



## Using a Shot Plate Tools & Supplies

The following tools & supplies are needed to for using a shot plate to add dimension to your pieces. You will need a basic knowledge of jewelry working including using a torch for this process. I've included recommendations for each product below as hyperlinks. I am not an affiliate for any of the products or brands listed here.

*Note: When a specific supplier is not identified in the list, most tools and supplies can be found at jewelry tool suppliers such as Rio Grande ([riogrande.com](http://riogrande.com)).*

### Supplies

- **Non-ferrous Metal Scrap:** I prefer to use fine silver because it seems to produce the cleanest results. You can also use sterling silver. I haven't personally tried this, but I've been told copper, bronze & brass work as well. Be wary of the content of bronze brass prior to melting or consider buying casting grain from a supplier such as Rio Grande.

### Tools

#### **For melting scrap:**

- **Torch:** You'll need something with a hot flame. I use a Smith air/acetylene torch with a #1 tip for this. A Smith Little torch, plumbers torch from the hardware store, etc. are all good options. A butane torch can work but may take longer to melt.
- **Solder Pick**
- **Safety Glasses**
- **Charcoal or vermiculite block and a fireproof surface underneath** (I use an annealing pan filled with pumice on a lazy susan)
- **Cross Lock Tweezers** (or your preferred method for lifting hot metal from the soldering block; I love [these stainless steel bent nose tweezers](#) from Rio Grande)
- **Quench bowl**
- **Optional:**
  - **Pickle** (for anything besides fine silver)
  - **Ball bur:** this is nice if you want to use your flex shaft to carve divots in your soldering block. By doing this, you'll be able to form perfectly round balls. Not necessary for the shot plate, but a nice tip 😊

### ***Preparing balled metal for the shot plate:***

- **600 Grit Sand Paper or Emery Cloth:** We all have our preferred ways to sand 😊 For this process, you'll need something that can remove bits of your solder board from the balled metal and reduce pitting on the flat side. I use 3M Utility Cloth in P320 Grit (comparable to 600 grit wet/dry sandpaper). I found [a box on Amazon](#).
- **Flat Surface for Sand Paper:** I use this great tip from [Metalsmith Society on Instagram](#) (awesome tricks & ideas every day there): use a clipboard to hold your sandpaper! Nice flat and portable surface and you'll never lose sandpaper again if you hang up the clipboard near your bench.
- **Needle Nose Pliers**
- **Optional:**
  - **Ultimate Sanding Tool from Tonya Davidson** (check out her website [tonyadavidson.com](#) and on [Instagram](#)): I show this in the video at 9:45 – you'll love it!
    - **3M Nano Double-Sided Tape** ([available on Amazon](#))
    - **Clear Acrylic or Perspex Block** (I used a stamping block and found [something comparable on Amazon](#))

### ***For creating a pressed (okay, seriously pounded) design in the shot plate:***

- **Shot Plates**
  - Buffalo Rutland ([buffalorutlandcompany.com](#)) – unique selection of stamps & shot plates; will release special collections from time to time
  - Thunderbird Supply ([thunderbirdsupply.com](#)) – Tucker Tool Company shot plates carried here
  - Black Magic Silversmith Shoppe ([facebook.com/groups/Insanestamping](#)) – Krysta Porter carries brass & steel dies, many vintage styles
- **Bench Block:** Not 100% necessary, but will produce a cleaner result than just laying the shot plate on the bench. I rest my block on a rubber pad to reduce sound. A leather bag also works.
- **Hammer:** I use a 2-lb. brass mallet. A hardware store hammer works well also. If you're using the elements in a design where the backs will show, you may want to consider using a hammer with a polished face. Or, you can clean up the backs in the finishing process.
- **Nail Set:** Here's a [cheap set from Amazon](#) like the one I use. I like the 1/32" as a tool to help remove finished pieces from the shot plate and as a rest for finishing.
- **Oil:** Machine oil, 4-in-1 oil, etc. I like [LPS Rust Inhibitor](#) for keeping the tools in our shop protected. It works well for this process, too.
- **Optional:**
  - **Force Tool:** I use one by Buffalo Rutland. You can also use a chunk of fabricated steel for this.

### ***Preparing the pressed design for use:***

- **Bench Pin & Jeweler Saw:** I use a [Green Lion saw frame](#) with a 2/0 blade in the video.
- **Flat File:** I use a #2 cut.
- **Sand Paper:** Again, we all have our favorite ways to finish. I just use the P320 utility cloth. I'll use parts that haven't been used for heavier grit, parts that have been used for finer grit 😊
- **Optional:**
  - **Dedeco (or EVE) Silicone Polishing Wheels (for the flex shaft):** I like to use the white for removing metal. You can work through all the grits for a mirror shine. You can [find these at Rio Grande](#).
  - **3M Radial Bristle Disks (for the flex shaft):** I got mine at [Rio Grande](#).
  - **3M Polishing Paper (for high shine by hand):** Available [at Rio Grande](#).