

Sawing

Instructor: Deb Jemmott ©1998 rev. 2005

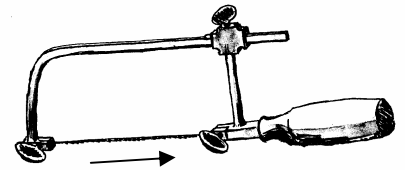
Sawframe: Should be adjustable with a 4" - 5" depth

Sawblades: Range in size from 8/0 (VERY fine) to 14 (VERY coarse).

Rule of thumb: At least 2 sawblade teeth should be in the metal at all times. Sizes 1, 1/0, and 2/0 are best for most jewelry work.

Beeswax/Bur-Life: Use as a lubricant for the sawblade.

Benchpin: A piece of wood with a "V" groove in it used to support the metal while sawing.



sawblade teeth - outward
and toward the handle

Attaching the Blade

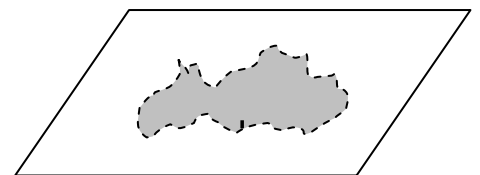
- Loosen the jaw nuts on both ends of the sawframe.
- Insert the blade all the way into the top jaw nut. The teeth should face outward and toward the handle.
- Tighten the top jaw nut.
- Adjust the sawframe so the blade almost or just barely touches the bottom nut of the sawframe.
- Compress the sawframe against the benchpin while simultaneously inserting the blade into the bottom nut and tightening.
- Release the pressure slowly.
- The blade should "ping" when plucked. A tight sawblade will result in more successful sawing and less blade breakage.

Sawing

- Keep the blade perpendicular to the sawing surface at all times. If the blade is at an angle, it may become pinched and break.
- Saw in the "V" groove area of the benchpin. This will support the metal on both sides and help keep the sawblade from becoming pinched in the metal.
- Downward and forward pressure should be minimal to almost none. Saw slowly and deliberately. Use the entire blade length.
- Do not back a blade out of an incomplete cut. To remove a blade from a cut line, loosen a nut and pull the blade through the cut. To reinsert the blade, act like you are re-sawing the line.
- For sharp corners, turn the blade in place -- while moving it up and down, but not forward -- until the desired angle is achieved. Then continue sawing.

Piercing

- Center punch in the negative area of the design.
- Drill a small hole.
- Insert the sawblade through the hole.
- Saw on the waste side of the line. (Inside dotted line)



A Final Note: Sawblades can wear out! If the blade curls when it is loosened, it is worn out! Take it out, throw it away, and get a new one.