

A Basic Tool Set for Jewelers

Posted by Gerald Livings

Learning Outcome: I would like you, my visitor, to gain some familiarity with the basic tools of making jewelry, and to be able to start building a set for yourself without spending huge amounts of money. By understanding what the tools do, you will see their value as you start your journey as a jeweler. This blog post is called "A Basic Tool Set for Jewelers" and that is what it is. The bare minimum of what you need is listed below as a shopping list.

This is my list for starting tools. I figure that if you spend as much as possible, you can buy these for \$600 to \$700.

That being said, most of these can be found on sale with some looking online. I recommend looking at used tool stores, Resale shops like Good Will, Restore, Saint Vincent's.

Also join a couple of used tools groups on Facebook. There are some that are specific to jewelers and jewelry tools. I have found that many of these Facebook groups have listings that are a bit high. Always ask if they can drop the price a bit. Most sellers are open to this.

I would hope that with a little effort, you can drop the price of your basic tool set to the \$350 ballpark give or take a little bit.

If you buy used, you might have to do a little maintenance to get the tools to where you can use them. Invest in some sandpaper and some urethane for tool handles.

First, you need a place to work.

I suggest that you purchase a can of urethane, a brush or two, and a two-foot by two-foot sheet of 3/4 inch plywood. Sand the surface to remove splinters and sharp edges and give it several coats of urethane. Lay this on top of your table on an old towel as a cushion and it makes a great portable workspace. All told this will cost about \$25

There are some blank rows at the bottom to record other items you might find useful.

What to look for...	Cost	Notes
A 2X2 foot section of 3/4 inch plywood		
Bench pin and clamp		
Adjustable saw frame		
Saw blades for jewelers' saw		
1. Flat-Nose pliers		
2. Chain-Nose pliers		
3. Flat/Half-Round pliers		
4. Round-Nose Pliers		
5. Bow Closing Pliers		
6. Half-Round/Hollow pliers		
Side Cutters		

What to look for...	Cost	Notes
brass hammer		
steel hammer		
Rawhide mallet		
Utility tweezers assortment		
#2-cut hand file: Flat		
#2-cut hand file: half-round		
#2-cut hand file: square		
#2-cut hand file: barrette		
Chain-saw Sharpening files		
Needle files: half-round		
Needle files: three-square		
Needle files: equaling		
Needle files: round		
Needle files: square		
Ear plugs or earmuffs		
File cleaning brush		
ring clamp		
Bezel / prong-pusher		
Burnisher		
Slim-leg divider		
Sliding brass pocket caliper		
Steel ring mandrel, without groove		
Steel bench block		
Archimedes Drill with spring		
High-speed twist drill bits		

What to look for...	Cost	Notes
Beeswax or a candle stub		
light-duty, straight-blade shear		
18mm triplet loupe, 10X		
dust masks		
Latex / nitrile / vinyl gloves box of 100		
Finger Protective Tape		
Safety glasses		
Denim work apron		
Polishes Rouge & Tripoli		
Sink Screen		