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## Fused Fine Silver Loops Earring Workshop

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*Welcome to Fusing!* In this workshop we will have fun learning to fuse loops and turn them into head turning earrings using hammers, silver, beads and imagination to create a bunch of super gorgeous earrings!

Check out the supply list below. Try to plan to order at least a week ahead. This list will guide you on what you need for the workshop. **Contact me if you have any questions.** I know it's rather detailed. Be prepared to order online. Some of the tools and materials are specialized, you will not be able to get everything locally. Note: I mention Argentium, it's a type of sterling silver that is lower tarnish and slightly more hypoallergenic than sterling.

### WIRE:

We will be mostly be using fine silver wire for the earrings because it can be fused, and won't blacken under fire. (Sterling silver cannot be fused.) Avoid Amazon for this purchase. It will seem to be cheaper but it will not be pure silver even if labeled. It will be plated and plated silver does not fuse!

**fine silver wire:** get both 16 and 18 gauge. here are links to get it.

**18 gauge, 3-4 feet** —fine silver round wire, dead soft

<https://www.riogrande.com/product/999-Fine-Silver-Round-Wire-18-Ga-Dead-Soft/105318>

**16 gauge, 3-4 feet**— fine silver round wire, dead soft

<https://www.riogrande.com/product/999-Fine-Silver-Round-Wire-16-Ga-Dead-Soft/105316>

**4mm 18 gauge silver jump rings:** (if you have 5 or 6 mm, great but not required)

choose between argentium or sterling (you don't need both)

**argentium** <https://www.riogrande.com/product/Argentium-Silver-4mm-Round-Jump-Ring/696921>

**sterling:** <https://www.riogrande.com/product/Sterling-Silver-4mm-Round-Jump-Ring/924517>

### EAR WIRES:

If you want to learn to make your own ear wires, I will show you, purchase this **argentium 20 gauge round wire:**

<https://www.riogrande.com/product/Argentium-Silver-Round-Wire-20-Ga-Dead-Soft/103320>

For practice, get a small pack of **20 gauge brass or copper** wire from the hardware store:

<https://www.acehardware.com/departments/hardware/chain-and-rope/wire/51646>

If you would rather **NOT** make your own ear wires and prefer to focus on making earrings, you can purchase **pre-mad ear hooks** instead of the wire above.

If you have allergies, or prefer another type of ear wire then pre-made ones are the way to go!

Here's a few suggestions depending on your needs. Pick the one that's best for you:

Sturdy sterling ear wires

<https://www.riogrande.com/product/sterling-silver-heavy-ear-wire-with-loop-and-bead/630263>

Argentium is more tarnish resistant and more hypoallergenic

<https://www.riogrande.com/product/argentium-silver-hammered-ear-wire-with-loop-and-coil/924451>

If you are allergic:

<https://www.riogrande.com/product/niobium-gray-finish-ear-wire-with-loop-and-sterling-silver-bead/628498>

Don't like French hook ear wires? Try lever backs

<https://www.riogrande.com/product/sterling-silver-lever-back-ear-wire-with-opening/615118>



#### MANDRELS FOR MAKING LOOPS:

You need **mandrels**, a sturdy round rod in a variety of sizes that you can wrap wire around and slide it off smoothly.

Gather up:

Sharpies, markers, highlighters, old prescription bottles, 1/2 inch diameter dowels, and larger broom handles, pvc pipe or plumbing connectors, etc

Here is a nice set online to get you started (optional):

[https://smile.amazon.com/Wooden-Mandrel-Wire-Forming-6pcs/dp/B008L4VLP/ref=sr\\_1\\_49crd=1DOFR2JUJAQDT&dchild=1&keywords=jump+ring+mandrels+for+jewelry+making&qid=1602436752&sprefix=jump+ring+mandrels%2Caps%2C161&sr=8-49](https://smile.amazon.com/Wooden-Mandrel-Wire-Forming-6pcs/dp/B008L4VLP/ref=sr_1_49crd=1DOFR2JUJAQDT&dchild=1&keywords=jump+ring+mandrels+for+jewelry+making&qid=1602436752&sprefix=jump+ring+mandrels%2Caps%2C161&sr=8-49)

## **HAND TOOLS:**

### **Round nose pliers**

<https://www.riogrande.com/product/round-nose-pliers/111913>

### **Chain nose pliers**

<https://www.riogrande.com/product/chain-nose-pliers/111911>

### **Flat nose pliers**

<https://www.riogrande.com/product/flat-nose-pliers/111912>

### **Bail shaping pliers**( for ear wires) optional if you don't plan to make ear wires

<https://www.riogrande.com/product/bail-shaping-pliers/111957>

### **Flush cutters :**

<https://www.riogrande.com/product/xuron-17011-light-duty-micro-shear-flush-cutters-without-retainer/111274>

**Soft metal shears-** **IMPORTANT!** They must cut sharp enough so that your wire fits well for fusing! Joyce Chen scissors will work if you have them. Otherwise get one of these two options:

<https://www.riogrande.com/product/soft-metal-shears/111232>

another slightly more expensive source for the same thing:

<https://www.knifecenter.com/item/AU33373/Clauss-8-inch-Flexible-Handle-Trimmers-Stainless-Steel-Sharp-Points>

## **OTHER TOOLS and supplies**

**Torches.** we are using small butane torches to fuse the loops.

This one is really great for its price:

### **Butane torch :**

[https://smile.amazon.com/NANW-Refillable-Culinary-Adjustable-Included/dp/B08215QV64/ref=pd\\_rhf\\_ee\\_s\\_rp\\_c\\_2\\_1\\_3/146-8480162-2698339?encoding=UTF8&pd\\_rd\\_i=B08215QV64&pd\\_rd\\_r=b1dfc12a-e781-43a9-896d-d4328028afba&pd\\_rd\\_w=LYQ0v&pd\\_rd\\_wg=uPNGP&pf\\_rd\\_p=45ea3989-28e2-45c9-97ac-7e99f613a91b&pf\\_rd\\_r=MZ6007KBT700WK587EJH&refRID=MZ6007KBT700WK587EJH&th=1](https://smile.amazon.com/NANW-Refillable-Culinary-Adjustable-Included/dp/B08215QV64/ref=pd_rhf_ee_s_rp_c_2_1_3/146-8480162-2698339?encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_i=B08215QV64&pd_rd_r=b1dfc12a-e781-43a9-896d-d4328028afba&pd_rd_w=LYQ0v&pd_rd_wg=uPNGP&pf_rd_p=45ea3989-28e2-45c9-97ac-7e99f613a91b&pf_rd_r=MZ6007KBT700WK587EJH&refRID=MZ6007KBT700WK587EJH&th=1)

### **Butane fuel:**

It's more economical to get this from the hardware store rather than from Amazon, but I added this link so you could see what it looks like. Get this Ronson brand, it fits the torch fittings.

[https://smile.amazon.com/Ronson-Multi-Fill-Butane-Fuel-78g/dp/B001QP8DOS/ref=sr\\_1\\_9?dchild=1&keywords=butane+fuel&qid=1613437900&sr=8-9](https://smile.amazon.com/Ronson-Multi-Fill-Butane-Fuel-78g/dp/B001QP8DOS/ref=sr_1_9?dchild=1&keywords=butane+fuel&qid=1613437900&sr=8-9)

**Solderite pad**- this is essential for fusing the loops

<https://www.riogrande.com/product/Solderite-Pad-Hard-6-x-6-x-12/502063>

The solderite pad will get hot, so find a **ceramic floor tile** a little larger than the 6x6pad, OR a cookie sheet, or other heatproof surface to place it on , a towel or washcloth under that to keep from scratching the surface of your workable.



Also you need a **small bowl** to quench the hot jump rings, and **tweezers** .

**Hammer**: regular household claw hammer is fine, Ball peen is better if you have it.

**Steel block** : you may be able to find this locally at Michaels  
<https://www.riogrande.com/product/Steel-Bench-Block-2-x-2-x-34/112560>

- **washcloth** or clean rag for under the steel block to muffle sound. Also pictured is computer mouse pad.



- **sandpaper** (400 wet to dry) or fine emery board for nails for smoothing ear wire ends  
-very fine( 0000 or 00000) **steel wool** for smoothing, satin finish and removing tarnish

-**sunshine polishing cloths** - *optional*

yellow for high polish

<https://www.riogrande.com/product/Sunshine-Cloth-Single-Pack/337039>

pink for satin polish

<https://www.riogrande.com/product/Sunshine-Satin-Cloth-Single-Pack/337086>

## BEADS

Last but not least, **BEADS!!!** Your beads should have a big enough hole to fit through the 18 and 20 gauge wire. They are optional, but if you need an excuse to buy beads, go for it!

Below is a handy checklist to help you prepare.

**Checklist:**

- wire, fine silver 16gauge
- wire fine silver 18gauge
- jump rings 4mm, 18gauge (choose Argentium or sterling)
- wire Argentium 20 gauge
- wire copper or brass 20 gauge
- pre-made ear wires ( choose your preferred option)
- loop making mandrels
- round nosed pliers
- flat nosed pliers
- chain nosed pliers
- bail pliers
- flush cutters
- soft metal shears
- butane torch,
- butane fuel
- solderite pad
- tile or heatproof surface
- cloth to protect surface
- small bowl
- tweezers
- hammer
- steel block
- pad/cloth for sound reduction under steel block
- 400 sandpaper, or fine nail emery board
- fine steel wool
- polishing cloths( optional)
- Beads