



2020 board from left: our treasurer: Kayla Horrell, VP of communications: Sara Rey, VP of partnerships: Victoria Marmolejo, scholarships & grants: Kathleen Turner, President: Christine Lopez, newsletter: Orasa Weldon, President-elect and VP of membership Jennifer DeMoro. And VP of programming: Wade Clar.

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Jewelers Mutual Insurance, Jeanne and Bill Larson,
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Tali Nay, Jennifer DeMoro Fine Jewelry
Chopin Imports and Vanessa Yang.

We Thank you!



In this Issue:

- ✿ Phoebe Shang:
Certified Organic: Jewelry
that Incorporates Organic
Materials in Startling Ways
- ✿ Bench Tips from
Robert Ackermann:
Breaking in New Files.
- ✿ 5 questions for our
long time member Sarah
Andrie.
- ✿ And new member
profile, Kathleen Turner.
And much more.

Top: Cartier platinum, diamond and emerald aigrette. Circa 1925. With inter-changeable green and purple feathers. Photo: Robert Weldon/GIA. Read more about it on page 8.



2020 Board

President: Christine Lopez

President-Elect: Jennifer DeMoro

Past President: Julia Popovich

Treasurer: Kayla Horrell

VP of Communications: Sara Rey

VP of Programming: Wade Clar

VP of Membership: Jennifer DeMoro

Scholarships & Grants: Kathleen Turner

VP of Partnerships: Victoria Marmolejo

Co-VP of Partnerships: Sarah Andrie

Contributors

Robert Ackermann

Bench Tips from Robert Ackermann: Breaking in New Files

Phoebe Shang

Certified Organic: Jewelry that Incorporates Organic Materials in Startling Ways

Judy Colbert

Newsletter Editor

Orasa Weldon

Newsletter Designer

Hello WJA San Diego!



WJA San Diego Chapter President
Christine Lopez

Hello, I am Christine Lopez G.G., A.J.P. and I am your new WJA San Diego President!

I have served on our WJA San Diego Board for several years as President Elect, Membership Chair, and Public Relations Chair. I work as a jewelry designer, gemstone cutter, and instructor at my companies Christini Collection and Facet Force where I have had the opportunity to explore many facets of our industry. I am grateful for how much my time and experience with WJA has helped me grow as an individual, community leader, and entrepreneur.

I am beyond lucky to have the opportunity to work with so many great industry professionals on our board—thank you for giving your time, passion, and expertise to our chapter! I would like to congratulate Jennifer DeMoro, our WJA San Diego President Elect and Membership Chair, for being voted as our 2019 Shining Star! Jennifer will receive her award at WJA's annual In The Spotlight celebration hosted by WJA Boston at Harvard University later this year. Her work for our chapter has been greatly appreciated and we are so proud to have her represent us!

Thank you to everyone who attended our Mineral to Market 2020: Responsible Gemstone Sourcing event on January 29th! We chose to collaborate with Ethical Metalsmith's to create an event focusing on ethical sourcing because many members have told us they care or are eager to learn more. We welcomed Robert Weldon to tell us about today's ethical gemstone market, Cristina Villegas to share her experiences in the ethical mining industry, and I spoke on how gemstones form in Earth. We had a ton of fun discussing ethical sourcing and learned a lot about what the future of ethical gemstones will look like.

With the health of our membership as our top priority, our WJA San Diego board has collectively decided that we will not plan any in-person events until Jewelry Night Out in September unless we are safely able to do so. Moving forward, we will be experimenting and exploring new ways to bring our events online and look forward to making a few exciting announcements soon!

Although this is not how I envisioned the beginning of my term as President, we will evolve with the times and do what we must to ensure this pandemic ends as soon as possible. During these uncertain times, it is my hope that our WJA family remembers the strong community we have built here in San Diego knowing that we can and should reach out to one another on social media and WJA Connect. Always keep in mind that we are all in this together and that you should never hesitate to ask for help if needed.

Thank you everyone for your continued support of our chapter!

Christine

P.S. We are currently looking for individuals and companies to sponsor our chapter's events and member prizes, please reach out to our chapter by emailing us at SanDiegoChapter@WomensJewelryAssociation.com if you are interested in sponsoring us!



Jennifer DeMoro

Our 2019 Shining Star

Jennifer fell in love with jewelry as a young girl of six years old and pursued it as a hobby growing up. It wasn't until the birth of her son in 2013 that she decided to pursue her dream to start her own business, Jennifer DeMoro Jewelry. Jennifer designs inspirational and timeless fine jewelry collections that honor every woman's uniqueness and beauty. Intended to create a meaningful connection with the wearer, Jennifer focuses on classic, modern and elegant jewelry that celebrates a woman's full individual expression.

Since beginning her business Jennifer has immersed herself with the WJA-SD Chapter. For the past two years, she served as an Event Co-Chair and is now looking forward to her new roles as President-Elect and VP of Membership.

WJA has played an important part for her personally and professionally. The mentoring, networking, and educational opportunities that WJA offers have been invaluable to her business and jewelry career.

Congratulations

5 questions for our Member Sarah Andrie



Sarah Andrie.

1. How long have you been in our industry?

I have been in the jewelry industry for about 10 years. I took my first class at Bead It! in Honolulu while earning my Communication degree at the University of Hawaii. After college, I decided to attend the Jewelry Technician Program at Revere Academy in San Francisco. That was the start of my jewelry career taking a professional turn.

2. If you could offer one piece of advice to WJA members, what would it be?

To take advantage of the resources that WJA has to offer, not only with scholarships and grants but also in making connections. We can benefit from many different skill sets and share knowledge with one another. I think it is important to create long lasting industry connections, find valuable mentorship, and build new friendships. As a first-generation jeweler, I am very aware of how vital these relationships are.

3. Who has most influenced you in the jewelry business and why?

I have many significant jewelry industry influences; Jill Barry, Michael Ly, James Deloria. If I had to pick a person who has influenced me most it would be Vance Reusch. After living 6 years in Hawaii, I decided to move back to my home state of Michigan. I responded to a posting for a Master Jeweler position in Petoskey, Michigan. At this point, I had taught some jewelry making classes and apprenticed under a master jeweler but didn't feel I was qualified. The owner, Vance Reusch responded to my application and offered me a shot at a bench test. I was nervous and slow but had great attention to detail, and was very thorough. Vance felt I had potential and offered me the position as the sole goldsmith at Reusch Jewelers which also had a sister location in Charlevoix. Over the next 5 years working for Vance I was continuously inspired by his knowledge at the bench and of gemstones, as he would share with me readily. It was an honor to work for Reusch Jewelers, the establishment has been family owned and operated since 1885. I saw how much he knew from earning his GG that I decided to relocate and earn my GG at the GIA world headquarters in Carlsbad, CA.

4. What do you know now you wish your younger self had known?

I wish I would have known more about sourcing when I first started attending the gem show in Tucson. I am sure I have unintentionally purchased some unethically sourced items in the past due to a complete lack of knowledge and awareness of ethics that surround mining and the communities involved. I am grateful that I have crossed paths with individuals in the industry who have brought more awareness to myself and others. My dad always tells me, "you don't know what you don't know" and sometimes that is a tough pill to swallow once you do know. It is important to learn from mistakes and move forward positively. I am still very young and new in the industry, I have quite a bit to learn.

5. Tell us one more reason of the value behind joining WJA.

WJA has provided me with many wonderful things including friendships, mentors, as well as a scholarship in 2018 that I used towards CAD/CAM at GIA. I feel very grateful to be a part of an inclusive organization that welcomed me with open arms when I relocated to California. Recently, I joined the board as co-chair of partnerships and I couldn't be more excited to return the support. The organization crosses paths with so many different experts in the jewelry industry, you really can't predict who you might meet and who might change your path in a positive way.

My dad always tells me, "you don't know what you don't know" and sometimes that is a tough pill to swallow once you do know. It is important to learn from mistakes and move forward positively."

“WJA is unsurpassed as a networking hub. It provides students with an opportunity to ask advice from people who’ve been on the front lines for quite some time and who’ve worn a variety of hats. Hierarchies between entry-level employees and business owners become blurred, providing both sides with an opportunity to gain valuable insights that would be difficult, if not impossible to acquire in a formal business setting.

WJA meetings are where even the most experienced from the varied fields in this wide and wonderful trade can connect to broaden their views.

And in a huge country like the US, the grants and scholarships provide an opportunity for those who need it most, and who will be needed most in the future: the next generation of jewelry pros.

There’s nothing like sharing a common interest.”

Robert Ackermann is the owner of Les Ateliers, an online school for Jewelry Design & Sketching.

“With WJA, the more you put in, the more you’ll get out! Joining WJA provides a camaraderie and support you receive from very few organizations; the value of being a member is bigger than one realizes. This organization brings you closer to a network and contacts you may not have the chance to meet otherwise. We are a large number, but a closely connected group with bright, influential, and driven men and women. Who wouldn’t want to meet more individuals with a passion for our amazing business?”

San Diego Chapter past President Rebecca Boyajian-Pecnik

Many reasons behind joining WJA.

We are a diverse group of jewelers, artisans, retailers, and educators. Our chapter members are from all over San Diego County. The members of our chapter are engaging, supportive, and committed to helping each other grow in our careers and family businesses. The San Diego chapter hosts both social and educational events throughout the year, encouraging networking, business development, and camaraderie.

“WJA is a unique organization. It provides an opportunity for women to learn and practice leadership skills. It provides the opportunity to be a strong foundation for women and men advancing in the jewelry and gem industry. It balances social activities with philanthropy, social responsibility, and excellence in the jewelry industry. Whether it is with designs, jewelry, or business practices, there are so many avenues to explore. The scholarships and grants are very helpful, too. Once you have been in the industry for a while, become a mentor to new women in the organization and in the industry. It is a rewarding way to give back.”

Dona Dirlam past director of the Richard T. Liddicoat Gemological Library and Information Center.

“The member grants and scholarships. I’ve been fortunate enough to be awarded several member grants through the local chapter and the national organization. Each grant has helped pay to expand my jewelry history library or take courses that have increased my knowledge in that subject area. It’s a great benefit and anyone who is eligible should apply.”

San Diego Chapter past President Judy Colbert

“I witnessed the very formation of the Women’s Jewelry Association, and I have seen it mature! What I have always admired about this formidable group is its clear mandate to be inclusive and nurturing to new members. I have two reasons: WJA mentorship and connections have no equal in the industry.”

Robert Weldon director of the Richard T. Liddicoat Gemological Library and Information Center.

“WJA was not around when I began. It was a very male dominated, intimidating industry. WJA gave me the unique opportunity to make lasting business, as well as personal friendships. Women have an uncanny way to support each other without the competitive spirit that often exists with men. We share and network constructively in this organization, so take advantage of all the opportunities it offers.”

San Diego Chapter past President and Co-founder Barbara Wasserstrom



Kathleen Turner



Kathleen Turner

Name | Kathleen Turner

Hometown | San Diego, California

Skills | Appraiser and owner of Cal Coast Jewelry Appraisers in Carlsbad, CA.

Favorite Gemstone | Pink Spinel, Pink Tourmaline, Pink Sapphire

If you ask most 18-year-olds what they want to do with their lives, they would probably answer, “I don’t know”. But this wasn’t the case for Kathleen Turner, who at 18 years old fell in love with the jewelry industry and has not looked back since. Today Kathleen owns Cal Coast Jewelry Appraisers in Carlsbad, CA.

Kathleen began her jewelry journey at Famulare Jewelers where she learned all facets of the business including design, retail sales and appraisals. The owner, Rita Famulare, took Kathleen under her wing and has been a mentor and inspiration ever since. She even gave Kathleen a full ride scholarship to GIA for the Graduate Gemologist Program. Kathleen continued her education by earning an AA in Merchandise Marketing, and is soon to be an accredited Senior Appraiser through ASA (American Society of Appraisers).

As for her career goals, Kathleen plans to expand her appraisal business to include more master gemologists, appraisers and a sales person. She has a self described passion for teaching people about the appraisal industry. Her hard work has not gone unnoticed as she recently won the Rising Star Award in 2019 from the American Society of Appraisers.

Kathleen’s main purpose in joining WJA was to network with other members and help our local San Diego chapter to grow. She believes the organization is a great place for the beginner as well as the more accomplished jewelry professional. Most recently Kathleen became VP of Grants and Scholarships on our current board.

We are so lucky to have Kathleen as a WJA member! Welcome to the board!

“Main purpose in joining WJA was to network with other members and help our local San Diego chapter to grow.”

By Jennifer DeMoro

President Elect, VP of Membership

By Phoebe Shang

Certified Organic: Jewelry that Incorporates Organic Materials in Startling Ways



Whether it's pearl, ivory or amber, part of the appeal of organic materials is their uniqueness and the thought that they were once part of a living thing. Pearl, ivory and amber are just the start, however. Jewelers, both ancient and modern, have incorporated even more unusual organic materials in their jewelry. Some of these items, such as human hair, have gone out of fashion. Others, thanks to technology, are just coming into vogue.

Below: Bracelet (England or United States), circa 1837. Band of tightly braided brown human hair hinged with gold mounts to oval framed decoration of pearls, paillettes, hair and the initials MAS in form of horn-of-plenty. Image: Public domain.

Top: Cartier platinum, diamond and emerald aigrette. Circa 1925. With inter-changeable green and purple feathers. Photo: Robert Weldon/GIA.

Hair Jewelry

The rage for hair jewelry was short-lived, but while it lasted, hair jewelry was so popular that making them was considered a common household art. Queen Victoria started the trend when she wore Prince Albert's hair in a heart locket throughout their engagement and continued wearing it even after his death. Hair jewelry thus became tokens of affection and remembrance and were worn by lovers, friends, and family members alike. Wreaths containing family members' hair decorated parlor walls, and friends wore each other's hair in the same way that friends might wear friendship bracelets now. These lockets of hair were braided, arranged into floral patterns, or even basket-woven into 3-D art and then set into earrings, brooches, necklaces, and





Top: Hair ornament (China), circa. 1900. Kingfisher plaque of conventional fruit or leaf design in openwork. Silk covered wire on back for attachment to Manchu head-dress. Medium is kingfisher feathers on lacquer backing with silk-covered wire. Image: Public domain.

bracelets decorated with gold, pearls and other precious stones. The fashion spread throughout Europe and even travelled overseas to the States during the Civil War but declined as fashion tastes changed and a concern for hygiene arose.

Feathers

Feathers have always been popular as adornments on hats and headbands or more recently as centerpieces on bohemian earrings. There are two unique ways in which feathers are used, however, that are little-known.

The first is tian-tsui, an ancient Chinese art that was practiced for over 2,000 years. It involved using the electric blue feathers of the kingfisher bird to inlay hairpins, headdresses, and necklaces. The feathers were cut to fit delicate silver backings in the shapes of curlicues, flower petals, and leaves and then glued on. Kingfisher hairpins were highly-valued because kingfisher feathers produced a color and finish more brilliant and glimmering than any that enamel could produce. This art ended, however, with the Chinese Revolution in the 1940s.

A modern take on feather jewelry is Boucheron's "Coquette Powderpuff" parure, part of the Le Jeu de la Seduction

collection inspired by Marie Antoinette's dressing room. The necklace consists of three spiky puffs of white feathers littered with pink, purple and blue sapphires. A five-carat oval sapphire nestles into the large center puff. The wonder of the piece is that the feathers are inserted into the gem, so that the gems float on top of the light, playful puffs of feathers, meant to resemble Marie Antoinette's powder puff coated with powder.

Petals

Besides feathers, petals are another unexpected organic element that Boucheron has incorporated into its jewelry. Artists have, for millennia, attempted to preserve the beauty of flowers by pressing them under glass or between books or by drowning them in resin. Boucheron, however, has succeeded in preserving flowers without the use of pigments or chemicals, and has incorporated real petals in its fine jewelry collection, Nature Triomphante. This collection consists of 9 titanium rings coated with colorful flower petals. These petals are topped with gems such as padparadscha sapphires, diamonds, and black spinels. While this collection is a triumph of nature, it is also a triumph of human ingenuity.



Top: Pendant, circa 1910 (France), gold, enamel and tooth. Image: Public domain.

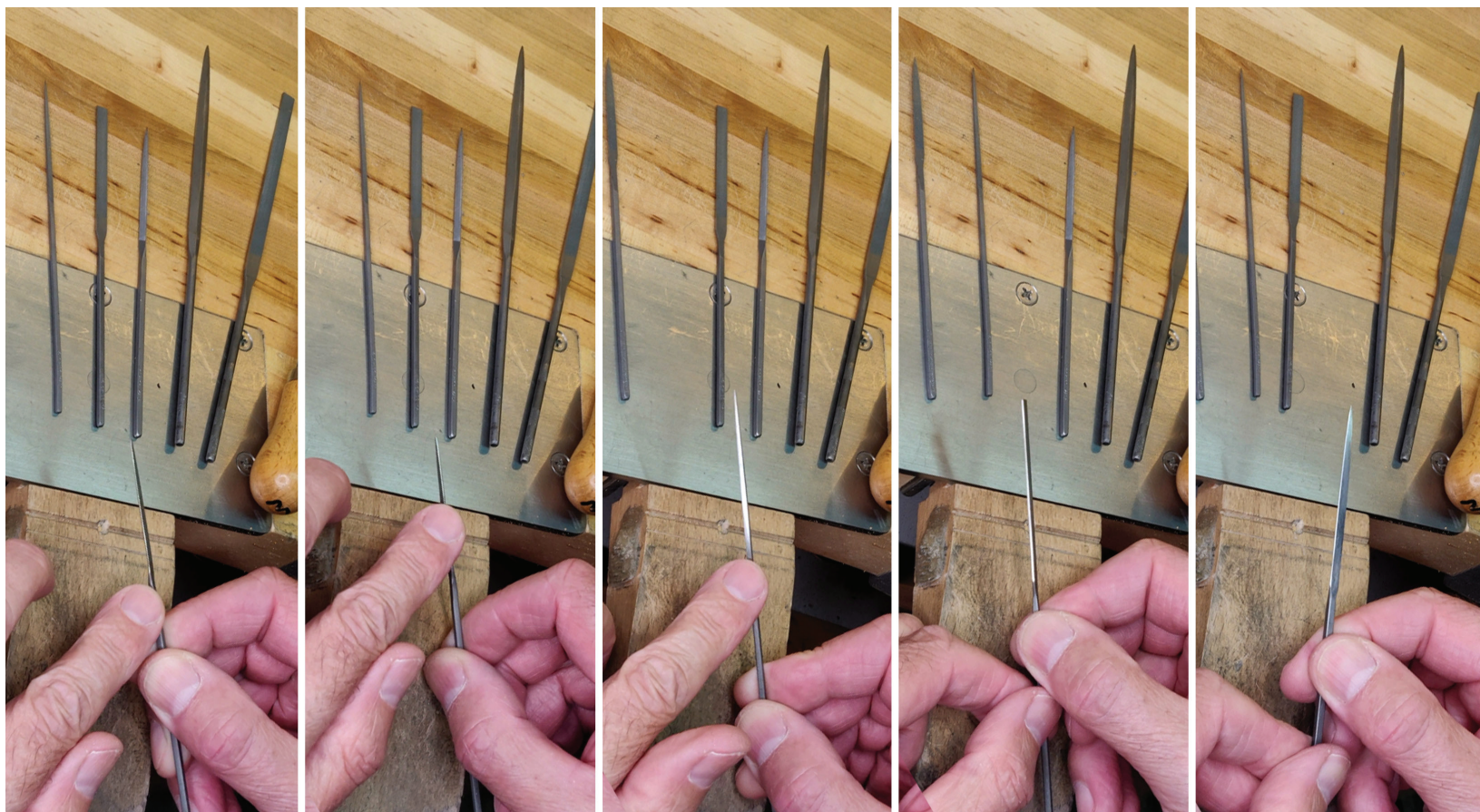
Human Teeth

Luxembourgian designer Lucie Majerus calls her material 'human ivory,' and her first supplier was, of course, herself. When it came time for her wisdom teeth to be removed, she saved them and then bleached and polished them into pearl-like spheres that she set in rings. From there, she asked dentists for donations of unwanted teeth and founded her own jewelry line. She sees her chic, simple jewelry as a pushback against the poaching of elephants and rhinos for their tusks. There is no greater way of conserving the environment, she believes, than by looking to ourselves as resources. She specializes in custom orders from people who want to turn their own teeth into rings, earrings, tie pins and cufflinks. For those into personalized jewelry, this is the ultimate personalized jewelry!

As fashion trends change, the line between the beautiful and the grotesque is often drawn and redrawn. Nowhere is this truer than for jewelry made from organic materials. Whether harvested from ourselves or other living things, organic materials not only push the boundaries of our definition of what is beautiful, but push the very definition of jewelry itself.

Breaking in New Files

Bench Tips from Robert Ackermann



1: Polishing the edges of your files, or removing the cut from an entire face is a safety measure like putting on your seat belt before driving off in your car.

Quality files don't come cheap. While you can gauge a file's cut by eye, assessing the quality of the steel a file's made of is usually a matter of faith, particularly when they're bought online. You get what you pay in terms of consistency of the hardness and resilience of the file.

Even the finest files are unfailingly rough around the edges because teeth and burs left from manufacturing may be hard to see, but are quickly revealed if the edge of the file is run lightly across your fingernail.

Especially with needle files (the kind that usually doesn't exceed 8 inches in overall length), that's a very real threat to polished metal and gems.

Designed to remove limited amounts of metal in restricted areas, needle files are ideal for cleaning up settings from bezels to prong setting and channel settings.

The crispness of any shape is better maintained if a needle file's used first and rubber wheels and polishing brushes are merely employed for the final surface finish.

The teeth and burs along the edge of a new needle file have the nasty habit of taking a nick out of the crown facet junctions – yes, even of diamonds! – and scratching cabochons during cleanup after setting.

That's why pros routinely spend a few minutes breaking in new files. A sharpening stone of at least 8 inches in length allows them to smooth edges and surfaces by hand.

A home-made blend of equal parts of turpentine and 3-in-1 oil is an old standard formula lubricant for porous grinding stones, because the turpentine thins the oil so it can penetrate better. Using long, efficient and decisive strokes, you'll get straight edges and flat, straight surfaces in no time.

So why not use a grinding wheel? More than likely, you'll get bumps and recesses. The heat generated by grinding wheels also carries the risk of overheating the steel and ruining a brand new file within split seconds.

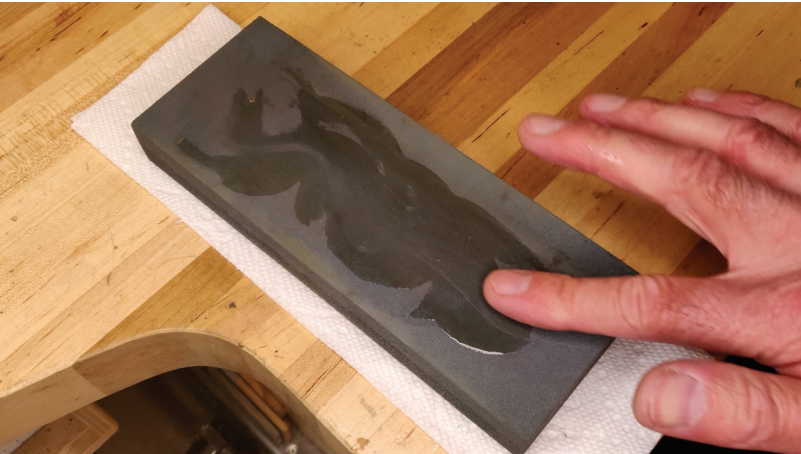
It's a good idea to place an old newspaper, a rag or a paper towel under the grinding stone to avoid damage to your bench, messy lubricant spills, or both.

Arkansas sharpening stones, a.k.a. oil stones are the tool for finishing. Invest in one that's long enough for those long, decisive and efficient strokes. Since oil stones are denser, straight machine oil without the turpentine makes the best lubricant.

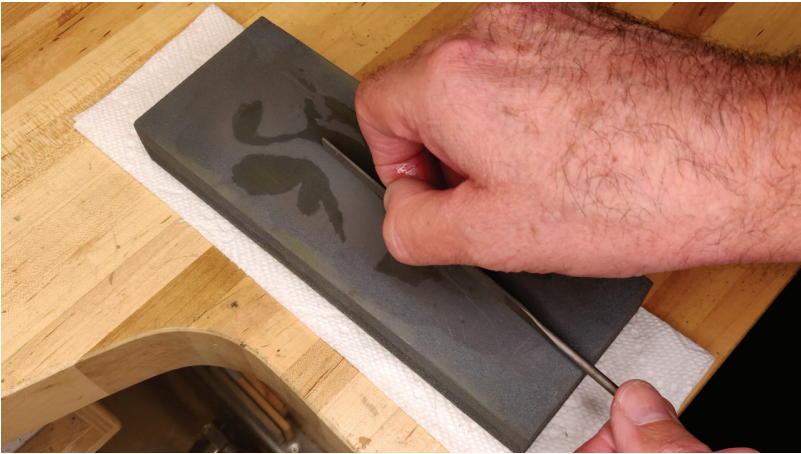
Before you take your file to perform its first job, run it against your fingernail to check whether there are any teeth or burs left that could pose a risk.

Be ahead of potential damage to your work by breaking in new files like this and clean up worn files that have been modified to a specific task. Oh! – and never throw out worn files. Where the cut's still good enough, they can be modified accordingly or be repurposed to make great custom punches.

Robert Ackermann is an award-winning goldsmith, gemologist, jewelry designer, jewelry educator and the owner of www.learnjewelrydesign.org, an educational site for jewelry creators. See the video on YouTube. robert@learnjewelrydesign.org



2: Sharpening stones do better and wear less with a lubricant that penetrates into their porous surface, such as an evenly spread blend of 3-in-1 oil with an equal amount of turpentine.



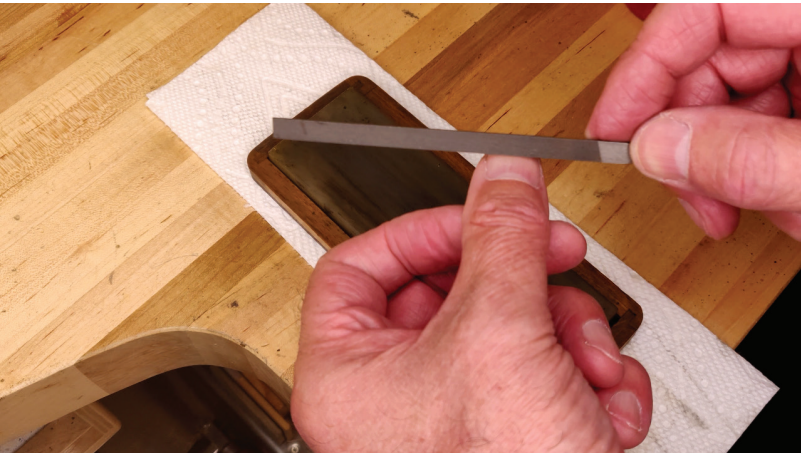
3: Long, efficient and decisive strokes make the removal of the cut on the side of this flat needle file a matter of mere minutes.



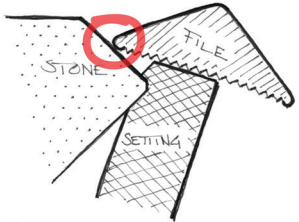
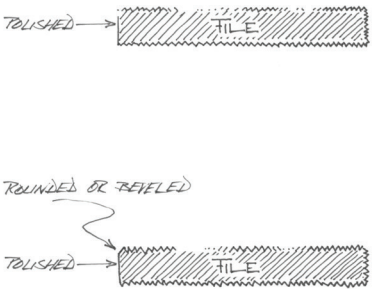
4: For finishing the same face on an Arkansas (oil) stone, straight machine oil makes the best lubricant.



5: File edges that make contact with stones are best beveled or filleted with the according inclination on the oil stone to remove teeth and burs that might abrade and chip stones.



6: Find out quickly how much of a risk the edge or the face of a file poses if you run it lightly over your fingernail.



7: It's always a good idea to remove the cut on the narrow face of a flat file and even bevel the edge that comes in contact with stones during cleanup. The unfinished edges of files pose a significant risk of abrading and chipping even diamonds when their settings

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