



Elemental Clasps, Bails and Findings Workshop
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Visiting Artist Master Class Program
Mid Cornwall School of Jewellery
July 31 – August 2, 2013



The distinction of well-made clasps and findings is in the design and details; simplicity, beauty, and functionality.

This three day applied technique workshop focuses on finesse and the finishing touch of creating purposeful handmade findings to complete and compliment your jewelry designs.

This class provides an overview of tools and techniques for making finely finished components directly in metal. Utilizing skills of forging, forming, bending, shaping, filing, sawing, and piercing, students construct samples of clasps, bails, findings, links, attachments and connectors in copper and fine silver. Instruction includes tips on practicality of design, functionality, making multiples, developing and refining production process, along with useful information on studio organization and bench tips from a professional goldsmith.

Projects include: Shepherd's hook and eye clasp, S clasp, Omega clasp, Toggle clasp, Pierced sheet clasp, Domed sheet bail, Forged wire bail, Carved bail, Figure 8 links, assorted jump rings, connectors, and demonstration of various cones and end caps.

Our studio time will include an opportunity for independent exploration and experimentation through modification of traditional clasp and finding models and development of new concepts for individual projects. Bring your ideas to the workshop for collaboration and further development and refinement.

Students will need the following tools:

properly finished goldsmith hammer, small nylon mallet
steel bench block or small anvil
jeweler's saw frame, 1/0, 3/0, 5/0 saw blades, candle wax
wooden bench pin and C clamp
#2 hand files; barrette, half round
#2 needle files; barrette, half round, square, flat, triangle, crossing
#2 escapement files (optional)
steel ring mandrel, round bezel mandrel
dividers, scribe, mm ruler, dial calipers or digital calipers
standard 5 inch pliers: flush side-cutting, chain nose, flat nose, round nose, half round/flat ring holding pliers, parallel jaw pliers
writing materials, fine-tip permanent marker

This work requires proper magnification for very close work, at 7-8 inches from tip of nose as well as longer range work at 12-14 inches. I suggest reading glasses in two strengths are preferable to optivisor type devices for comfort during extended wear.