

How to Solder Sterling Silver Jewellery

- Set up a safe area to solder (soldering board or block, borax, tweezers, butane torch, third hand, dish of water, silver solder paste, pickle solution, wire cutters or jewellers saw).
- Use sandpaper to clean up your solder seams.
- Use a third hand to secure the wire from moving, remember solder paste doesn't fill gaps. The two pieces to be soldered together must butt cleanly up against each other.
- Use Borax to protect silver getting black and buried.
- Apply soldering paste.
- Warm your piece up.
- Start to solder.
- Begin heating the metal from a distance so that the heat doesn't cause the flux to bubble. When the flux is dry, it will have a crusty appearance. After turning crusty, it will then become clear and start to melt. Evenly heat both pieces using a circular motion. When the flux turns clear, you can bring the flame closer to the metal. The solder should start to flow, joining the metal it is touching.
- Use pickle solution to clean your piece; never put anything made of steel in the pickle. (I use wooden chopsticks).
- Check your work. If the solder seams are big, use some sandpaper to smooth is down.