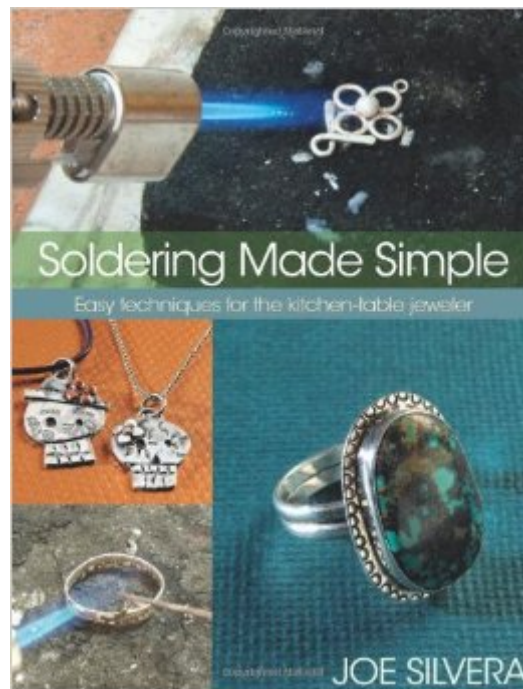


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Soldering Made Simple: Easy Techniques For The Kitchen-table Jeweler



Synopsis

This book is the complete guide to simple soldering. Soldering Made Simple takes all the mystery and fear out of soldering so that amateur jewelry makers — even those who have never held a torch — feel empowered and confident. Friendly and thorough instructional text and step-by-step photos help readers build skills gradually, which they can then employ with the included projects. Joe Silvera presents soldering techniques that use a simple setup, a handheld butane torch that is safe and easy to operate, and a few other supplies.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The subtitle of this book is "Easy techniques for the kitchen-table jeweler" and it is aptly named! This book could easily serve as a self-contained course for new metalsmiths learning jewelry techniques. It contains all the details, with excellent photographs, that can assist a newcomer to learn soldering techniques with real confidence. The fact that the author doesn't insist on an expensive torch set-up but uses butane torches is a real plus for the kitchen-table jeweler. I have paid for courses that contain less information than I gained from the first 25 pages of this book! In addition to soldering techniques, the author includes chapters on sawing, filing, drilling, dapping, polishing and the use of patinas. All of these techniques are also taught in enough detail to answer all the questions I ever had. Finally, there are projects that introduce cumulative soldering techniques that result in hollow metal beads, a box clasp, a bezel-set stone and mixed metal jewelry. These are not trivial projects! I look forward to making all of these pieces and increasing my skills. This is a fantastic book!

This book is great for someone new to soldering. It is filled with clear explanations which are

supported by full-color illustrations or photographs. The first half of the book is excellent and focuses on tools, materials, and techniques which are all explained in detail. The second half of the book contains instructions for 12 projects to try, each successively more skill-building. Again, the process explanations are clear and well photographed. In addition to thorough technical instructions, the author additionally benefits the reader by sharing many nuances of the craft. His explanations plant detailed tid-bits of knowledge that would normally be gained through first hand experience. A well done book and highly recommended for anyone looking to learn about soldering.

As a "kitchen table jeweler" for three years, I have learned a great deal from Joe Silvera's written instructions from classes and from this book. New jewelers have a hard time finding good, clear instruction on soldering and many jewelry instructors are inexperienced with micro torches. This book clarifies the pluses and minuses of micro torches as well as soldering. Additionally this book contains excellent instruction for successful soldering projects. You will surely find something here that is useful to you unless you are already a master metalsmith. Two of the jewelry magazines have recently examined micro torches in depth, but this book puts the torch with the solder project. Very helpful--and I'm not a beginner. The only downside is that now my supplier is out of micro torches.

This is a great book. It is very thorough. It covers the tools your need and how to work with them safely. Joe goes over torches - how to fill them and how to light them. There are some great pictures that show the difference between an oxidizing, neutral, and reducing flame and when to use them. He covers various soldering surfaces and what they can be used for. Joe covers the different solders and when to use them, flux, pickle, and how to deal with fire scale. Joe also shows you how to set up your workstations to work safely. There are diagrams that show the various heating patterns you use to soldering different configurations of metal. These help increase your understanding of how heat flows and where to direct it to successfully solder. Besides soldering, Joe covers annealing metal, hammer, filing, drilling, sawing, making jump rings, polishing and patinas. I really like the polishing sections because he shows you various attachments for the flex shaft and gives an explanation of how they can be used. There are 12 projects ranging from simple earrings to charms, pendants, rings, bezel setting stones, making beads and creating a box clasp. I really like the ring projects but I'm into the idea of making rings right now. One is a great textured ring with borders and the other is a bezel set turquoise featured on the cover. Also included in the book is a section on how to choose bezel wire, sizing a ring and a great chart which tells you how long to cut

your ring blank based on ring size and metal gauge.

I had a friend teach me to solder with a butane torch last year. But after our day together I was on my own. A lot of questions came up here and there, and so I ordered this book. It is wonderful. Not only does it teach the basics of soldering, but the pictures are good quality, the instructions are simple and to the point and it gives you tips on all aspects of beginning to metalsmith. I loved it, it answered the question I had and has a lot of great references. I just bought a flex shaft for my dremel and there is even two pages devoted to polishing and using them. He offers lists of tools, what they do and how to use them. I just love this book, and I would recommend it to anyone learning to solder.

I've been trying to teach myself how to solder for several months now with very little success. After reading just the first few sections of "Soldering Made Simple", I was able to apply the information and successfully complete several projects. The book covers all the details that most books leave out - the look of the correct flame and how to direct the torch, the importance of cleaning, the different types of soldering platforms, etc. I also loved the fact that his book focuses on using a butane torch, making it clear that many soldering projects can be accomplished without investing in the complex torch setups used by the more serious jewelry maker. All in all, I would highly recommend this book to any beginner who's been struggling with soldering. The author has indeed made it "simple".

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