

Beginning Tool kit for Metalsmithing

by Elaine D. Luther

Beginning metalsmithing students often ask me, what's the minimum amount of tools I need to get started? What should I buy and where? The choices are overwhelming, so I've written this short, easy to understand (I hope) list.

Soldering:

Propane only torch with short hose, from home center

Handy or *Batterns* flux (I prefer *Batterns*)

Sparex pickle and glass or ceramic container, preferably with lid, to put it in (*Spa Down* may be used instead of *Sparex*); Copper or bamboo tongs for pickle

Charcoal or magnesia block

Tweezers with wooden handle

Soldering pick

Sawing:

Quality sawframe (German made, for example)

"Bench pin with V-slot," the kind that clamps on to your table

Sawblades – *Herkules* brand quality or better, size 2/3 or 3/0

Beeswax or *Bur Life* for lubricating saw blade.

Sanding

Sandpaper: black wet/dry sandpaper from the hardware store

Grits: 180, 320, 400, 600

1500 grit is available from some auto supply stores

sanding sticks

Nice, but optional: 3M sanding pads, 3M polishing papers

Pliers, Hand tools:

Needle nose pliers (aka chain nose)

Round-round nose pliers

Flat nose pliers

Raw Hide Mallet

Ball pien hammer

Flexible Shaft Machine*

Foredom CC Flex Shaft system

Mandrels, grinding and polishing wheels

Cheaper choice: buy a not-a-name-brand flex shaft from <http://www.contenti.com>

© Elaine D. Luther 2005

All Rights Reserved

p. 2

Tumbler*

“Rio Grande Mini Rotary Tumbler” plus media, such as stainless steel shot.
This is the little red tumbler sold elsewhere as the *Thumler’s Tumbler*.

Cheaper choice: check out discount tool supplier Harbor Freight. The quality is not as high, but the prices sure are low. <http://www.harborfreight.com>

* Optional, or, plan to get one later.

Where to buy:

<http://www.RioGrande.com>, request a Tools and Equipment catalog. They have everything you need, in an easy to shop, educational format.

There are also other choices, you can find them via ads in your favorite jewelry magazines or by checking the listings at <http://www.ganoksin.com>.

Where to find Elaine Luther:

You may visit me on the web at <http://www.CreativeTextureTools.com>

© Elaine D. Luther 2005
All Rights Reserved