

Saw & Blades Info Sheet

JEWELLERS SAW FRAMES

Saw frames are available in various styles from adjustable to fancy designer frames priced over £200. I am keen on the fixed saw frames as the tension in the adjustable doesn't suit me personally. You can buy a quality basic saw for around £20 either from Cooksons or the Green Lion 'version' from CousinsUK

I prefer the frames with screw fixings but you can now get quick release versions for changing blades.

The 'throat' of the frame come in various depths although the deeper the saw frame the trickier it is to use.



SAW BLADES

Saw Blade	Blade Thickness	Blade Width	Blade Length	Teeth	Corresponding	Suitable Metal
Specification	(mm)	(mm)	(mm)	per cm	Drill Size (mm)	Gauge (mm)
Grade 4	0.38	0.8	130	15	0.8	1.0 - 1.3
Grade 3	0.36	0.74	130	16	0.8	0.9 - 1.2
Grade 2	0.34	0.7	130	17.5	0.7	0.9 - 1.1
Grade 1	0.3	0.63	130	19	0.7	0.8 - 1.0
Grade 0 (1/0)	0.28	0.58	130	20.5	0.6	0.6 - 0.95
Grade 2/0	0.26	0.52	130	22	0.55	0.6 - 0.8
Grade 3/0	0.24	0.48	130	23.5	0.5	0.6 - 0.7
Grade 4/0	0.22	0.44	130	26.5	0.5	0.5 - 0.6
Grade 5/0	0.2	0.4	130	28	0.4	0.4 - 0.55
Grade 6/0	0.18	0.35	130	32	0.4	0.35 - 0.5
Grade 8/0	0.17	0.3	130	30	0.3	Up to 0.4

Jewellers saw blades are very fine and often break, hence the availability of the adjustable frames. Standard saw blades are bought in dozens and work out around 15p each. They can be bought from most jewellery tool suppliers.

Typically you will use 2/0 as a general all rounder blade for sterling silver work. Blades come in fine - coarse: 8/0, 7/0, 6/0, 5/0, 4/0, 3/0, 2/0, 1/0, 00, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

For very fine work you may want to use a finer blade, for thicker metal a coarser blade might be appropriate. 3/0 is good for gold and platinum.

Jewellery saw blades can be used to cut most metals, plastics and even some semi precious stones, pearls and slate. Experiment and find out.

The saw blade you choose is based on the number of 'teeth' it has per cm. Traditionally you look for approximately 2 teeth for the thickness of the metal you are using. A coarser file is useful for a straight line and a finer for a curved line.

If in doubt a 2/0 is a great option.



FURTHER READING

<https://www.cooksongold.com/blog/buying-guide/a-jewellers-guide-to-saw-blades/>

<https://www.jewellersacademy.com/blog/choosing-your-jewellers-saw>