

METALS GUIDE

Each metal has different uses and different properties. Most are available in many forms – sheet, wire, rod, tube and as ready made findings and details.

The table gives you a basic guide to the properties and uses of the metals you will come across during the course.

Brass, copper and aluminium are available for you to use and experiment with. When you are ready to start working in silver or have specific requirements see the buying guide for the best places to purchase metals.

METAL	ALLOY	MELTING TEMP	SOLDER WITH	OTHER INFO
COPPER	copper	1085°	Silver solder	Suitable for enamelling Not ideal for skin contact. A good stand in for silver for practice
BRASS	Copper + zinc	940°	Silver solder	Not suitable for enamelling. Work hardens quickly
ALUMINIUM	aluminium	660°	Not suitable for soldering	Soft and malleable Not suitable for enamelling
FINE SILVER	silver	960°	Silver solder – easy and medium	Soft, ideal for stone setting, chasing and repousse. Does not tarnish. Used in PMC and Art Clay
STERLING SILVER	92.5% silver + 7.5% copper	893°	Silver solder	Harder than fine silver. Suitable for enamelling.
GOLD	Gold (+ silver, nickel, zinc or copper depending on colour and carat)	970° (depending on colour and carat)	Appropriate gold solder for metal carat.	Suitable for enamelling