

today

DIY Silversmithing Set-Up *for less than £200*

BASIC TOOLS CHECKLIST



So You'd Love To Give Silversmithing A Go...

BUT WON'T IT COST A FORTUNE TO GET STARTED?

Take it from me...you don't have to fork out a fortune to get started with silver.

I know that silver seems like this mystical material that's reserved for the traditionally trained with a 'proper' workshop set-up, but what would you say if I told you that **I started my business with only this basic checklist of tools...**

I know, it seems crazy right! But it was the fact that I didn't need a load of space or fancy tools to make the type of pieces I love that got me hooked on jewellery making in the first place!

I want to pull back the curtain and show you that if you're a simplicity lover like me, you actually don't need much to get started making pieces that will make you burst with pride.

This checklist is the **exact tools** I bought online the night I arrived home from my first jewellery making class three years ago, and **it all cost me under £200!**

Want to hear something even better? I actually already had a couple of the items lying around at home, and I bet you do too. Winner!

OK so I've gathered up a few more bits and pieces over the years as I turned from a hobbyist to a legit business owner and my needs grew, but I promise you these are the basics that got my business off the ground and they'll be a great start if you want to do some DIY silversmithing yourself.

Let's stop talking and start scheming!

Searlait x

(the lady behind Today)

p.s. Finding it hard to believe I actually started my business with JUST this checklist? [Read about my jewellery making journey so far to see for yourself.](#)

BASIC TOOLS CHECKLIST

I bought all my tools from [Cooksongold](#), and that's where these prices have been compiled from, BUT with a little searching online, you'll be able to pick a lot of these items up for EVEN CHEAPER!

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bench peg & anvil combo
<i>A nifty 2 in 1 tool that you can saw on and use to hammer material flat on.</i> | £13.19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3" adjustable saw frame
<i>Perfect for all your piercing needs</i> | £9.48 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2/0 saw blades (12 pack)
<i>You're going to go through a lot of these to begin with, trust me! There are loads of different 'sizes' but I use this size for everything.</i> | £1.98 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Needle file set (Cut 2)
<i>For tidying up sawn ends and soldered joints. Like the blades, there are loads of different 'cuts' but I use Cut 2 for everything.</i> | £15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Soldering block
<i>Heat proof block to absorb the heat from the blow torch when soldering.</i> | £5.46 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Borax dish & cone
<i>Add a little water to the dish, grind the cone against the dish until you make a milky paste, and apply this 'flux' to your joint before soldering. 'Flux' is to keep your joint clean from oxidation so the solder can flow.</i> | £10.44 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Solder probe
<i>Use this little probe to poke solder into position AND it doubles up as a great scribe for marking your material.</i> | £4.80 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Reverse action tweezers (Curved tip)
<i>For picking up your hot piece when soldering. I've found the curved tips keeps their shape better than the straight tips.</i> | £2.16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Pliers Set
<i>Use the three pliers for bending and forming, and use the wire cutters to cut up your solder.</i> | £16.32 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Nylon faced mallet
<i>Hammer your material without marking it.</i> | £7.38 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ring triblet with sizes
<i>If you want to make rings (why wouldn't you!) then this is a must. A chunk of metal that you can hammer your rings into shape around, and it has all the different sizes marked on it.</i> | £25.74 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Hand held blow torch
<i>Refillable blow torch for soldering.</i> | £28.79 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Butane gas canister
<i>To fill the blow torch. TOP TIP. You can often buy these in bulk at Poundshops as 'camping cooker gas'.</i> | £4.20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Wet and dry papers
<i>I sand my pieces through 4 different 'grits' before polishing, working from the coarsest to the finest in this order - 320, 600, 800 & 1200. They're £0.98 per sheet. Start with 1 sheet of each.</i> | £3.92 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Polishing cream
<i>I now have a barrel polisher and a mini electric rotary tool to polish pieces BUT when I started out and when I was making on the move in my campervan, I used this cream and it's perfect to get started.</i> | £8.34 |

BASIC MATERIALS CHECKLIST

- [Brass Sheet](#) £7.27
Practice your sawing on something cheap and cheerful!
- [1.2mm Round Eco-Silver Wire \(50cm\)](#) £5.74
Have a play with some simple round wire and see what you can come up with!
- [1.5mm Round Eco-Silver Wire \(50cm\)](#) £9.00
Have a play and see what working with something slightly thicker feels like.
- ['Easy' Eco-Silver Solder](#) £7.51
Different solders have different melting points. 'Easy' melts quicker than 'Medium' or 'Hard' so it's a good one to practise your technique with.

EXTRAS YOU PROBABLY ALREADY HAVE AT HOME

- A4 cutting mat
A great base to work on top of to protect the surface you're working on.
- Metal ruler
To measure lengths. You can use your solder probe to mark where you want to cut!
- Small paint brush
To paint the flux paste onto your joint before soldering
- Microfiber cloth
To polish up pieces with the polishing cream.
- Assorted pens, pencils, utensils, tools...
*Last but not least on my checklist **I'm letting you in on MY BIGGEST SECRET...***
I am YET to invest in 'proper' metal forming tools to form material around. WHAT!!
Instead I just work with items I have on hand, that I can bend things around.
Take a look around and you'll start to see a load of things that can become 'forming tools' with a little imagination.
Don't worry about doing things the RIGHT way to begin with, do things YOUR way and work with what you already have. Resourcefulness is powerful.

Total: £186.72

You've even got some change from your £200!

Happy Silversmithing!