

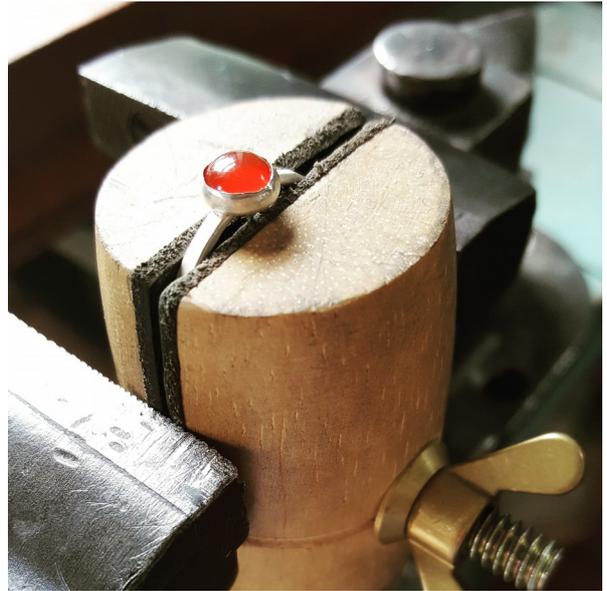
BASIC BEZEL SETTING

MATERIALS:

- Sheet silver to back the stone. The thickness of the silver should be proportionate to the size of stone
- Fine bezel silver strip or 0.3mm fine silver sheet
- stone

TOOLS

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



5mm carnelian round cabochon ring

This simple bezel setting method will work for any flat backed cabochon stone or item – buttons, sea glass, pebbles, pieces of wood or plastic or enamelled copper can all be used.

1. Take a length of bezel strip or fine silver sheet and wrap around your stone or object. Aim for a snug fit.
2. Mark where it overlaps and cut with snips. File the ends flush.
3. You may need to trim the height of the bezel. It should come up to the 'shoulder' of your stone.
4. Bend and solder the inside of the join with hard solder. Don't worry too much about the shape, just focus on getting the join secure. Pickle and rinse.
5. File or sand away any lumps and bumps of solder from the inside of the bezel.
6. Reshape the bezel around your stone. Use your fingers to stretch and shape the soft silver to fit snugly.
7. Place a piece of emery paper flat on the workbench and use it to sand the bezel edges flat and smooth. If you need to adjust the height of the bezel keep sanding until it fits.
8. To make the backing, cut a piece of sheet silver slightly bigger than your bezel. Do any stamping, piercing or other decoration before the bezel is soldered on.
9. Place the bezel on the backing, make sure it sits snugly with no gaps.
10. Place portions of medium solder around the inside of the bezel and solder the joins. Aim to solder from underneath to avoid melting the bezel. Pickle and rinse.
11. Trim away the extra backing and file and sand to finish neatly.
12. Apply the bezel to your piece and add any findings or fixings.

14. Place you stone into your setting. It should sit snugly and flat against the base.

15. Use a bezel pusher or rocker to start to close the bezel around the stone. Work from opposite sides to get it even all the way round. Use a clock face pattern. Start with 12 and 6, then 3 and nine. Then work between those points methodically. Once you have an even pattern you can work around the piece with the pusher refining the bezel setting. If you are working on a stone with sharp corners start with these as they are trickiest.

16. Use a burnisher to continue pushing the bezel around the stone. Rub it along and around the mount to get it all smooth, flat and neat and to harden and burnish the soft silver.

17. Polish if necessary.