

Pocosin Arts *School of Fine Craft*

Materials and Equipment

Instructor Name: Jane Pellicciotto

All items will be purchased by students. The list is long but because basic metalsmithing skills are required, you likely have most of these items listed below. Scan the list and feel free to contact me with any questions. Also think about your design before making some purchases, such as a leather sandbag or dapping set for forming curves. If you choose to make a pendant instead of a ring, you can forego the ring mandrel and ring clamp, for example. Finally, I have not listed texturing tools such as a roller mill or texturing hammers. You might want to add surface texture to your design. Think about what you'll need for that.

Suppliers: There are suppliers other than Rio Grande. They are listed more for ease of ordering from one place. Please consider supporting a local business if you have a good jewelry supply and/or art store in your area. Rio has enameling supplies but also consider Etsy seller [Enamel Warehouse](#) or [CoolTools](#). You will also find many items on Amazon and even your local Goodwill.

Metal

If budget is an issue, you are welcome to make your ring or pendant from a metal other than sterling silver. Copper and brass, it should be noted, don't make the best ring material due to the way they tarnish.

Sterling silver

- 20 gauge [sheet](#) recommended for ring top or pendant. Think about your design/scale before ordering.
- For ring band, you can use the same material as above (or 18 gauge for a more substantial ring band), ordering enough for a 65+ mm length (See Resources.pdf for figuring out ring length.) and whatever width you want. Alternately, you can buy [sterling silver strip](#) in various widths and thickness. I don't recommend more than 18 g for your ring band (or 1.02 mm thick).
- 20 gauge and 18 gauge sterling silver wire for rivets and a pendant bail (a few inches of each to give you options) ([Rio Grande](#))

For enameling

- [Copper sheet](#): any art store or hardware store will carry this. Make sure the thickness is .025". This is roughly 22 gauge.

Soldering setup

- Fireproof torch area: Large tiles work well, other flame-proof material
- Torch - Smith mini or Silversmith ([Rio Grande](#) or [Rio Grande](#))
If you're not ready to invest in this setup, a small propane tank with plumber's tip will do. I have a simpler, less expensive setup using a Smith Little Torch I can share with you.
- Annealing pan with pumice (optional). ([Rio Grande](#)).
These are handy for rotating your work as you solder. You can also piece something like this together yourself.
- 6"x6" Solderite™ pad ([Rio Grande](#)) or similar. *You can also find flame-proof bricks at any ceramic supply place.*
- 1 soldering tweezers ([Rio Grande](#))
- torch striker ([Rio Grande](#))
- 1 soldering pick ([Rio Grande](#))
- 1 Handy paste flux ([Rio Grande](#))
- 1 cross-lock tweezer ([Rio Grande](#)). A short and a long one are ideal.
- 1 copper tongs, for pickle ([Rio Grande](#))
- 1 pickle ([Rio Grande](#)). *You might find a smaller quantity elsewhere.*
- 1 crock pot or tempered glass container with lid for pickle ([Amazon](#)). *Check your local Goodwill store. Mini or medium are good sizes.*
- 1 tempered glass or ceramic container or sink (for quenching and rinsing).
- 1 small (fine) brush for flux (any art supply store)
- Hard solder ([Rio Grande](#))

Other supplies and tools

- Needle file set for shaping ([Rio Grande](#))
- Mounted sand paper cartridges in various grits ([Rio Grande](#)). *I use these instead of a half-round file for inside of ring.*
- Sanding disks: 320 and 150 (optional but I love them) ([Rio Grande](#)) and snap-on mandrel for each grit ([Rio Grande](#))
- Radial bristle discs: great for texturing, cleaning, finishing. ([This kit](#) has 6 grits but I only use the top 3.)
All jewelers work differently. I find these indispensable and will demonstrate how I use them.
- Buffing bits and compound (optional).
A high shine on the inside of the ring is a nice touch. I get enough shine with the radial discs. I will demonstrate how to buff with a compound. There is no need to buy unless desired.
- Flush cutter ([Rio Grande](#))
- Nylon flat-nose pliers (optional but useful for ring forming) ([Rio Grande](#))
- Flat and round-nose plier (A standard selection of pliers is useful)
- Jewelers saw ([Rio Grande](#))
- Pack saw blades - 2/0 and 4/0 ([Rio Grande](#))
- Bench pin ([Rio Grande](#))
- Rotary hand piece-Flex Shaft ([Rio Grande](#))
- Center punch ([Rio Grande](#))
- Ring clamp and ring holder set (optional but very handy, saves your fingers) ([Amazon](#))
- Drill bits: to match your silver wire gauge: #68, #69 (for 20 gauge wire) #59, #60 (for 18 gauge) ([Rio Grande](#))
- Rawhide mallet ([Rio Grande](#)) or nylon ([Rio Grande](#))
I never managed to break in my rawhide mallet so I don't use it. I prefer nylon.

- Riveting hammer ([Rio Grande](#))
Select one to fit your budget. I love this [texturing hammer](#) for rivets but am ruining the tip.)
- Steel block ([Rio Grande](#)).
- [Leather sandbag](#) and/or dapping set (optional)
These are useful for making curved pieces. The leather bag is a handy item for making delicate curves. You will want a [domed nylon hammer](#) as well. [Wood dapping sets](#) are great for larger pieces that have texture that you want to protect.
- For oxidizing your piece (optional): liver of sulphur gel, a glass jar or mini crock pot, wooden tongs

Enameling materials

We will be torch firing in this class. You are welcome to use a kiln if you have one. A great surface to work on are large tiles. Any tile or large hardware store will have inexpensive ones. I like 12 x 24, which are easy to find. If you are just gathering enamel supplies for the first time, consider this entire [Beginner's Enameling kit](#) for torch fire.

- Thompson lead-free opaque enamel ([Rio Grande](#)). *You'll really only need 1 color for this class. Or splurge on additional colors. Enamel powder is expensive but it goes a long way. One thing to consider is whether you prefer oxidized or not-oxidized silver, which will be your base piece. And then think about an enamel color that would pair well with it.*
- 1 small enameling trivet ([Rio Grande](#)).
A variety of enameling trivets are very handy. For this class, our enamel piece will be small. Buy other sizes as desired.
- Soldering tripod with screen ([Rio Grande](#))
- Small 40 mesh Enamel sifter ([Enamel Warehouse](#)). Having finer mesh sifters is great, too.
- Small palette knife like [this](#) or just a paring knife (used to lift your enamel piece after sifting).
- Magazine pages for sifting on
- Sparex or other copper-cleaning product. (I don't use these products so it's okay to skip as long as you have pickle and sand paper).
- [KlryFire](#): this is a holding agent to keep powder from sliding off curved surfaces. If you plan to work flat, you don't need it.

Safety and other

- Fire extinguisher
- Safety glasses and dust mask
- Sketch pad and pencil/pen
- Inspiration!
- Ventilation