

Notes from Sam

Regarding stones-

Rose cut or faceted stones in the 7-9 mm size or larger but not larger than 20 mm. Stones for sale during the workshop will be available as well.

Regarding metals-

I usually work off from a larger sheet of 22k gold and cut my bezel stripes from that. I bring a decent sized sheet to the workshop and we can weigh and keep track of what people are using and charge at cost at the end of the workshop.

I use 29 gauge and 30 gauge 22k gold sheet, 24 gauge and 28 gauge silver sheet. I like palladium silver for the bases rather than regular sterling in hopes it won't tarnish behind the transparent gems. If doing all gold pieces, I also use 28 gauge 18k for seats and bases or 18k palladium white gold in 28 gauge for bases behind stones I want to keep the color more true. 18k gold or sterling silver tubes for setting small round stones are used as spacers between settings. Gold or silver solder will be used as required.

Regarding gems, class participants may bring whatever they want to work with. I can also get some less expensive stones to bring along and sell people at cost. Anything faceted is great practice in squares, ovals, rectangles, tear drops, marquises, or hexagons.

Pearls or rough gems with uneven surfaces are always good as well. I will bring some for demos. I just searched gems on Rio Grande and they do have some kite shapes, hexagons and elongated hexagons. That is a source is a source for fun shapes to work with. They aren't too terribly expensive depending on the gems.

More on stones from Sam:

Full faceted stones are great because making the interior seat is a good skill to practice. The taller the stone depth the taller the bezel will need to be, which will be a little more expensive if gold. Something to keep in mind. The geometric shapes are often rose cut, so flat on the bottom and angular sides.

Something around 9mm x 7mm is a nice size to work with. They get tricky when the stones and settings are really small or really big. Even something around 20mm is a nice size to work with. When I say really big I mean like 2 or 3 inches.

Matched pairs are also nice for studs or other kind of earrings. Making sure the settings look the same is a good exercise.

Hope this is helpful. I know participants want requirements far ahead of time so they know what to expect.