

Clasps: From Simple to Structural – Tools & Materials List (3-Day)

Tools List

If there's a costly tool you're missing, drop me an email to discuss – it's possible there are alternatives or you can choose to skip or work around certain steps.

Hand Tools

- Files
 - Large (6"-8") hand files, including a barrette or flat file, a crossing or half round file
 - Small set of needle or escarpments (include round, flat, square, triangle) – Eurotools makes a good cheap set, Grobet makes a good but pricy set
- Measuring tools (ruler, dividers, small square)
- Pliers (flat, needle nose, half round at least)
- Punch or scribe
- Rawhide, wood, or Delrin mallet
- Saw & blade assortment (1, 1/0, 2/0 range)
- Bench pin & steel block
- Beeswax or Bur Life (solid, not liquid)
- Flex shaft or drill press
- Planishing or ball peen hammer
- Old steel butterknife that you don't care about

Soldering Station

- Torch/soldering gear
- 3rd Hand on stand
- Hard, Medium, Easy solder

Other

- Sandpaper – various grits (I use 320/400/600/1000 wet/dry)
- Dapping block/daps
- Disc cutter - or buy 2 or more 24 g, 1.5" (31.8mm) sterling discs for the Enclosed Keyhole Clasp
 - <https://www.riogrande.com/product/Sterling-Silver-318mm-Disc-24-Ga-Soft/921699>
- Selection of small drill bits
- Sharpie marker
- Heavy paper or manilla folder
- #42 Flat graver in handle

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Tools List (cont'd)

Nice to have:

- Miter cutting jig (for clean filing)
- Iron binding wire (c. 18 – 22 gauge range)
- Forming mandrels and/or ring mandrel
- Pattern sheet/rolling mill for adding texture to sheet metal
- Sanding disks, various grits
- Split ring mandrel
- Stone setting tools
- Parallel jaw pliers

Materials

MATERIALS NOTES: *In all projects, if you want to save money, you can make copper or brass mock-ups. If doing so in brass, purchase same gauges listed, **but in copper, go one or two gauges HEAVIER** than the list recommends. Note that both copper and brass are harder to solder due to oxidation, so you'll have some extra challenges along the way.*

Optional for all Clasps:

- I find it handy to have scraps of chain to connect my newly made clasps to – it shows me how they fall and helps me not lose parts until I use them. A low-cost basic cable, figaro, or paperclip chain – it doesn't need to be precious metal – it's just a placeholder

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Wire-Based Clasps (Hook & Eye and Toggle Variants)

Note – I use “or more” when it’s a project you may want to make variants of and are likely to have time to do so – base lengths are the minimum I suggest for the class

Basic Clasps:

- 1’ or more of 12 g round wire
- 6” or more of 14g round wire
- 1’ or more of 18g round wire

Optional for more decorative variants:

- Scraps of Pattern wire and/or square, half round, double half round, or triangle wire – 4” minimum of 12-14 gauge but in half round variants, err on the side of larger/more solid patterns
 - This is one of my favorites for elegance and strength:
<https://www.riogrande.com/product/sterling-silver-pattern-wire-dead-soft/102121>
- 2 or more small premade round stones and matching bezels (cup settings with cabs between 3-6mm are good, but you can also use small faceted rounds and step bezels)
- 1 or more larger stones/settings (8 mm range)
- Assorted jump rings (if you hate making your own – otherwise you’ll make them out of the listed 18g)
 - <https://www.riogrande.com/product/sterling-silver-large-jump-ring-assortment/696528>

Box Clasp Materials

- 3” x 2” strip of 20 g Sterling Silver sheet (can also use 22 g if working small) – You’ll need more if wanting to build your clasp into a hollow form
 - If using copper, go thicker (20 or even 18 g)
 - If using brass, you can stay at 22 gauge
- c. 1 - 2” Scrap of heavy gauge wire or sheet (10 – 14 gauge or so)
- Small round bezel and stone or a water cast drop or a heavy gauge sheet scrap (c. 6-8 mm or larger) – to be used as the plunger (we can demo water cast in class so you can make it from scraps)

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Keyhole Clasps

Note: You may want to plan to only work on **one or the other** of the keyhole clasps in class, though I'll demo both – both are fairly fiddly and precise. The Open Keyhole is the easier of the two.

Open Keyhole Materials

- 1.5" x 3" of 12 or 14 g sterling sheet
- 2" of 12 g round wire
- 2 - 3" of 18g round wire

Lentiform (Enclosed) Keyhole Materials

Advanced students who have done enclosed keyhole clasps previously may want to make something other than a lentiform (round), in which case you'll want a shape you can dome (ideally by hydraulic press – getting both sides equally dapped is important). Equal sided forms are best.

- 3" x 3" of 24 g sterling silver OR if you don't have a disc cutter, buy at least two of these instead:
 - <https://www.riogrande.com/product/Sterling-Silver-318mm-Disc-24-Ga-Soft/921699>
- 1" of 10g round sterling wire
- 1" of 14g round sterling wire