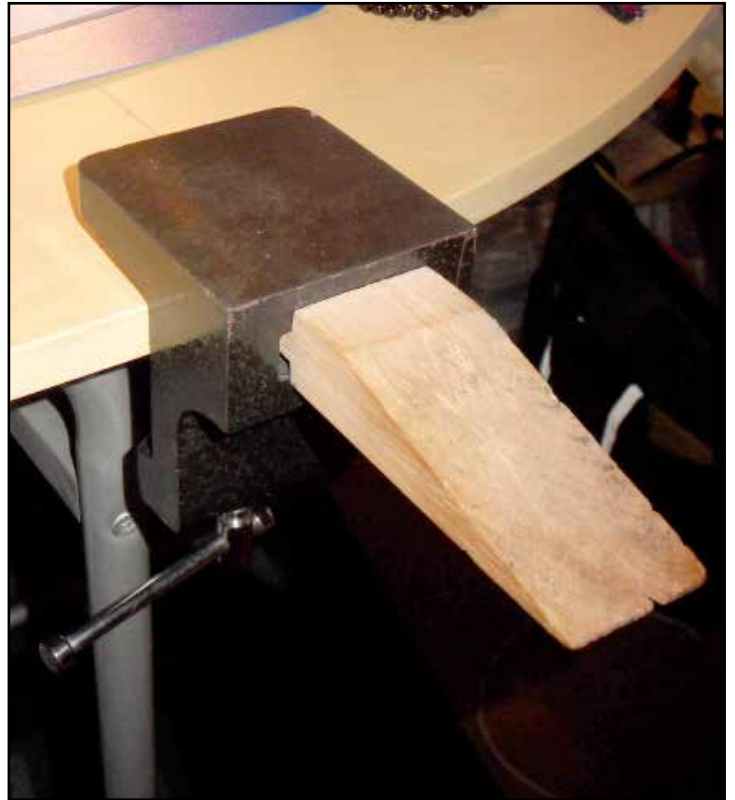


Jewellery Making at Home

Tip - Don't try and get all the kit all at once - get the basics so that you can start off, and then add to this as you go along.

As new projects (or new skills you learn) need additional tools, or as you start spending more time creating jewellery you can add to your kit.

If you are planning to set up a space so that you can work at home to make jewellery - the first thing to consider is what you want to start making. Think about what skills you have and what kind of pieces you want to create, as well as what space you have available and this will determine the tools you will need.



You can find lots of useful tools in DIY or Hardware stores and even 99p shops - these tend to be rougher and less precise than specialist jewellers tools, but can be very helpful for general work that you can then refine with more specialist tools.

Suppliers like www.cooksongold.com and www.hswalsh.com offer a variety of starter kits and more specialist kits such as soldering, polishing or wax carving kits.

You can also look for second hand tools - there are jewellers forums and groups online that may have listings of items for sale, or items wanted, and do also check out the classified adverts in local papers and online on sites like gumtree, freecycle or e-bay. *Look out for www.benchpeg.com and www.ganoksin.com*

Be aware if you're looking at e-bay or similar sites, that there are a lot of cheap tools advertised - some are great, but some are not what they say they are, or are made very badly - the same with buying silver, stones or findings. If you're not buying from an established, reputable supplier, only place an initial small order to check the quality before ordering too much stuff.

Basic Metalwork Kit

- **Piercing saw & Saw Blades** - grade 2/0 or 3/0 are most useful
- **Bench peg** - you can get ones that clip onto an existing table with a steel block attached for hammering, or just use a G clamp with a standard peg.
- **Blow torch** - you can use one from a DIY store, or get one from a jewellers tool suppliers - think about whether you are likely to need a general torch, or one with a finer flame for small precision work.
- **Heat proof sheet and block/s** to protect your work surface and support your work

when soldering or annealing.

- **Tweezers** - sharp steel tweezers, and reverse action tweezers
- **Borax** cone, paint brush and dish
- **Pickle** - this comes as a powder that you add to water and then gently warm to use - you can use a (not metal) heatproof dish on a very low heat kitchen hob, or use a slow cooker to warm it - just don't over heat it!
- **Solder** strips in Hard and Easy grades
- **Tin snips** for the solder
- **Hammers** for shaping flattening or texturing metal - start with a general DIY jobbing hammer and a rubber or hide mallet
- **Files** - a half round 2 cut file is a good start
- **Needle files** for when you need to file smaller spaces
- **Pliers** - round nose, snipe nose, half round and side cutters are the most useful
- **Emery paper** or wet and dry paper in two or three different grades - fine (1400-2000), medium (600-1200), coarse (240-600) for sanding and refining edges and surfaces
- **Polishing cloth**



Workbench

You can clamp a bench peg onto a normal table to use it as a workbench - if you wear an apron or have a cloth across your knees, this will catch anything you drop or catch your waste, so that you can collect it up. You can use a desk, dining table, or anything you have available. For heavier work like hammering use a steel block on a stronger table, e.g. a kitchen worktop. To dampen the sound of hammering, put your steel block on a towel or sandbag before hammering.

If you want a dedicated workbench - you can buy a variety of ready made ones from suppliers or you can use an old table and cut out a semi circle for your workspace, attach a bench peg and hang a skin underneath and you are ready to go. You could also build a bench from scratch, or have one made by a carpenter. Make sure your bench (and seat) is a good height - remember the surface of the bench needs to be at chest height when you sit at it to be able to work most comfortably and effectively.

Other Useful Bits

- Some good **storage** is very useful, to store your work in progress, as well to keep your materials clean and secure. A cheap tool box is helpful to keep your tools together (and bring them to class if needed).
- Keep a **notebook** for design ideas and to make notes on techniques you try or for measurements you've used for different projects.
- A **hobby drill** like a Dremel that will take a variety of attachments is very useful for drilling, carving, polishing and many other uses.

Tip - Keep all the materials for each project in a separate bag or box, so that you know what fits with what, and you don't accidentally use the bits for another project.