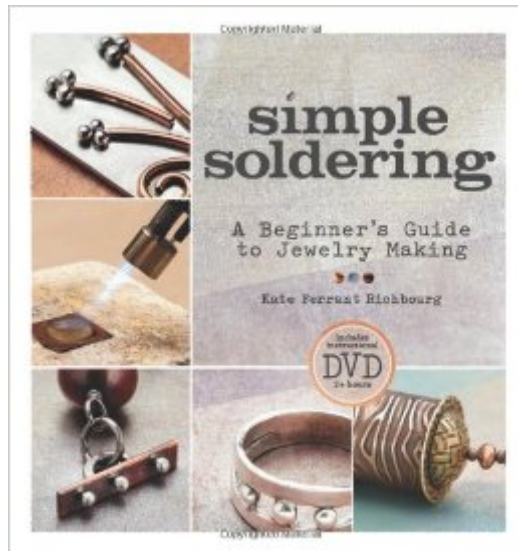


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Simple Soldering: A Beginner's Guide To Jewelry Making



Synopsis

Metalworking is generally regarded as a skill that takes years of dedication, requires a large studio space, and costs a lot of money. Fortunately, Simple Soldering proves that does not need to be the case. This handy how-to guide is complete in its exploration of the craft of creating soldered metal jewelry, including tools, techniques, and 20 beautiful projects that beginners and enthusiasts can make at home. Author and teacher Kate Richbourg demystifies basic soldering for any home crafter, showing how to create sophisticated, polished, and professional-looking jewelry pieces through simple soldering techniques. First, she instructs how to set up a jewelry workspace that fits the confines of your budget and living space. Detailed step-by-step instructions walk you through the basic tools and materials you need, plus how to use them. A sample chapter gives a host of introductory exercises that teach solid skills, allowing you to test these techniques on a small scale. Finally, you'll discover 20 finished projects that include earrings, pendants, rings, bracelets, and clasps that may also include bead or wire embellishment. Kate also demonstrates how to combine and layer techniques to gorgeous effect. She also examines common mistakes, shows how to correct or adapt them, and gives advice on when it's time to start over. Most of all, having taught thousands of classes on soldering, Kate has a "you can do it!" attitude that shines through to help even the most reluctant jewelry maker fire up the torch with ease. Paired with an instructional DVD, Kate's expert teaching skills will help projects come alive, right in your own studio. With Simple Soldering, the art of metal working one-of-a-kind jewelry is now at your fingertips.

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Customer Reviews

I took a soldering class from Kate this past summer and bought her book to have on hand as a reference. It is simply fabulous!! If you've never soldered metal to make jewelry, you can pick up this book, get your tools and supplies in order and get started. Kate begins with the very basic step of setting up your soldering space. Every tool or supply you will need is listed, along with a clear picture of each item and a description. This style is continued throughout the book, with detailed instructions and clear pictures for each step. Her pictures truly show what you need to know and do, from the perspective of a person attempting to make a piece, not all that easy to accomplish. I love that she's set up "sampler squares" that show specific techniques that are later referenced in the projects. These go beyond the basics of soldering and include extras like sawing, riveting, forming domes and more. If that's not enough, a DVD is included for we visual folks. This is an awesome book for learning and to use as a reference - I highly recommend it!!!

I don't often get excited about a book, enough to say I love it, but this is one of those books. In addition, it comes with a DVD of Ms. Richbourg walking you through some of the projects in the book. I knew I liked her teaching style after seeing her demonstrate the micro torch during a free lesson on Craftsby. She is like having a good friend with you showing you the ropes. The book itself is also easy to follow along and has brought me to a level of comfortable beginner after completing the sampler. Now I'm ready to try some more advanced projects. If you have ever given thought to soldering jewelry, please do not hesitate to purchase this book/DVD combo. I can't praise it highly enough.

I don't think I've ever gushed over a jewelry-making book before, but I'm going to gush away over this one. I developed a fear of soldering after watching a classmate set fire to her hair in a community college metalsmithing class, and I hadn't turned on either of my butane torches for over a year because of it. This is the book that got me past my (admittedly overblown) fear. Kate's easygoing writing style and her brilliant re-purposing of the old stitchwork sampler idea were the keys. Working with inexpensive copper squares, and building a library of basic metalworking skills -- that includes the very *idea* of filling and turning on your (butane) torch -- I was able to finally come to terms with using the flame. Once I overcame my fear of the torch, I moved confidently through the rest of the sampler and into the projects. The projects themselves are lovely, and they are open-ended enough that I'm able to adapt them to reflect my own esthetic (and my budget -- as another reviewer noted, they do contain a lot of silver). My computer's player is kaput, so I haven't been able to watch the DVD yet, but I was inspired to buy this book by watching one of Kate's online

video tutorials. Right away I knew her light-hearted but no-nonsense approach would get me over the hump, and that turned out to be the case. I simply can't recommend this book highly enough, especially to beginning jewelers (or jewelers with overgrown phobias, lol).

This book has great photos with clear, well written instructions. I just wish it didn't use so much silver. I teach high school and we only use base metals (copper, nickel, brass) so a lot of this isn't as applicable as I'd like because silver acts so different. But if you want to use silver, it's a great book!

Even those I'm not a soldering beginner I purchased the book to see if there were any tips I might not know. There was. I'm enjoying returning to the basics and simpler jewelry making projects inside.

What a great learning experience!! I have so many books on how to solder and took a class years ago but Kate Richbourg finally showed me that soldering can be easy and fun. I love her approach to learning with the little squares instead of with a wearable project. It sure takes the pressure off! And the DVD. What can I say. Kate is a great teacher and I have her on my list of instructors that I would like to learn from in person! Thanks Kate!

This book gave tons, I mean tons of knowledge. Things I need to learn about soldering and not only that she even teach technique of using dome punch, metal punch, making ear wire...and much much more. If you want to buy a one book that give it all, this is it and it's the best one. I own many jewelry books, as I'm trying to learn new things and technique. I only have a little more technique down for myself which it not worth my money. I took classes and paid lots of money and they only teach 1 and only what that class is for... I often leave feeling like being cheat.. none of them give this much info and details. Oh! and it came with a video that you can watch and see how it's done up close and personal. Her personality is super, she's funny, easy going, calm, words she uses also fun and energetic. She's a total package... love love her. I am now trying to see if she have more books on the market. I can say, I loveeeee her. I can read her books and watch her video over and over again without getting bored. Everyone who's trying to learn Soldering and more other technique should own this book. Worth every single penny, let me tell you.

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