

SOLID BACK PRONG SETTING

MATERIALS:

- Flat backed stone or object
- Silver sheet for backing
- Silver wire
size and dimensions depend on the stone or object to be set

TOOLS

- Piercing saw
- Scribe or pen
- Files
- Soldering equipment
- Hammer
- Mandrel
- Bezel pusher
- Emery paper
- Polishing/finishing materials



1. Decide on the shape for the backing for your stone. This may follow the shape of the stone or be completely different. The back piece needs to be slightly bigger all round than the stone.
2. Do all shaping,, piercing and decoration for your backing piece.
3. Put your stone in position and draw around it with pencil or marker pen – do not scribe as this will be visible once the stone is set.
4. Decide where the prongs to hold the stone will be positioned. The number of prongs is dictated by the size and shape of the stone. Use at least four. It needs to be held securely in all directions.
5. Mark your positions for the prongs.
6. Choose and cut wire lengths to create the prongs. You can use any shape or diameter of wire. They need to reach across the stone to hold it securely, again the length is dictated by the stone. Cut them a little long as they can be trimmed later.
7. Solder the prongs in position. Pickle and rinse.
8. Slot the stone into position and check the fit. It should sit snugly between the prongs and not slide out. If necessary add or move the prongs to make a good fit.
9. Sand and give a first polish.
10. Slot the stone into position. Adjust the length of the prongs if necessary and file and finish the ends.
11. Remove the stone and give it a final polish, taking care not to damage the delicate prongs.
12. Replace the stone and gently bend the prongs over the stone. Take your time. Use a bezel pusher, pliers or a small hammer to move the prongs into position. The prongs should hold the stone securely with no wobbles.