



And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.

Abraham Lincoln



THE FLORIDA SOCIETY OF GOLDSMITHS
PRESENTS

2008 Florida Winter Workshop, January 6 thru January 10, 2008 in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. This is the twelfth annual Winter Workshop sponsored by our **NE Chapter of the Florida Society of Goldsmiths** and it gives participants the opportunity to work and study with outstanding instructors while working side by side in the company of others who share our interests and passions. The 2008 instructors are:

CHASING AND REPOUSSÉ FOR SMALL SCALE JEWELRY, TOM BENHAM

RINGS! RINGS! RINGS!, JOHN COGSWELL

IMAGINATIVE CAPTURES, ANDY COOPERMAN

BRACELETS AND BROOCHES: A DUAL WORKSHOP ON SHELL FORMING AND HYDRAULIC PRESSING, CYNTHIA EID AND BETTY HELEN LONGHI

LOST WAX CASTING JEWELRY AND ITS POTENTIALS, J. FRED WOELL

The opportunity to study with these instructors in the tropical warmth of Florida in January is not to be missed! Access details and registration information @ www.fsgne.com.

Board Of Directors
Meeting held September 15-16, 2007



Front Row: Joyce Howell, Jean Marie DeSpiegler, Bev Fox, Arnold Lasris, Stephanie Ritchie, Beth Katz

Middle Row: Lisa Compagnone, Allen Brown, Mary Ostrander, Suzi Kamin, Anne Allen, Mary Winstead, Michaelene Kauffman, Tracey Egert

Back Row: Starr Payne, Phil London, Vicki London, Clare Leonard, Valerie Jewel

From the President & Editor . . .

Arnold Lasris (AL)
alasisr@alltel.net
Helen, GA 30545
706-219-1749



Our annual Board of Director's meeting was held September 15-16, 2007 in Orlando, Florida. We had a very full agenda and came away from the meeting with many plans to be fulfilled. In order to achieve our goals we need help from a source of volunteers. Below is a listing of committees that we have formed. As usual, we are looking for volunteers to help staff these committees. If you are interested, Please respond to **Stephanie Ritchie**, Vice President, to add/remove your name from lists: herself@stephanieritchie.com. Please copy our Executive Director, **Jean Marie DeSpiegler** on all.

Workshop

Mary Winstead
Stephanie Ritchie
Bev Fox
Joyce Howell
Beth Katz
Clare Leonard
Sarr Payne
Suzi Kamin

Membership

Chair: Clare Leonard
Stephanie Ritchie
Joyce Howell
Tracey Egert
Sarr Payne
Mary Winstead
Ann Allen

Planning & Oversight

Chair: Stephanie Ritchie
Mary Winstead
Beth Katz
Phil London
Sarr Payne
Suzi Kamin

National Metalsmiths Hall of Fame

Allen Brown

Scholarship

Clare Leonard

Website

Loren Damewood

According to the FSG By-Laws, I am on all committees except one. I am excluded from the nominating committee. However, I do appoint the nominating committee.

The State Board of Directors have been meeting once a year during the last quarter of our fiscal year. It has been decided we should meet at least twice a year. Some of our chapter presidents are new, and had not been exposed to the State Board of Directors until several months had passed. Therefore, we are meeting in January, during the NE Chapter's Winter Workshops in order to have a planning meeting. Any member of FSG is welcome to attend.

Our annual Board of Directors Meeting will be held next year on September 13-14, 2008 in Orlando, Florida. Again, all members of FSG are welcome to attend. All business we conduct is in the "sunshine". We make all discussions and materials available to anyone. However, only members of the Board of Directors are allowed to vote.

CERF Responds to California Wildfires

The Craft Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) is taking action to respond to the community of craft artists affected by the Southern California Wildfires. We are reaching out to artists, arts organizations, galleries, businesses and others in the affected areas to offer assistance and to locate information about the arts community. While it is still too early to know the extent of damage, we do know that the situation is severe as news reports indicate. We also know that this area of California has a significant population of craft artists. We have already heard from a jeweler who lost both her home and studio and CERF Trustee and clay artist, Lana Wilson, had to be evacuated from her Del Mar home. Please help us spread the word that CERF is available to offer assistance to craft artists in Southern California by forwarding this e-mail to your contacts or by sending your contact information of craft artists in this region to CERF. Please also be aware that your support of our work during these times is essential so that we can deliver aid quickly and effectively.

<http://craftemergency.org/programs/relief/>

AJDC ANNOUNCES 2008 NEW TALENT CONTEST:

The American Jewelry Design Council is accepting applications for its annual New Talent Contest. The winner is awarded a booth in the New Designer Gallery at the July Jewelers of America Show in New York City. The winner is the focus of extensive media attention. This high-profile competition has successfully launched the careers of past winners and the entire jewelry industry eagerly awaits the New York debut of the AJDC's pick. In addition, the winner receives professional support from members of the AJDC on making the step to larger markets. The American Jewelry Design Council is a group of over thirty nationally prominent designers whose mission is to promote the art of jewelry. In coordination with the Jewelers of America, this contest has been a major annual success, each year presenting a single outstanding designer to national and international jewelry buyers. Applicants must be a designer/owner of a jewelry manufacturing business, produce in the United States and have never exhibited at a JA Show. Selection is based on originality, craftsmanship, innovation, marketability and cohesiveness. The names of all finalists are submitted to the JA selection committee for consideration as a candidate for the New Designer Gallery. Winner and finalists are honored at an awards ceremony during the show.

Deadline for submission is January 15, 2008. For more information and/or to download an application, visit ajdc.org.

SAVE THE DATES

The West Coast Chapter announces the 2008 dates for the **Wildacres Summer Workshop!**

Mark your calendars for **June 14-20, 2008!**

Check our website at fsg4u.com for further updated information.



ABOUT OUR MEMBERS...

Bev Fox was featured in both a local newspaper called the **Tropicalia** and a local magazine called **Bonita Living** for her artist cottage/gallery in Bonita Springs. (6 refurbished fishing cottages were moved intact from the riverbank onto a fully prepped concrete pad immediately behind the old Liles Hotel off Old U.S. 41.) Bev (SleepingFox Inc.) has been a resident artist in cottage Six since the beginning; working and showing her beautiful metal pieces. Stop in and see her sometime.

Christine Marie Noguere's work is included in "Teapot Redefined" at the **Mobilia Gallery in Cambridge, MA**, and her beaded sculpture, "Titania" received **second place in the Beaded Object category of Lapidary Journal's "2007 Bead Arts Awards"**.

Congratulations to two of our members - **Laurie Yoder and Susan Lewis**. **Laurie** won the 3rd Annual Art Clay World, USA, Inc. **North American Design Competition's Presidential Grand Prize**.



There are several photos of **Susan's** work in Cece Wire's recently published "New Directions in Metal Clay".

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**By Tom and Kay
Benham**

A True Renaissance Jeweler

Five adventurous goldsmiths dared to cross the boundary into the magical realm of lapidary to take our Intarsia Jewel Workshop this June at “Summer Camp for Goldsmiths.” These novice lapidaries took their place in front of their faceting machine, began grinding and never looked back. Of course there were occasional bumps in the road but they persevered and by Friday each student had at least two and some three fabulous intarsia pieces for display at “Show & Tell.”

Sally Bedrosian (see photo) set one of her pieces as a shadow box pendant, a design she says was inspired by her trip out west. Ron Jones finished three pieces (see photo).



Sally Bedrosian



Ron Jones

If you stop to think about it, each time you sign up for a metalsmithing workshop, you are learning a new skill that you hope to incorporate into your work. It's like adding another color to your pallet of jewelry-making skills. We urge you all to try an “outside the box” class every now and then. You never can tell where such an adventure may lead you – maybe to your “aha” moment!

Wild Acres is the perfect location for a lapidary experience since it is one of the few facilities that is equipped with a full complement of lapidary machines. We feel that learning lapidary skills is a major step in becoming a true renaissance jeweler and we applaud the West Coast Chapter for their foresight in taking advantage of this equipment in their class offerings.

WESTPANHANDLE

The FSG West Panhandle Chapter
meets: 6:30pm every second Wednesday
of each month
Belmont Arts Center
401 N. Reus Street
Pensacola, FL
Contact **Stephanie Ritchie 850.341.0471**

**By Stephanie Ritchie
President**

Let us pray. Yes, even if we are not believers...

“Oh Great Smithy in the Sky, please pump your bellows in the general direction of the West Panhandle Chapter of the Florida Society of Goldsmiths, that our fires not go out and our coals stay red hot. Please visit upon our membership the tempering we require after this year’s struggle and studio move, which hardened our little metal hearts and made us brittle to shearing forces. Oh Ye of Torch & Tool, direct our hands to the proper mixture of fuel and oxygen, lest we have a meltdown in the top edge of our bezels and end up in the scrap box. And lo, though we are each hasty to give advice to one another, let us not forget that our own boric acid solution evaporates just like our neighbor’s. Guide us not to gouge out each others eyes with Krause burs, nor to take up coarse files and mar in secret the mirror polish on our sister’s Argentium silver. And one more thing, **PLEASE burden the hearts of five or six good people to step up and carry this chapter through 2008.**”

Even while we prepare our big Gallery Night show, the projects from our member Bracelet Challenge, follow-up from state board meeting, and the remaining Fall classes, it hangs heavy in the air that the season finds us not terribly cohesive. As founder of this chapter it is especially difficult to accept that there is no clear leadership for our upcoming elections. I hope that when my members read this (do my members read the newsletter?) they will allow themselves to step up and participate in some way, even some imperfect way, much as I have. And when members of other chapters read this, I hope they will step up in their own area to play a part, even a small part, in meetings, classes, events, and studios.

“By hammer and hand do all things stand” —old craftsman quote

NORTHWEST
by
Susan Wilson

FOR CHAPTER / WORKSHOP INFORMATION CONTACT
Starr Payne
president@fsgnw.com
Chapter meets Third Thursday Monthly at 7 PM
1100 Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL



Our long wait to move is finally over. During the weekends of September 22 and 29 we officially moved our studio to the gallery space and were open to show our wares during Tallahassee’s First Friday event on October 5. It was a very rainy night and we didn’t have as many visitors as usual, but it was still very nice to have our studio shown at such a high profile event. We still have some setting up to do before we can resume our workshop schedule. So keep checking our website at www.fsgnw.com for upcoming classes. A huge thank you is extended to the following worker bees: Marcia Jensen, Starr Payne, Debbi Clifford, Kim Round, Quincie Hamby, Joe Anco, Maureen Rafferty, Suzi Kamin, Diane Bower, Page Rozelle, Lou Schneider, and Suzi Rizzo.

This also marks a traditionally busy time with our chapter. Upcoming events include the election of new officers, our annual holiday show, and most importantly our annual holiday party. So we looking forward to filling you in on all our activities next quarter.

WORKSHOP

Meeting

7:00 p.m. every 2nd Monday of the
Month

SOUTHWEST

Cape Coral Arts Studio in Rubicond
Park
Bev Fox

*SouthWest by
Sandra Passerallo*

FOR CHAPTER / WORKSHOP INFORMATION

CONTACT

BEV FOX 239.671.4429

<sleepingfox@comcast.net>

Exhibit:

The Cape Coral Arts Studio (where we hold all our meetings) held an exhibit called "The Aquarium" for the month of September. Several of our members had pieces on display. This show is a very unusual gallery exhibit. The exhibit room is set up to feel and look like you are under the sea! All entries depicted life beneath the waves whether real or imaginary, realistic or abstract. It was a lot of fun and a great success with our local area.

Workshops:

We have 2 workshops scheduled in February, 2008. Both are given by Karen Cohen (for more information on Karen, you can visit her website. www.kcenamels.com) The first workshop is February 9-10, 2008 on "Enameling on Copper". The second workshop is February 16-17, 2008 on "Cloisonné on Silver". Each workshop is a 2 day workshop and will be held at the Cape Coral Arts Studio, 4537 Coronado Pkwy, Cape Coral, FL, Telephone (239) 549-1863. There will be a maximum of 10 people for each 2 day workshop. Registration will begin after January 1, 2008 at the Cape Coral Arts Studio. The cost will be \$175.00 for each 2 day workshop. A supply kit will also be required and provided by Karen Cohen (at this time the cost of the kit is not known.)

Meeting Events:

- August 2007 meeting event was given by Bob Small on Photo Polymer Plates. Bob did a fantastic job informing us all about Photo Polymer Plates. Bob set up and showed us how to use the black light to make an impression into the Polymer plates from a printed or a hand drawn image. He showed us how the image is transferred to an overhead transparency before they can be used to make the plate. There are 2 different types of plates; one is a Plastic plate with Polymer (K-152/KF-152 High Relief – 8 ½ x 11 sheet) and the other is Metal plate with Polymer (JET 152 SB – 8 ½ x 11 sheet). The process uses UV exposure to develop the image into the plate. Both plates have their pros and cons. Timing is a big factor in getting a crisp image and lots of patience is needed to achieve the ultimate goal. Once the plate is made, it can be used over and over again with PMC, polymer clay, or as a stamp. This is a very old technique, but it is still widely used and always fascinating to watch develop. Bob did a terrific job with his show and tell and informing us of a lot of the details needed to perform this process. Great job Bob!

- September 2007 meeting event was given by Val Jewell on Enamel Beads on Copper. Val did a great job showing us how to make an Enamel bead using Copper tube. It was fascinating to watch how she heated the copper tube and melted different types of glass and pieces of glass on the copper tube and came up with a beautiful bead. Everyone had a chance to make a bead. They were all something to see! Thanks Val for sharing this wonderful technique with all of us. We all were truly enlightened and had lots of Fun!

- October 2007 meeting event was given by Bev Fox on Specialty Tools. Bev brought her Bench Mate in and showed everyone how vestal this piece of equipment is. Sandie Passerallo brought her new model in (never out of the box) with a few extra gadgets and Bev showed everyone how they could use the bench mate to rotate and stabilize pieces easily while soldering, creating or repairing a piece. The ease in moving the various attachments is what makes this a fantastic tool! Bev also brought an Ultralite Kiln to show us how to fuse Sterling Silver jump rings with the use of the kiln and a torch. What a quick and easy way to make a bunch of jump rings to use in some fantastic chains (Bev also had a wide variety of chains you can make using these fused rings.) Fantastic job Bev!

Local News:

- We will be involved in a local event called "Walk Through The Arts" with the Alliance for the Arts of Lee County. This is an annual event to showcase local artists. This year Val Jewell, Pat Owens and Bob Small will be manning our FSG table.

**Northeast Chapter, Kay &
Tom Benham reporting**

**FOR CHAPTER /WORKSHOP
INFORMATION CONTACT
HELEN HOWELL 386.734.6878
Fsgne@aol.com
142 South Woodland Blvd.,
DeLand, FL**



Summer Happenings On July 20th, our chapter participated in downtown DeLand's "**Tropical Nights.**" What fun! We had people touring our studio even before the 6 PM start time. Instructor Jim Hosner's demonstrations on ring making were well received by all our visitors who walked away with their own personal ring! Cut, Solder, and Polish was the mantra of the night.

No surprise that our July PMC Certification Workshop with J. Fred Woell was a sellout! Fred arrived in DeLand a few days early in order to teach a special class: **Extreme Beads & Hollow Forms** on July 25 & 26. We hosted an **ART + METAL MINGLE** with Fred as our special guest, Thursday, July 26 from 7 - 8:30 pm at our Deland Studio. Fred has been a favorite Winter Workshop instructor, and his students rave about his classes. This was an opportunity to spend time with this talented artist in our Deland FSGNE Studio.

Honoring Helen Howell On Saturday, August 25th the NE Board of Directors gathered at Nancy Neeb's home for a dinner to honor Helen Howell for her service to the Northeast Chapter over the past 15 years. Her continued efforts on behalf of FSG and her dedication to the NE Chapter, in particular, are greatly appreciated. John Cogswell generously accepted a commission on behalf of the Board of Directors and the NE members to create a special serving piece for Helen as a special remembrance for her retirement and arrangements were made for John to speak to Helen by phone once she had opened her gift. For once, Helen was speechless! Nancy Neeb and Lisa Campagone hosted this delightful event. We have to say Lisa's lasagna was delicious!

Looking Forward Our fall schedule of classes include: **Jewelry Fabrication, Wax Carving for Casting, Solder Boot Camp, Stone Setting, Imagination + Metal Hot and Cold, Metal Clay Basics, and Cool Tools and Techniques.** For dates, details and registration forms: see our website: www.fsgne.com.

We are already putting together our Spring Class Schedule. On this **topic, we are looking for an instructor for PMC Enameling.** Please contact Nancy & Lisa via email: fsgne@yahoo.com if you can recommend an instructor on this subject. We will have our Spring Schedule available at The 2008 Winter Workshops. Please note: our classes/workshops are open to all FSG members and anyone interested in becoming an FSG member.

We will be hosting another **PMC Certification Class on February 22 - 24, 2008 taught by J. Fred Woell.** Again, Fred has graciously agreed to teach another two-day class in our studio prior to the Certification workshop entitled "**Unconventional Surprises with PMC**" on February 20 & 21. We know it will be his usual fun and educational class! We had a waiting list this summer for the Certification Class and our studio class filled up quickly, so we urge students to sign up early to ensure a spot. Access details and registration information @ www.fsgne.com.

2008 Winter Workshops Finally, Winter Workshops are just around the corner. We are finalizing details which we hope to announce soon % including some surprises! We only have a couple seats remaining. While we have waiting lists for classes, this is the time of year when we receive cancellations % being on the waiting list is the only way to be considered for a seat! If you've already registered and want to know who is attending from your Chapter, please let Nancy know and she can put together a list for you. Attendees will be receiving a packet of information in November which includes maps of the area, schedule of events, etc.

WEST COAST

FOR CHAPTER / WORKSHOP INFORMATION
CONTACT
SUE SIMON 941 383-6485
essimon@prodigy.net
Chapter meets 2 PM, Third Sunday, Sept - May

By
Mary Jane Winstead

The WC Chapter has returned from the summer hiatus with renewed vigor.

We have conducted two metals workshops at the Arts Center Manatee and on Nov. 3 another workshop. Instructor Jim Thobe taught a 2 day lost-wax casting workshop for beginners and midlevel students.

Students learned how to produce shapes in wax, burnout, casting, quenching flask and stone setting. Mary Winstead taught a 1 day workshop on the usage of the oxy-acetylene mini torch.

This was a hands on workshop with students learning the mechanics of how to adjust the oxygen and acetylene regulators, proper flame, and temperature of melting point of different solders.

Diane Reinghard, Saturday, Nov 3 will conduct a wire wrap workshop where participants will be introduced to the basic techniques of wire wrapping. Participants will create a wire wrapped pendant.

Contact Arts Center Manatee and sign up for FSG classes 941-746-2862 or to use the open studio available to members of FSG.

Hyde Park FSG metals studio holds regular classes conducted by Instructor Don Roberts. Don classes are filled to capacity and he has a waiting list as does Instructor Doreen Brinkerhoff. Please contact the Hyde Park Art Studio 813-259-1687.

Vicki London has joined the WC BOD's.

Phil London, FSG founder, has scored another coup. At the urging and request of Phil the Sate of Florida has established that beginning January 7, 2008, that day shall be called "Women in the Arts Day," thank you Phil for your hard work.

In an effort to meet at all of our metals workshops that we have established the WCBOD's met in Bradenton for our October board and membership meeting. We will meet at our Hyde Park facility in the near future and also at the St. Petersburg Arts Center.

David Bewely and committee for the Phil London show November 2008 will shortly send out applications to all FSG members.

Proper paper work for submission of jewelry to be displayed and sold in the FSG showcase at the Florida Craftsmen's Gallery in St. Petersburg is now in the hands of the Chapter Presidents. Contact your chapter president, get your paper completed and send information in. Space is limited so be the first to act and have your creations seen. We encourage emerging and established jewelers to participate.

WC Liberian, Brenda Harrelson is in the process of reworking all video tape resources and changing to CD's and DVD's. Please contact Brenda with any resource request@ baubleheaven@yahoo.com



WC Board of Director's working together at Oct 7, meeting Sue, Ron, Gini, David, Jim, Ann, Robert and Brenda.

**SouthEast by
Tracy Egert**

FOR CHAPTER / WORKSHOP INFORMATION
CONTACT

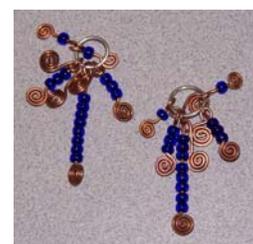
Tracy Egert (954) 680-3417
tnje@bellsouth.net



Presently searching for a new location
for meeting



Whew! John Cogswell was here last weekend for a four-day workshop. John is so wonderful! I don't need to tell that to any of you who have had the opportunity to take a workshop with him but to those of you who haven't I can only say that if you get the chance to get to a workshop with John "just do it" you'll learn so much. Our workshop this weekend was Box Construction, Hinges and Clasp. John demonstrated every step with patient, thorough explanations. He shared many great tips and tricks that will save us time, money and many errgghs and uuggghs. We are looking forward to having John back next year for another wonderful workshop adventure.



Last month SE chapter member Terry Walker presided over a one-day workshop at ArtServe on creating a pair of fun earrings. She did a great job of presenting the basics and then suggesting possible variations to get our creative juices flowing. Flow they did as several members constructed their own creative designs.



Our Fall Social will take place on Sunday November 4th in the gallery at ArtServe. The theme for our "friendly competition" is "Metals and Beyond". We are looking forward to many creative entries.



**FSG 2008 MEMBERSHIP DUES
DUE JANUARY 1, 2008**
\$40.00 SINGLE - \$60.00 DUAL
\$20.00 STUDENT (18+ - F/T)
FSG, ATTN: JM DESPIEGLER
719 CENTRAL AVENUE
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33701

The BULLETIN of the Florida Society of Goldsmiths is published quarterly by the Florida Society of Goldsmiths, Inc., 719 Central avenue, St. Petersburg, FL 33701, for its membership. All names, addresses, telephone numbers, trade names or other identifications are for the exclusive use of the membership and may not be used for commercial solicitation without the prior written permission from the Florida Society of Goldsmiths.

DEADLINES for submissions:
 January 15 for February [Winter]
 April 15 for May [Spring]
 July 15 for August [Summer]
 October 15 for November [Fall]

Editor: Arnold Lasris

Contributors:

Susan Wilson	JM DeSpeigler
Sandra Passerallo	Tom Benham
Beth Katz	Kay Benham
Tracey Egert	Arnold Lasris
Stephanie Ritchie	Mary Winstead

METALSMITHING CLASSES

PHYLLIS ANNUNZIATO	561.997.6148
THE ARTS CENTER (St. Pete)	727.822.7872
ATLANTA Jewelers School	800.453.7608
C. BAUER Studio	212.643.8913
BOCA MUSEUM ART SCHOOL	561.392.2503
CAROLINE GANGI	201.567.0479
DUNCONOR WORKSHOPS	719.539.7519
HELEN HOWELL	386.734.6878
BARBARA JOINER	704.837.9778
BETH KATZ	954.747.1919
REVERE ACADEMY	415.391.4179
TAMPA REC. DEPT.	813.259.1687
STEWARTS Int'l. School	800.843.3409
MARY S. WEBB	904.427.2527

FSG MEMBERS GALLERY . . .

Members may have their own page on the FSG website including a short bio, your artist statement and up to three (3) images with a direct link to your website or email address. For only \$40 per year. Send check payable to: FSG, 719 Central Ave., St. Petersburg, FL 33701. Send images and content for your gallery page to Loren Damewood, lorenzo@golden-knots.com.

Questions?

727.822.7872 or
 fsgjm@earthlink.net.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY



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or at FSG's website: www.fsg4u.com

Southeast Chapter

BETH KATZ

954.575.1098 - bethkatz@aol.com

Bench Tips from Alan Revere

Preparing Cup Burs

Polishing Cup Burs

Whenever you rub a steel tool against a gemstone, you risk scratching the stone. Whether it is a file or a burnisher or a cup bur, if the surface of the tool is rough, the risk of damage is high.

Unfortunately most factory tools are not finished sufficiently and require some fine tuning at your bench before putting them to use. Just as finishing files are prepared with a polished safe edge for working around stones, and burnishers are always polished to impart a polish, so should cup burs be finished, to avoid damaging stones.

Every time you use a new cup bur, take a moment to polish the end first. Place the bur in the hand piece of your flexible shaft machine and hold the flat end against some 4/0 polishing paper. Spin the bur and polish the end, avoiding contact with the interior cuts of the bur. Now when you use this bur to work around prongs, even if the it accidentally touches the stone, there is far less risk of scratching it.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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Bench Tips - Contenti Company

Working like a Clock - October '07

When using multiple pliers and hand tools, place them in the same order before you on your workspace. You can use the numbers on a clock as a reference, placing tools at the 9, 12, and 3 o'clock positions with your workspace as the center. You'll soon become accustomed to the placement of your tools and not have to take your eyes off of your work to pick them up when you need them.

Submitted by: Bonnie Elliott

Homemade Heat shield - September '07

Soldering links (or other elements) to fine chain can be difficult to accomplish without over-heating the chain itself. To protect the chain during soldering, use a small scrap of copper or brass sheet supported in locking tweezers as a heat shield. Position the chain so that it is behind the heat shield with the link to be soldered sticking out slightly. Bring your torch flame from the same direction as the heat shield such that it reaches the link but is deflected by the shield from overheating the chain. This trick works especially well with larger torches that don't have small/precise soldering tips. Submitted by: Sondra Sherman

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Bench Tips - Contenti Company

Alternative Soldering support - August '07

When positioning oddly shaped or delicate parts for soldering, using a "third arm" or binding wire is not always the best approach. For these difficult soldering jobs, try using scrap pieces of copper to keep your parts in place. Just bend the copper scraps into table or sling-like shapes to support your pieces, then coat them with a solder-flow prevention compound such as liquid correction fluid (e.g. WhiteOut™). The copper supports will keep your parts positioned, while the coating prevents solder from adhering to the copper. This technique works especially well with parts that are impossible to bind together with traditional binding wire. Submitted by: Marilyn Nicholson (Taos Jewelry School)

Never Lose Your Chuck Key Again - October '06

Constantly misplacing your flexshaft chuck key? A retractable id badge holder or retractable key chain is the perfect solution to this all-too-common problem. One costs only a few dollars, can be easily secured to your bench top and has a long stainless steel cable with a sturdy locking ring at the end. Simply attach the base to your bench (or any other convenient place) and secure your chuck key with the lock ring. You'll never waste time searching for the key under a pile of tools again. Submitted by: R.E. Rourke

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