

Nisa Blackmon - Tab Construction and Folding for 3-D Forms

Virtual Workshop Tool & Supply List:

General:

Pencils, eraser, ultra-fine Sharpie marker, scissors, X-Acto knife & blades

Graph paper (I use the kind with 8 squares to the inch; ¼" squares are a little big. Metric with mm & cm will work, too)

Used manila folders or heavy cardstock, thin cardboard, etc. (to cut up and make models)

Painter's 1-inch wide masking tape, or low-tack artist's tape, or regular masking tape

Ruler with inches or centimeters or both, as appropriate for the graph paper you are using

Circle template or drawing compass (optional)

Small to medium cutting mat, if you have one

Tools:

Jeweler's saw frame, at least 4-5 inches deep

Oversized or deep-throated jeweler's saw frame is useful if you have one, but not required

V-block bench pin

Ring clamp

Flat nose and round nose pliers or bail-making pliers

Center punch

Chasing hammer or other small hammer

Small rawhide mallet or plastic forming hammer(s)

Needle files, assorted shapes but especially flat, barrette, half-round, round and 4-square

Some small twist drill bits, #60 or smaller. I most commonly use a **#68** (My go-to brand is Dentsply Maillefer tungsten vanadium twist drill, **0.8 mm** head with a 3/32" shank. Rio Grande, #342580, pk of 6, \$10.24. A little more expensive, but they last a LOT longer, especially with the heavier shank).

Steel bench block

Flexible shaft or (Dremel tool that will accommodate those tiny sizes of drill bits)

An assortment of **small** wooden blocks and scraps; make sure they have good, sharp, right-angled (90°) corners. Blocks don't need to be larger than 3 inches in any dimension; a variety of small sizes and dimensions will be most useful. Small round or square dowels (1/4", 3/8", 1/2"), popsicle sticks or craft sticks are also useful. Hard woods like maple, basswood, oak, etc., are best, but pine is OK if the edges are clean and sharp. Do NOT use balsawood!

The ability to **anneal** may be useful for some forms, so you would need: torch, pumice pan, forceps, pickle & pickle pot, copper tongs. However, it is OK if you do not have this stuff!

Safety glasses

Earplugs (if sawing noise is a concern)

Thin latex or nitrile gloves, 1 pair – make sure they fit well and are comfortable but not floppy.

Consumable Materials:

24 gauge copper sheet; some pieces at least 6-10" in one dimension. (Rio Grande sells 6"x12" sheets).

Optional: other metals in 24 gauge, such as sterling/fine silver/argentium, red brass (jeweler's brass) or yellow brass.

26 gauge sheet (copper, silver or other metals) is optional, but useful for some applications.

Emery paper, 320 & 400 grit

4/0 or **5/0** jeweler's saw blades (at least two dozen)

Sawblade lubricant: beeswax OR a candle stub OR a small hotel soap bar OR Bur-Life

Enamels: if you would like to try enameling on tab-constructed forms, you will need the basics: sifting enamels and/or liquid enamels, sifters (60, 80, and/or 100 mesh), klyr fire or other holding agent, paint brushes, containers for dipping in liquid enamel, tweezers, trivets, enameling fork & a kiln, etc.