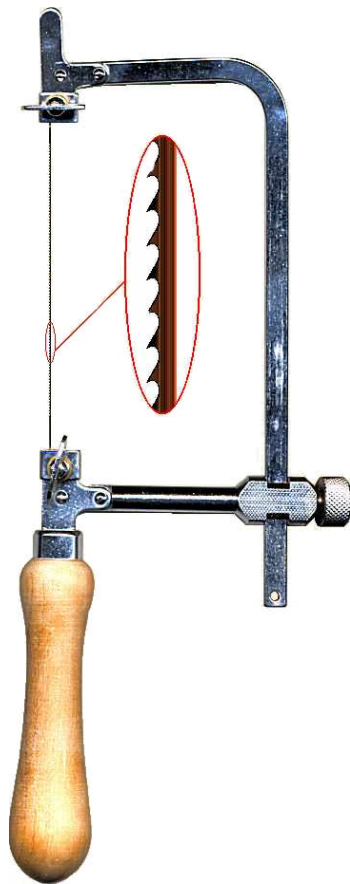


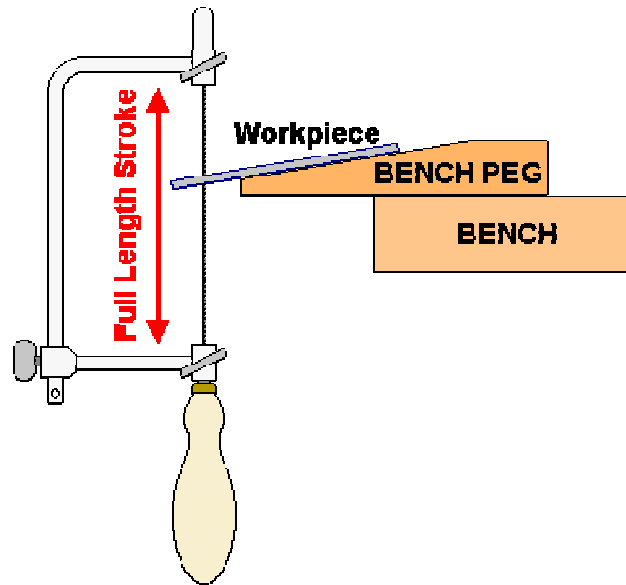
Saw piercing

This is the method for cutting sheet silver, copper or brass using a piercing saw. This type of saw can be used to cut complex shapes in many thicknesses of metal.



A piercing saw or Jeweller's Saw

The saw consists of a frame for holding the blade, the handle for gripping the saw, and the blade. The blade is held in the frame at each end between clamps that hold the blade in tension.



The correct cutting position

An enlarged view of the piercing saw blade correctly inserted into the frame

To fit a new blade

1. Press the handle into the upper part of the abdomen so that the frame faces away from you.
2. Unscrew the clamp at the top of the frame inserting the top end of the blade into it (make sure the teeth face towards the handle).
3. Tighten the clamp.
4. Put the bottom end of the blade into the other clamp applying a little pressure on the frame.
5. Tighten the clamp.
6. Pulling the blade like a guitar string will create a pleasant twang. The saw should now be ready for use. Hold the saw so that the blade remains more or less vertical. This can be achieved by holding the saw handle in a fist and drawing the blade gently up and down in the metal bending the wrist to keep the hand vertical.
7. Do not force the saw forward.

The piercing saw is not designed to be used horizontally, using it in these manner cause blades to break often.

The metal to be cut should be well supported on a bench peg. The sawing peg should have a vee cut out of it to make sawing easier. The blade can be lubricated with candle wax if desired. Do not be surprised if the blade breaks, this is quite a common event. Make sure that you have a good supply of blades. A blade may last for hours or just a few minutes. Good saw piecing technique only comes with experience. It is one of the most versatile of the jewellers and silversmith tools.

Saw blades are supplied in the following grades, from the coarsest to the finest:

No 4, No 3, No 2, No 1, No 0 (1/0), No 2/0, No 3/0, No 4/0, No 5/0, No 6/0, No 8/0