

# Introduction to MS200

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## Building Your Skill and Experience

In MS100 learners tackled all the fundamental skills to enable good practice in Metalsmithing. These included exposure to a wide range of technical information about traditional metal craftsmanship – most importantly **safety** procedures, as well as best practices and manufacturing considerations that may impact design. Hands-on practical experience was gained in annealing and pickling metals, sawing and piercing, filing, soldering, hammering and forming, drilling, use of the flexshaft, roll-printing, understanding size measurement for rings, bezel creation and bezel setting and how to achieve a professional polish and finish. All of these fundamental things will be continually in use throughout MS200 and more.

New projects and learning will include:

- Pedestal prong setting for cabochon gems.
- Rolling square and half-round wires; creating bails.
- Cold connections, rivets, eyelets and creative cold joining options.
- Working with Brass and Argentium: temperatures & considerations for surface reactions.
- Discovering basic filigree and granulation techniques.

Although first projects are never masterpieces, it is time to experiment, be open to make mistakes and learn from the hands-on experience of your instructor and the mishaps of your peers. Each







project completed in class should be practiced again at least 6 times in your own environment as soon after the program as possible. “Practice makes perfect” and upon the 6<sup>th</sup> trial run learners will have gained the confidence to go forward and attempt more complex projects to keep up their skills.



“EXPERIMENT AND MAKE MISTAKES! From each failed attempt you will learn much more!”

## Introductions – Getting to know your group:

To draw good jewellery you need to be comfortable and at ease in your surroundings. We want everyone to get to know each other as, from time to time, we will be working closely together on various hands-on projects. Please share with the group some of the following information:

- Please state:
-  Your Name or nick name by which you prefer to be called,
  -  Where you come from ie: Singapore, London, Paris
  -  If you are in the jewellery industry and for how long,
  -  What your purpose is for taking this class, what you wish to achieve.
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## Additional Tools and Materials for MS200

In this metalsmithing MS200 program, you are provided with additional tools and materials to complement the previous MS100:

### Tools & Equipment:

- Metal Cutting Shears
- Metal divider
- Ball Pien Hammer for riveting
- Raw Hide Hammer
- SWG gauge for sheet and wires
- Steel and Wood block
- Steel Ring Mandrel
- Tripod stand with mesh screen
- Emery Stick
- Stone Setting set –
  - Burnisher
  - Bezel pusher
  - Bezel roller
  - Prong pusher
- Third hand base with tweezer
- Sawblades, Size 2, 10pcs
- Sawblades, Size 4/0, 6pcs
- Paint brush fine
- Sandpaper Sheet, 600 Grit
- Can of Butane
- 12gms Boric Acid
- PVC mat
- Important Metalsmithing Notes in Binder

### Project Materials:

- Natural Mineral Cabochon [Prj. 1]
- 925 Silver round wire, 12 gauge
- Copper Sheet – 20 gauge [Prj. 2]
- Copper Wire – 12 gauge [Prj. 2]
- Brass Sheet – 26 gauge [Prj. 2]
- Rivets and Eyelets assortment [Prj. 2]
- 4mm faceted CZ [Prj. 2]
- 925 Silver wire –
  - 24ga, round, dead soft [Prj. 3]
  - 18 gauge, round, dead soft [Prj. 3]
- 925 Silver bezel cup [Prj. 3]
- Cabochon gem [Prj. 3]
- Argentium Silver wire –
  - 20ga, round, ½ hard [Prj. 4]
- Argentium Silver wire –
  - 26ga, round, ½ hard [Prj. 4]
- Argentium Silver Sheet –26ga [Prj. 4]
- Silver Solder, X3 Pieces [Prj. 1, 2, 3, 4]
  - Red = 'Hard'
  - Black = 'Medium'
  - Blue = 'Easy'

## House Rules & Safety Observations



In this day-and-age, Metalsmithing is generally no more dangerous than any other specialized professions – however, the involvement of heavy-duty equipment, open flame and harsh chemicals do require a level of caution and self-awareness that many would otherwise take for granted, and every jeweller and craftsman probably has a story to tell in this regard.

In addition to exercising one's common-sense within the premises of the workshop, the following rules and safety protocols should be observed:

- **Strictly no eating**, drinking or putting anything in your mouth inside of the workshop; at most, one can briefly step out of the workshop to drink some water if necessary
- Do not leave utensils or containers meant for food or drink exposed in the workshop, and **wash your hands** after leaving the workshop if you plan to eat or drink anything outside
- No open-toed footwear or clothing with loose or flowing parts is allowed
- Wear an apron to protect your clothing
- Long hair must be tied back, and long fringes clipped up
- Use eye-protection whenever working with rotary tools, drills or fire to protect against any possible stray debris – **eyes cannot be replaced**
- Long fingernails are strongly discouraged; all watches, bracelets/bangles, rings and even *gloves* – **anything that may snag your hand or fingers on a tool** – should be removed
- **Pay attention to where you place your hands and fingers** – keep them away from the moving parts of automated or mechanical tools, such as between the rollers of a rolling mill
- Never presumptuously grab or touch an item on a firing surface – **it may still be hot**
- Do not absently wave tools about as many are sharp, may have since come into contact with hazardous substances, or may still be hot from a task involving fire
- Keep walkways clear of obstructive objects that may cause people to trip on them.
- Perform tasks in a mindful, conscientious manner – **never** rush a task like sawing or drilling
- Never distract – or allow yourself to be distracted by – your classmates. Avoid sharp screams or sudden loud noises, **and keep all cell-phones turned off or on silent mode.**
- If an accident **does** occur, report it **immediately** to the lecturer

In addition to one's immediate safety, it is also important to guard against long-term impacts on your health by observing proper posture when working, and also to take short breaks in-between long bouts of repetitive tasks to help prevent future issues like Repetitive-Strain Injury (RSI)

- Also, **take note of any near-misses** – treat them as signals to double-check yourself and your surroundings, thereby helping further prevent a potential accident from actually occurring
- As you get more used to metalsmithing, **never** allow your familiarity to tempt you into a neglectful mindset, or into 'taking shortcuts' at the expense of observing safety protocols. Remember: ***even seasoned jewellers and craftsmen can still get into accidents!***

**DON'T BE A HERO:** Never knowingly expose yourself to injury in an attempt to 'rescue' a project from getting damaged by an errant tool or piece of equipment – pieces can be remade, but not a lost body part!

