Jewelry Saw Blade Selection Guide

Learn more about jewelry saw blades and refer to the included chart to help you find the best blade for your task.

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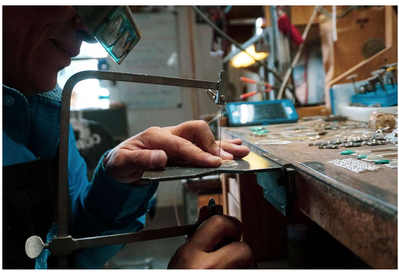
Saw blades are a quintessential part of a jeweler's toolbox and one of the first things a beginner buys to start their journey. Whether you are a student or a well tenured jeweler, saw blades are a constant at your bench.

There are a lot of options when it comes to saw blades, so how do you decide which is the best for you? Read on to learn more about the saw blades for jewelry available at Rio Grande. For testing the following steel blades, 20-gauge dead soft copper sheet and a German saw frame were used.

Blade	Cut Material	Sizes	Usage	Recommendation
Steel Saw Blades				
 Laser Gold™	Ferrous and non-ferrous metals including thin gauge titanium, steel, aluminum and niobium.	#8/0, #7/0, #6/0, #5/0, #4/0, #3/0, #2/0, #1/0, #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6	These blades are reliable, very flexible, and long-lasting. More material along the back gives each blade extra rigidity and helps reduce breakage. They are easy to cut with using small amounts of BurLife® and make cleanup work on your pieces minimal. They do not chatter when cutting through metal.	All purposes and excel when doing piercing work, offer little resistance when sawing.
 Original Laser Blades™	Ferrous and non-ferrous metals.	#8/0, #7/0, #6/0, #5/0, #4/0, #3/0, #2/0, #1/0, #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6	These blades are reliable, flexible, and long-lasting. More material along the back gives each blade extra rigidity and helps reduce breakage. They are easy to cut with using BurLife® and cut lines that need some clean up after sawing.	Cutting down metal, good for rough cutting shapes and great for beginners.
 Herkules White Label	Ferrous and non-ferrous metals.	#8/0, #7/0, #6/0, #5/0, #4/0, #3/0, #2/0, #1/0, #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6	These blades are flexible and have uniform teeth that reduce binding and breakage. The cuts will need some clean-up after sawing.	General cutting of metal, rough shapes and great for beginners.
 Jeweler's	Ferrous and non-ferrous metals.	#4/0, #3/0, #2/0, #1/0, #1, #2	These blades are affordable and work best when used with BurLife®.	Great economy option for students, teachers and training purposes.
 Super Pike	Ferrous and non-ferrous metals.	#8/0, #7/0, #6/0, #5/0, #4/0, #3/0, #2/0, #1/0, #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #8	These blades have a rounded back and sharp teeth that help ensure precise, accurate cuts. They are stiffer and thicker but are still flexible. Use with BurLife® to cut through metal and reduce resistance.	General purpose cutting and are great for beginners.
 Pike Platinum	Ferrous and on-ferrous metals including thin gauge titanium, steel, aluminum and niobium.	#4/0, #3/0, #2/0, #1/0, #1, #2, #3, #4	These blades have rounded backs and sharp teeth that help ensure precise, accurate cuts. They are easy to use and make clean, thin cut lines. Designed for use on heavy metals including stainless steel and platinum.	All purposes and excel when doing fine-detail piercing work.
 Rio German Blades	Ferrous and non-ferrous metals.	#4/0, #3/0, #2/0, #1/0, #1, #2	These blades are stiffer and create cut lines that need some clean-up after sawing.	Great economy option for teachers, students and beginners learning how to saw.
Other Saw Blades				
Diamond	Stone, epoxy and glass.	60, 100, 120 and 140 mesh.	These blades are electroplated with diamond abrasive that is measured in mesh; they are good for cutting down stone and other materials using liquid BurLife®.	Cutting down and shaping rough stone (turquoise, opal, amber, etc.)
 Skip-tooth	Wood, acrylic and wax.	#5, #7, #9	Popular in the woodworking industry, these blades have widely-spaced teeth that help reduce chatter and create smoother cut lines.	Adapting a bench pin, making silhouette dies from cast acrylic for forming, wax cutting.
 High-quality Spiral Wax	Wax, rubber, plastic, shell and plaster.	#2, #3, #4	These blades have teeth that spiral up and do not clog the blade, making cutting through hard and soft wax a breeze.	Creating initial wax shapes and cutting cast acrylic pieces for silhouette dies.



Shane Hendren of the Rio Grande Jewelry Tech Team using a jeweler's saw

For the best cutting results, it is important to keep your saw blades sharp and lubricated with BurLife®. This helps prevent resistance, keeps your saw blades sharper for longer and allows you to produce smooth cuts that require less clean-up. Available in stick, paste or liquid form. Read Choose the Right BurLife® to help you decide which formula is best for you.

Sawing is the quickest, most efficient way to turn raw material into building blocks for finished jewelry. By using the appropriate blade size for the job, you'll get your work done faster and be on your way to a sellable work of art. Refer to the Saw Blade Specification Chart to determine what size is most efficient for your needs. Keep in mind that using the wrong size blade will make sawing more difficult and can slow down your production time. Make sure you are using the entire length of the blade to help extend its life and prevent breakage. For more helpful tips, watch the How to Break Fewer Saw Blades video with Scott Bradford.

SOURCE: RIO GRANDE