



Master the Jewelry Flex Shaft

Vol. 2: Hammer Handpieces, Special Tips and Tricks
with Andy Cooperman

ANDY'S TOP 5 TIPS

1 Slow and steady

Work at slow speeds when using the flex shaft for stone setting, stippling, riveting, and other precise techniques.

2 A little lube

Lubricating your drill bits, center punches, burs, and separating discs will cut down on friction and particle loss. This will make it easier to work and extend the life of your tools.

3 Something's gotta spin

Something has to spin, but it doesn't always have to be the tool. Try inserting a tube into the flex shaft. You can spin the piece, holding a file, cup bur, or other tool steady above it. Whatever spins in the handpiece needs to round in cross-section, like a rod or a tube, and the length should be as short as possible to avoid bending.



4 Many paths to the same summit

The flex shaft gives you more options for getting things done. While traditional hammers for riveting, stippling, and upsetting are perfectly acceptable, the flex shaft's hammer handpiece and range of tips give you choices over how you want to work.

5 DIY burnisher

You can easily make your own pit pounder from an eye bolt or eye screw to clean up castings and solder seams. A homemade pit pounder works well for burnishing, upsetting, and acting as a general hammer.