

**A new
membership
year is about to
begin!
Join/renew
starting Jan. 1st**



**Monthly Maker's
Challenge**
Head to page 9 to see
all of the upcoming
challenge themes and
get inspired to make &
share with us!

Jeweler's *Gift Guide*

During our Monthly Makers Challenges we've seen some amazing work, but it's been equally insightful to see how they made their designs. Members have introduced us to new tools and a lot of them have made it to the list of tools that we want and need, and we're sure that they'll make it on some of your gift lists too! Here are some of the goodies we've been introduced to!



MICROFOLD BRAKE from
Rio Grande \$154.00



SHORT THIRD-HAND
WITH WEIGHTED BASE
from Rio Grande \$17.99



GRS SHORT THIRD-
HAND WITH HEAVY
WEIGHTED BASE from
Rio Grande \$57.00

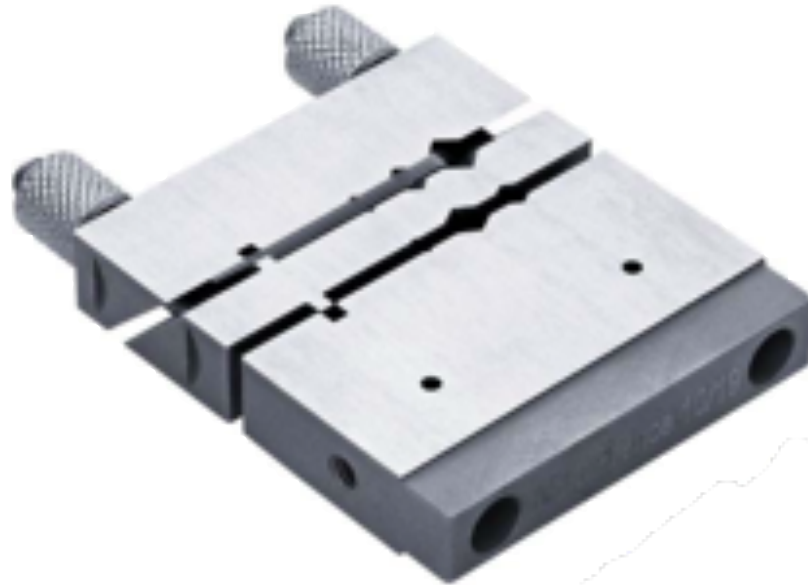
Jeweler's gift list



RIO WATER-SOLUBLE
SOLDERING CLAY from
Rio Grande \$12.20



WOLF CLAY from Kate
Wolf \$38.00



MITER-CUTTING VISE and
JIG from Rio Grande
\$199.00

Not shown:
MITER-CUTTING VISE and
JIG 45, 60 and 90 degree
angles from Rio Grande
\$67.00



UXCELL 25MM DIA NYLON WHEEL ROTARY
BRUSHES BUFFING POLISHING TOOL
WHITE from Amazon 20 pcs \$13.99



WHALEY PRECISION
BEZEL CUTTING 90
DEGREE SHEARS from
Ottofrei \$18.40

ASK BETSY!

by Betsy Manheimer

Q: I have started using letter and design stamps in my work, but I have a hard time getting them lined up properly. Is there any way to help me get the consistent results I want?

A: This is not an uncommon problem whether you're doing letter stamping or designs like mandalas or pictures. Some folks have a good enough eye to make do with drawing or scribing a line or an arc and can place their stamps in the right place to get proper placement every time. If you're like me and can't do that, here are some suggestions to help.

- In addition to a line, make a grid so that you can keep your spacing even. Draw lines perpendicular to the baseline in which to place your stamps so the distance between them is consistent.
- Mark your stamps as well as your metal. Make a mark with a Sharpie in the midpoint of the stamp so that you don't have to guess. This also helps you make sure that you have the right orientation—if all your marks are on the bottom, you don't have to worry about an upside down error.

There are also a number of adhesive products that can be applied to your work rather than drawing out your own grids:

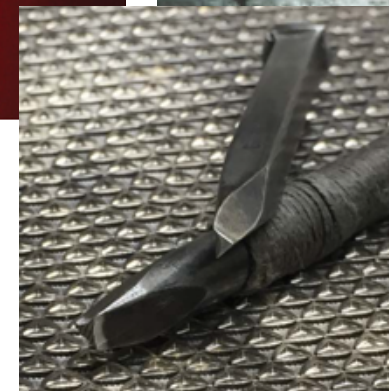
- ImpressArt has a number of stamping helper products including a stamp guide booklet with stickers that have straight and circular grids printed on them and a booklet that contains bracelet guide grids. These can be found online and can often be found at craft supply stores.
- Urban Beader has a product on their website called Stamp Perfect Tape which is a roll of transparent tape with a grid imprinted on it that you can apply to your metal to give you a ready-made guide to follow.

There are a whole lot videos online demonstrating the above products and even more techniques and equipment available to help you get your stamping straight (or curved, if that's what you're after). Check some of those out to see how others do it so well.

(Please note: I do not receive anything from any entities mentioned above but am strictly a customer.)

Happiest of holidays and keep making great stuff. And send your questions to askmassc@gmail.com

Looking For Inspiration



The Art of Stamping

by Matthieu Cheminée (Author), Tim McCreight (Editor)

Stamping is not only one of the most universal techniques in metalworking, but one of the most versatile. This long-awaited volume gives the technique the extensive coverage it deserves. Thoughtful attention to tools and materials provides a solid foundation for the step-by-step descriptions that make up the core of this book. This book shows you how to make stamps, develop patterns with them and has a photographic archive of more than 300 historic stamps.

Matthieu teaches both online classes and a few in-person, watch out for them they fill up fast. Book is available on Kindle \$9.99 or a Hardcover \$40.00 at Amazon.

MASSC members studio tours on November 13, 2021

by Virginia Hyatt

3 very different studios made for a very interesting day! Thanks to each of the presenters for opening your studios to us! Also, a big thank you goes out to Angelina for arranging and producing the video tours.

Our virtual tour started at the enamel workshop of **Jean Vormelker**. Jean has been impressing us with her excellent enamel work, participating in the Monthly Jewelry Challenges and Show and Tell events. It was so nice to see her studio space in Vista and see where it all happens. Jean has an acute eye for color and is able to mimic a stone's colors with her enamel, blending them so perfectly into her designs that you are unable to tell stone from enamel. She has designed her work bench and enamel kiln areas in her studio in addition to a bench her father made and designed for her. For now she has her metal sheer on the floor, but promises by next year this too will be up on a counter space. Her tip to us when asked how she keeps track of her colors...Pennies! When Jean first started enameling copper discs were too expensive for her to use as test samples so she decided to use pennies and collectible coin books. She has one for each type of enamel and uses them constantly as references as she produces her designs. Jean teaches 1:1 classes in her home studio and can be emailed at Jean@Jvormelker.com

We started out at the front door of **David Freda** and **Trish McAleer** in their San Clemente home/studio. What a treat we were in for with a tour of their home. David and Trish collect natural curiosities which started with David's training in Ornithology. We not only saw taxidermy models by Carl Akins, but dioramas from Lewis Paul Jones, both masters in their field. David and Trish then took us to their kitchen to see their live tree frogs, which David fed termites collected in the nearby woods. Trish is a Master Beekeeper and explained the life of the bee colony as she donned a bee suit and took us to visit her 4 bee hives. We were then invited into their shared studio space, all done in white Formica to better see their work. David explained that he began his interest in metals while studying birds which were tracked in the early days by tying brass bells to the bird's leg. The brass bells were made by Muhammad Din and were hard to come by, so he began to make his own bells and the rest is history. David is a naturalist and enamelist specializing in detailed orchids and bugs. He preserves live specimens in alcohol to study them and showed us drawers of projects ready to be executed (IKEA Alex drawer units). Trish showed us her bench where her corrugation designs are fabricated. She designed and developed her own tools to produce her signature 3-D designs. Her book Metal Corrugation (\$30/Rio Grande). Trish then took us down into their "dirty room" where the grinders, drills and anvils reside. Trish shared her love of collecting antiquities on www.liveauctioneers.com and an airline surplus store outside of Orlando, FL that she visits each time she is there. <https://skycraftsurplus.com>.

We then were ushered into **Kay Yee** and **George Sherman's** home studio in Pasadena. Kay is another exceptional enamelist and teacher. Her husband George is a well-known ceramicist and we were able to visit both of their studios after a tour of their home, art collection and garden. Kay gets much of her inspiration from the succulents and colors from the plants in her garden. Kay showed us her multiple studios and several of her creative jewelry lines which incorporated enamels and mason stains. She mentioned Merry Lee Rae (enamelist extraordinaire) as her inspiration and Martha Banyas (queen of mason stains). For enamel classes she mentioned Pocosinarts as a good online resource and Susie Kustner at Creative Arts Group in Sierra Madre. For people inquiring about her jeweler's bench, she mentioned you can go to Mastercraft in Sunland and pick it up directly from the manufacturer instead of paying a higher price at traditional jewelry supply stores.

Kay then took us to George's work spaces (they both have multiple outdoor and indoor studio spaces on their property). George has a large kiln, a glazing studio, and a gallery on the property for his clients to view his work. Kay and George

showed us how nice it is to share the creative process together while having a nurturing environment to do so.

<http://mastercraftworkbenches.com/>

<https://merryleerae.thinkific.com/>

<https://pocosinarts.org/pocosinartsonline/>

<https://www.creativeartsgroup.org/>

<https://www.jewelrywithgems.com/product/marthabanyas>



DECEMBER 2021

Black/Bold = MASSC Sponsored Event

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6 LAST NIGHT OF CHANUKAH	7 Metalwerx Texture Deleopment and Tool Making Jesse Bert 6-8 pm EST	8	9	10 Silvera Jewelry School Forming for Multiples Jayne Redman 9:30-4:30 pm PT	11
12 Holiday Party Laguna Niguel 12pm-4pm PT	13	14 Adam's Forge Letter Opener Discover Class 6pm-10pm PT	15 Adam's Forge Forge Welded Woven Bracelet 6pm-10pm PT	16	17	18
19 MONTHLY MAKERS CHALLENGE 10 AM PT Ornaments	20	21	22	23	24	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS
26	27	28	29 Adam's Forge Autumn Leaves 10 am-2 pm PT	30	31 HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022	

JANUARY 2022

Black/Bold = MASSC Sponsored Event

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 Quartzsite Show Rock & Dem Show Jan 7-16, 2022 Tyson Wells Enterprises Inc.	8 MASSC Programming Meeting via Zoom 5:00 PM PT
9	10 Metalwerx Intro to Creative Metal Forming Cynthia Eid 10 am-4:30 pm EST	11	12 Metalwerx Intro to Creative Metal Forming Cynthia Eid 10 am-4:30 pm EST	13 Silvera Jewelry School Stone Setting: Tube, Flush and Prong 2:00-5:00 pm PT	14 Metalwerx Intro to Creative Metal Forming Cynthia Eid 10 am-4:30 pm EST	15
16 Adam's Forge Black Cat Bottle Opener 4pm-8pm PT	17	18	19 Quartzsite Show PowWow Gem Show Jan 19-23, 2022 Quartzsite Improvement Assoc	20 Silvera Jewelry School Stone Setting: Tube, Flush and Prong 2:00-5:00 pm PT	21 Quartzsite Show Tyson Wells Sell-A-Rama Jan 21-30, 2022 Tyson Wells Enterprises Inc.	22 Silvera Jewelry School American Modernist Jewelry 10:00-5:00 pm PT also Sunday 23rd
23 MONTHLY MAKERS CHALLENGE 10 AM PT Words of Wisdom	24	25	26	27 Silvera Jewelry School Stone Setting: Tube, Flush and Prong 2:00-5:00 pm PT	28	29
30 Adam's Forge Steel Rose 9am-3pm PT	31					

FEBRUARY 2022

Black/Bold = MASSC Sponsored Event

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Silvera Jewelry School Ingots, Forging and Hollow Forms 10:00-1:00 pm PT	2	3	4 Silvera Jewelry School So Riveting 10:00-5:00 pm PT	5 MASSC Board Meeting 10 AM PT
6	7	8 Silvera Jewelry School Ingots, Forging and Hollow Forms 10:00-1:00 pm PT	9	10 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show Feb 10-13, 2022 Tucson Convention Center	11 Quartzsite Show Gold Show Feb 11-13, 2022 Quartzsite Improvement Assoc	12
13 MASSC Box Workshop Pt. 1 Via Zoom w/Angelina 10 AM PT	14	15 Silvera Jewelry School Ingots, Forging and Hollow Forms 10:00-1:00 pm PT	16	17	18	19
20 MASSC Box Workshop Pt. 2 Silver Locket Via Zoom w/Angelina 10 AM PT	21	22 Silvera Jewelry School Ingots, Forging and Hollow Forms 10:00-1:00 pm PT	23	24	25	26 Little Metal Foxes Etch in a Bag Julia Lowther 2:00-4:00 pm PDT
27 MONTHLY MAKERS CHALLENGE 10 AM PT Blooms	28					

November's Monthly Makers Challenge – Construct a Box

This challenge was to make a box, or a hinge. This was your chance to fabricate it out of any metal, shape or technique. Were there creative ways to open the box lid, or create the catch? We looked forward to seeing how innovative your box could be. If you took Angelina's class last month you may have been inspired after looking at a box in many new creative ways.



Chris Hendershot

Hiding My Heart was the Richard Salley class that was taken to create this box. This was the first time making something this fitted and detailed.

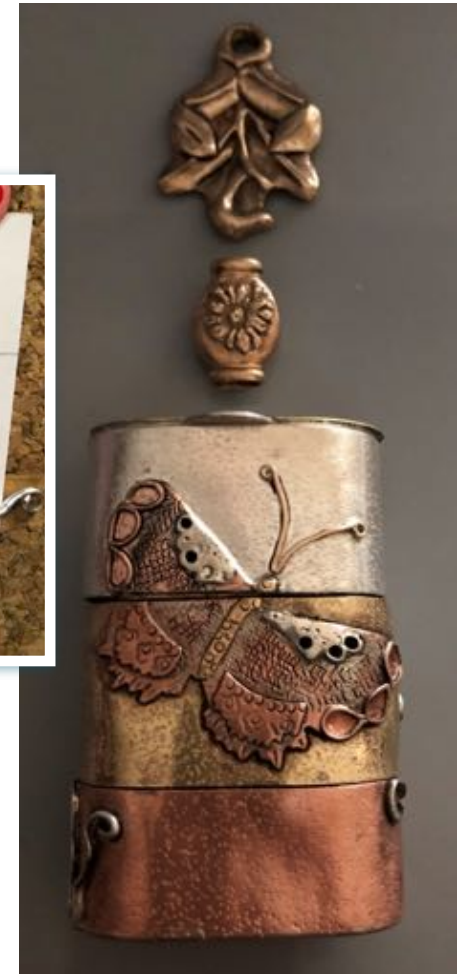
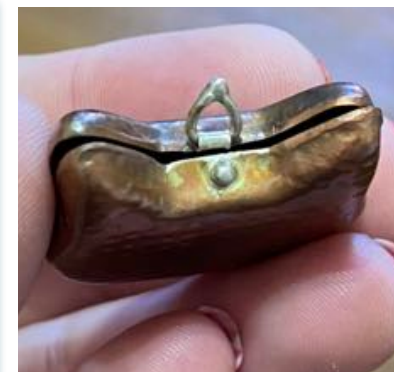
Erin Proctor

Made using a vice and a custom cat shaped die that Angelina had made for me. Copper with a silver clasp.



Virginia Hyatt

I am currently enamored with Jenn's historical jewelry series in which historical background is given along with demos and class projects. My most recent class was the Japanese Metalwork class from Silvera. The class project was an Inro three compartment box created in various metals with shibuichi, shakudo and nunome zogan metal overlay. Here is my progress on this very intricate box. It is not finished yet but will show more progress in the future.



Monthly Makers Challenge

A new year is coming and that means a new monthly challenge list! We wanted you to be able to get a look ahead at all of the upcoming themes so that you can get inspired and decide which ones to jump in on...we certainly hope to see you at all of 2022's Monthly Maker Challenge Zooms with fabulous new pieces to share!

We've learned over this past year that it is very helpful to have some sort of assignment to do. Most of us work alone in our studios, so these projects were good motivation to keep us designing and creating new work. The zoom sessions are also a fun and casual opportunity to show our pieces while supporting and learning from each other. No membership needed to join in on the fun!

January

Inspirational Words/or Messages

Starting the new year with a fresh new perspective, with words to live by or to inspire oneself. We usually start the new year with resolutions. Use your words to create something meaningful. Stamping, engraving, piercing, carving wax, etching...there are so many ways to get your message out there.

February

Blooms

A month we often think of flowers—so let's create our own. Cut them, shape them, stone set them, enamel them, and decorate them. Create a bouquet or a single bloom, or use a floral pattern as an element in your design. We can't wait to see your creations!

March

Utensils

Always wanted to make a spoon? This is your time to show off your metal skills at the table. Cutting, dabbing, shaping, decorating...there are so many different ways to go. We are really looking forward to seeing what unique and useful utensils you can create.

April

Miniatures

What was once large is now small. Have some fun with making things tiny. Does changing the scale of an object create its own challenge? Let us know, anything goes. Go big, but think small!

May

Natural Materials

Let's combine different organic materials together, metal and wood, metal and stones, use these materials to envision something from the natural world. What challenges do you face in setting the object and how do you stabilize fragile objects?

June

Weaving/Stitching

This often makes us think of chains, but there are so many directions that you can go: cold connections, woven "fabric" embellishments, mesh screens, 3-D objects, baskets or... This is going to be a very interesting project.

July

"a secret" (or what's hidden inside)

Boxes, Lockets, anything can contain a hidden item or a surprise. What about hidden springs that activate once moved or opened? Can 1 item become 2 different items when taken apart? Hollow forms is something we have done before—but this takes it to a new level.

August

Five tool challenge

To create the object of your choice, you can only use the 5 tools highlighted below. We are so obsessed with having the right tool for each action that we create. This challenge takes us back to basics when we first started with a few simple tools: a **foredom** (includes all the bits), **pliers** (basic only), **hammer**, **anvil or bench block**, and **saw frame**. A **bench pin** is part of the bench so can be used, along with your **solder station**. This is a tough one! A lot of planning will be required, and we'll practice thinking through the project from beginning to end, and resisting the temptation to grab that favorite specialty tool! Just the basics!

2022

September

Ancient technique or historical influence

We all seem to look to the past for style and inspiration, and we all have our favorite places in time. Will you go centuries past, or more contemporary with Art Deco or Mid-Century Modern? With so many directions to go, it will be fun to see what period or technique everyone chooses.

October

Kinetics/Motion

Get some action into your pieces, make it do something! Will you have a piece hanging by a wire, jump ring or pop open with a spring? Will your piece spin or twirl around your finger? These type of pieces are always challenging to engineer and balance properly but once done they are truly amazing.

November

Color

Coloring metal is an art unto itself, adding patinas can really change up a piece, but what can you do differently with color to add interest to your piece? Is it titanium or niobium? Married metals, plastics, colored pencils, colored gem stones and embedded resins... not to mention the multitude of products out there to add color to our pieces such as enameling, oxidation, epoxies, Corlite and wood to name a few.

December

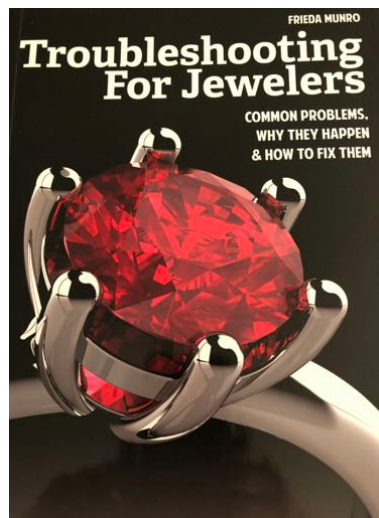
Ornaments

It's time to decorate for the season! We celebrate different things in different ways but we all have MAKING in common! Make a bauble to hang or display that celebrates your fav holiday or make a piece of winter decor!

How do you get out of a tight situation?

by Virginia Hyatt

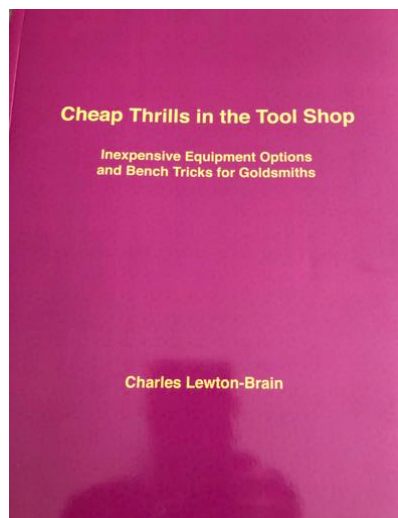
Ok, you are in the middle of fabricating a new design, but you did not anticipate the set-up required for soldering the angle of the seam you needed, or the solder is just not flowing, now what? Maybe it is a messy clean up in tight corners or just frustration in a technique you have not used in a while. The books below have been very helpful to me in explaining a situation and how to work around or correct something that has come up in a process:



Trouble Shooting for Jewelers, Common Problems, Why they Happen and How to Fix them, by Frieda Munro (another English publication from Firefly Books)

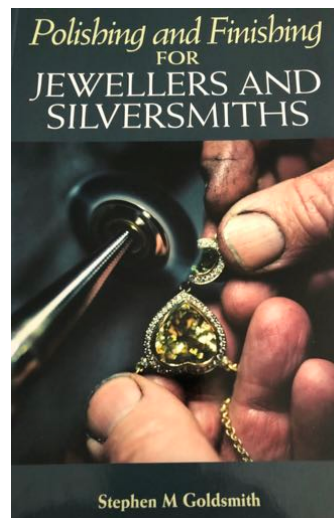
This book is amazing in the format used, the topics covered with precise explanations and detailed photographs. Other authors could take note of the detailed diagnostic charts at the beginning of the book. The charts cover shaping, decoration, casting, wirework and stone setting. It then details best practices and fix-its listing each problem that could arise under each of the sections, the cause and the fix. For

example, the shaping chart covers topics such as cutting and piercing; annealing, ring bending, forging, dapping, repousse and chasing; soldering and riveting. As if this were not enough, after the detailed charts, the book shows full diagrams and photos of the fixes for each of the solutions!



Cheap Thrills in the Tool Shop; Inexpensive Equipment Options and Bench Tricks for Goldsmiths, by Charles Lewton-Brain (Brain Press)

Charles Lewton-Brain needs no introduction, his books are always full of resourceful tips and creative solutions that never disappoint. This book covers shop machines, small tools and tools for specific procedures such as drawing wire, stone setting and tube cutting. What makes this book of interest is the use and modification of things you already have in your studio or materials from a hardware store to make the jewelry making process easier. His filings drawer design using baby food jars to catch the sweeps is ingenious! There are just too many topics in this book and helpful tools to discuss here, so just buy the book and be ready to visit the hardware store.



Polishing and Finishing for Jewellers and Silversmiths, by Stephen Goldsmith (Crowood Press)

This book is written by a professional jeweler in England (this is why Jewellers is spelled with 2 l's) so the polishing and finishing techniques are approached quite differently from American trained jewelers as jewelers in Europe come from a long tradition of goldsmithing and an apprenticeship program. One chapter explains incorporating good design from the beginning to avoid pitfalls during the final stages of finishing which is a good reminder to all of us that the more you do at the front end, shortens the clean-up at the back end. Tips and observations

throughout the book help you look at a situation to determine the best approach for that object based on its construction and the end results required. Stephen's chapters take you through tools and equipment, finishing methods, preparing your metals prior to polishing and a chapter on advanced techniques such as gilding. The topics and format of the book provides new insights for both the seasoned jeweler and students new to the craft.

Extras of Interest & Member Perks

Schools & Organizations

Adams Forge

In-person blacksmithing classes
<https://adamsforge.org>
Los Angeles, CA

GRS Tools and Training Facility

Professional and beginning stone setting, engraving, inlay and sculpting metal classes
<https://grs.com/facility/> <https://grs.com/cost/>

Idyllwild Arts

Summer Adult Metals Week Program
Summer Native American Program
idyllwildarts.org
951-359-2171
Idyllwild, CA

Little Metal Foxes

Interactive online classes
info@littlemetalfoxes.com
Seattle, WA

Metalwerx

Classes both online and in-person
info@Metalwerx.com
781-891-3854
Waltham, MA

Silvera Jewelry School

Free lectures monthly, Zoom & in-person classes
Silverajewelry.com
510-868-4908
Berkeley, CA

Classes by MASSC members:

Nohline L'Ecuyer

The Loft Jewelry Studio
<https://www.theloftjewelrystudio.com>

Diane Weimer

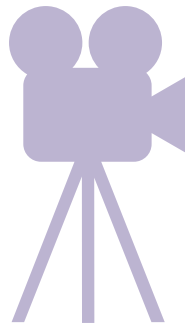
Year-round classes from world class artists
<https://dianeweimer.com/workshops>

Erin Proctor

Private classes in a variety of techniques
<http://www.saturn5studio.com>

Exclusive Member Video Library!

Check out the MASSC video collection with snipers available to all highlighting some of the events and classes we've held throughout the year. **Current members** have password protected access to full videos that include classes, demos, the Jewelry District Tour, and Demo Day. Speaking of that, **Demo Day 2021** will be available after the new year....we're still editing).



Click to visit the Video Library
New Additions:

Hollow Form/Signet Ring Maker Challenge - we had a very interesting discussion and learned some new tricks for soldering!

Join or Renew Membership starting January 1st, 2022

Become a member

If you're joining us for the first time, then hooray! We can't wait to share all of our exciting events with you this year!

Learn all about your member benefits and register here!

Membership is good from the date you register until December 31, 2021.

Here are some reasons to think about joining:

If you bought a Metals Challenge Box you **MUST** be a current member to enter a piece into the competition!

- Receive Members Only access to Video Library!
- Special pricing on MASSC sponsored workshops & access to Members Only classes and events like the Jewelry District Vendor Tour (online this year)

Membership Dues for 2021

Individual \$50

Dual \$75

Student \$30

Consider sponsoring a student membership!

Resources

Online Video Courses



Richard Salley Hiding My Heart

Course - 28 Lessons

In this online class you will learn how to fabricate a locket similar to photo, with a focal stone and hidden compartment.

You will have unlimited, lifetime access to the course.

Skills needed sawing and soldering is required to complete the project.

What's included: 20 videos, 7 files, and 1 text file



Using the JTS website & training information

There is so much content in the JTS library, that they have a 5 minutes course on how to use the JTS website and training information. All this will help you find what you want to learn for your next project. They have all levels for Subscription choices. This service was recommended.

<https://www.jewellerytrainingsolutions.com.au/collections>

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<https://www.firemountaingems.com>

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Rio Grande Jewelry
<https://www.riogrande.com>

Sheltech
www.sheltech.net

Trish McAleer
<http://www.metalcorrugation.com>

Be a part of a team!

We are creating teams to work with each of the elected Board positions as some of the assigned duties are overwhelming for one individual. We have decided that a support system needs to be put in place to brainstorm ideas, organize zoom meetings, select teaching topics and monthly activities. We don't want to skip a beat going forward for this into next year. We need your experience to help us set up a stronger, inclusive organization.

Please let us know if you have experience in video editing, book keeping, communications, programming, marketing and outreach—we really need to hear from our members because we have learned from experience it does take a village to move things forward.

Contact: massc.vp@gmail.com

Any member can contribute to this newsletter:

- Always looking for your tips and or techniques in any of your process to creating your pieces.
- Photos of your work can be featured in our MASSC Member Gallery. For that—looking for 3 to 4 photos of a collection that works together.
- If you have any questions, reach out and we can help you.

massc.editor@gmail.com