

Materials Workshop

Using a Plumber's Torch

By Mary Hettmansperger

Heat is needed for a variety of purposes in Arts and Crafts. The plumbers torch is my favorite. It is easy to find at hardware stores. It is propane fueled and I prefer the self-ignite types that do not require a striker.

Safety: eye protection is a must, Pliers for holding the metal and water close to quench the metal when finished heating. Have a fire protective, flat and even location work area to work on. Close-toed shoes are important also to protect your feet if you happen to drop a hot piece of copper. Make sure your hair, sleeves, paper products and other flammable objects are away from the work area.

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