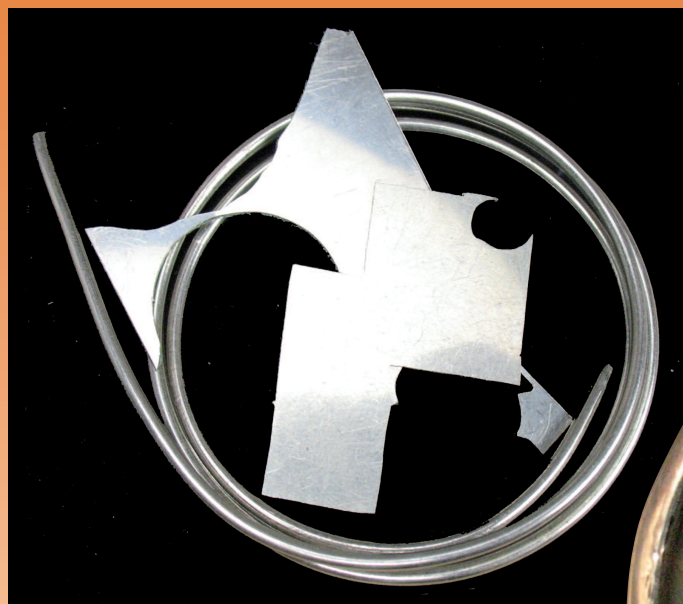


NEW SERIES ARTICLE

stoneset jewellery making

Jewellery has been worn by man through the ages whether it was for pure adornment, as a protective talisman or amulet, a symbol of wealth or because something caught our eye.



Raw materials of silver sheet and wire.



Completed silver mount of tigereye cab pendant.

Hung around our necks, wrists, fingers or toes made from sinew leather twine or metal with or without stones.

The techniques for creating jewellery have evolved over time it's self, borrowing skills from other metal working trades, although technology has provided better tools and refined techniques for production it's only in the last few years where technological advancements have produced tools that have given craftsmen the flexibility to create pieces in different ways and enabling more efficient and cost effective ways of repairing and finishing creations.

In turn this is making the separation between jewellery designer and craftsman more

apparent, with some designers never seeing the jewellers bench.

Computer aided designs are abundant and a different set of skills are

Citrine pendant in silver mount.

developing where hand tools have been replaced by computer equipment, a design is draw on a computer and created on a milling machine or by forming a wax model via a specialised printing machine.

How 'handcrafted' will jewellery be over the coming years?

We're going to be including articles on various techniques and production methods, with our focus on incorporating cut stones, minerals, fossils.

As fashion and tradition dictate the demand for jewellery is relentless whether a crystal healing practitioner suggests a client wear an unusual mineral, a past life regressionist suggests carrying a fossil or a spring coloured stone is required to co-ordinate with the latest outfit, it's inevitably the independent jeweller that receives the request however practical, knocking on his door.

He has the diplomatic task of managing the customer's expectation and maybe offering more practical alternatives. Then he must give an agreeable quote for his time and materials.

Not forgetting the current enthusiasm for people to unleash their own creative talents by attending a local jewellery making class and understanding the many steps and techniques required to create a simple stone set masterpiece.



We often think of using metals such as silver, gold, platinum however a growing trend is to use other metals such as brass, copper, steel and also to recycle and re invigorate jewellery and items of sentimental value into more contemporary designs which will spend more time outside of the dusty jewellery box!

We'll start off our series in the next issue with creating a cabochon set pendant, from a sheet of metal, as always there's tips, tricks and ways to make the whole process more efficient. If you want to create the same design without starting from scratch each time there's ways to make it happen.

Steve