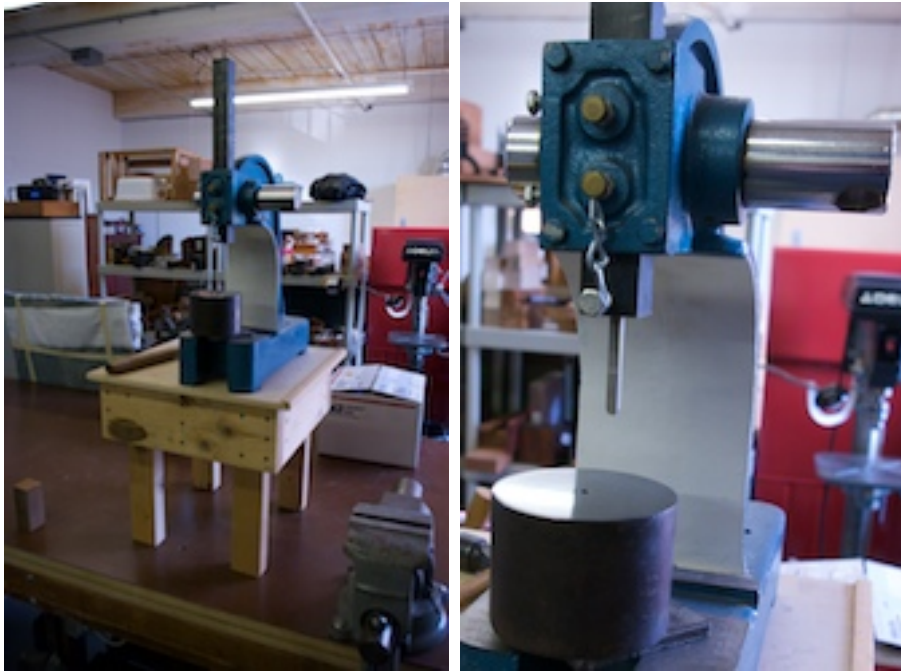


Using an Arbor Press to Stamp Metal

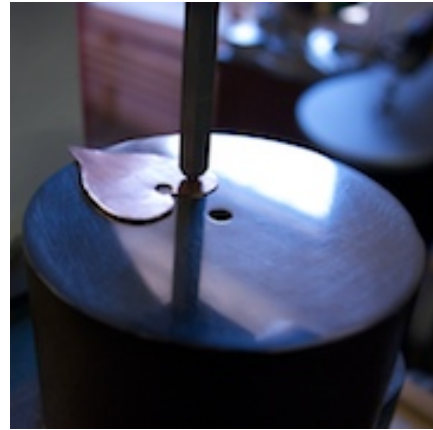
This note describes how I use an arbor press to help me reliably and precisely stamp my work.

The first photo shows my arbor press sitting on a sturdy table on top of my very sturdy workbench. The second is a close up view of the stamp held in the press above a polished steel anvil. You can see how I secure the press in its “up” position by hooking a small length of chain around the bolt that holds the stamp. I removed the handle from the press because, depending on what I’m stamping, I often don’t use it. When I do use it, I lower the arbor to the work first and then slide the handle into the shaft into the shaft



The next photos show how high the press sits on my table. That’s so I can clearly see the work and can position the work precisely using my Optivisor.





The next photo shows me putting pressure on the stamp by rotating the arbor press shaft with my right hand while I strike the arbor (once) with a hammer.



This process works very well for me. I have stamped hundreds of very small pieces with almost no failures. This last photo is of the upset end of a 10 gauge sterling silver wire on a shawl pin that I stamped.

