

# Jewelry Making

## Jan Igoe, Instructor

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**Working surface** | Grooved bead board, bead mat (or fluffy hand towel)

**Pliers** | Round nose; chain nose and crimping pliers

**Cutting** | Side and flush cutters for wire; scissors for cord

**Beads** | For new jewelry makers, it's a good idea to start with inexpensive beads and base metal findings to practice with. We'll be covering a lot of options in class, but you can start with some small round beads (4-10 mm). Bring some tubes, bicones, ovals and/or cube-shaped beads for an interesting combination. Beads can be natural stone, bone, shell, pearl, ceramic, wood, metal, glass or acrylic. Bring some small metal beads, seed beads, rondelles or crystals to separate the bigger beads.

**Basic Findings** | Toggle clasps for necklaces and bracelets; fish hook-style ear wires; assorted size jump rings; eye pins and head pins (1- 2 inches or assorted size package); 18-36 inches of base metal chain. Broken chain from old jewelry is fine. Note: For findings and chain, choose the same finish, such as silver, copper, antique brass, gold, pewter, etc.

**Stringing material** | Soft Flex or Beadalon in medium weight. (Heavier stones require heavier stringing material. Bead stores can help you make the best choice.) Please bring a few feet of ribbon, suede, leather or silk cord for variety.

**Glue** | Zap-A-Gap or Crazy Glue

**Odds n' Ends** | Toothpicks; alcohol wipes; clear tape; fishing line (for practice stringing); Soft, bendable colored wire; notebook for sketching, ideas, etc.

**Storage** | Fishing tackle boxes work well for transport.

If you have any questions: please e-mail Jan at [janwritesnews@gmail.com](mailto:janwritesnews@gmail.com). Thanks!

## Polymer Clay

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• Fimo Soft or Primo preferred, but any oven-cured polymer clay brand will work. Bring 2 oz. blocks of black, white, translucent, silver and gold metallic, and at least two other colors that please your eye. (*We'll be working with black and white the first week.*)

- Clay tissue blade for cutting
- Small spray bottle for water
- Baby wipes and alcohol wipes
- Paper towels/ plastic sandwich bags/
- Playing cards and tape for thickness gauge (or pasta maker)
- Acrylic brayer or roller (or you can substitute a skinny glass jar, like the one some olives come in)
- Set of small cutters with basic shapes. Sculpey Mini Metal 12-pack or Makin's Cutters will work.
- Needle tool
- Plain white index cards/pencil or pen
- Ceramic tile (6" square or larger with no texture for working surface)
- Protective carrier (box, jar) for transporting clay home to bake
- Cornstarch
- Disposable vinyl gloves
- Plastic lock-top sandwich bags and wax paper for clay storage

TEXTURE TOOLS: to impress the clay are only limited by your imagination. Dollar stores, your garage and thrift shops are great places to look. You can try lace, screen, screws, safety pins, tooth picks, plastic straws, craft stamps, old silverware and kitchen tools\*, wire, washers, nuts, bolts, bottle caps, etc.

FINISHING: Acrylic paints in black, brown or navy and any color you'd like to experiment with. Bring a detail brush and sponge. OPTIONAL: E-6000 glue; wet/dry sandpaper 400-1,200 grit for later.

PASTA MACHINE: It's handy and necessary for Skinner blends, but not essential to start learning. The AMACO Pasta Machine sells for \$17.97 at Amazon.com and is advertised at \$29.65 (without coupon) at A.C. Moore. There are more expensive, sturdier machines, but this one is adequate for beginners. Sculpey and Darice make similar machines.

In case of mishaps with tissue blades and needle tools, bring some Band-Aids along. You can mark the blunt side of tissue blades with bright nail polish to prevent grabbing the sharp side.

If you have a garlic press (metal, no plastic); pasta wheel, craft scissors with decorative edges or paper punches, bring them to try out on your clay.

For baking at home, I use a glass pan\* dedicated to clay, covered with parchment paper. You can also index cards under your work and polyester batting to support odd and circular shapes during baking. Use a standard oven thermometer to check for temperature deviations. Polymer clay cures between 260 and 300 degrees, depending on brand. Thickness determines baking time.

\*PLEASE REMEMBER: Any tools used on uncured polymer clay should be dedicated to clay use and never be used for food preparation. Cookie cutters, for example, can't do double duty back in the kitchen.

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