

# SILVER WORKS

## Carve a Wax Ring Online Taster Class

Jewellers have been sculpting and creating fine jewellery from wax and paraffin for centuries.

Using files, blades, and any tool that cuts or creates a mark in the wax, jewellers are able to sculpt incredible miniature pieces of art that are cast into precious metals to adorn the body.

Like any other skill, it takes time and patience to develop and create intricate showstopping jewellery.

This course has been designed to give you a taste of one of the skills we utilise in order to bring our designs to life from the comfort of your own home.

Take it slowly, relax, and enjoy the process.

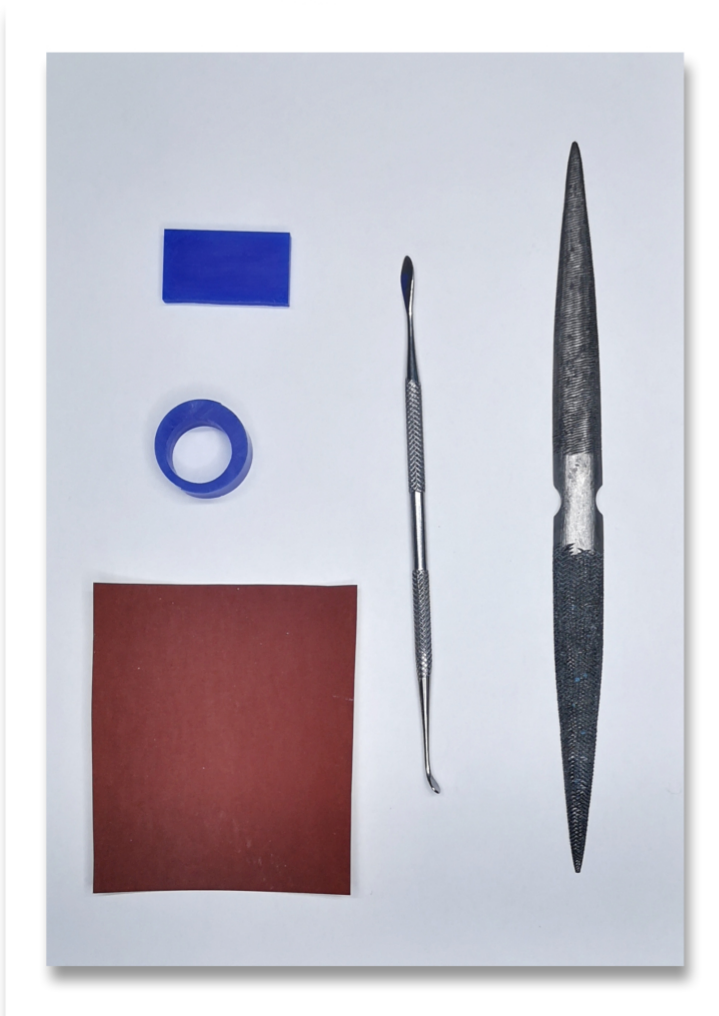
We can't wait to see your results!

# SILVER WORKS

## Carve a Wax Ring Online Taster Class

### Wax Carving Kit

- Wax ring blank - Your piece will be cut to size and the inside will be opened out to fit for you . This is the piece we are going ot make our ring from.
- Wax black - This is a black piece to practice using tools on before you work on your final ring blank. It is also useful to practice textures for your final finish.



- Wax file - A double ended file. One half is a coarse for removing wax, the other fine to help smooth. It is also flat on one side and curved on the other making it a really useful file
- Dental tool - for carving, smoothing, and scraping the wax into shape. These come in various different tips which all have different benefits.
- Emery paper - a fine grain emery paper to leave a smooth outer surface on your wax ready for casting.

## Carve a Wax Ring Online Taster Class

### Handy Extras!

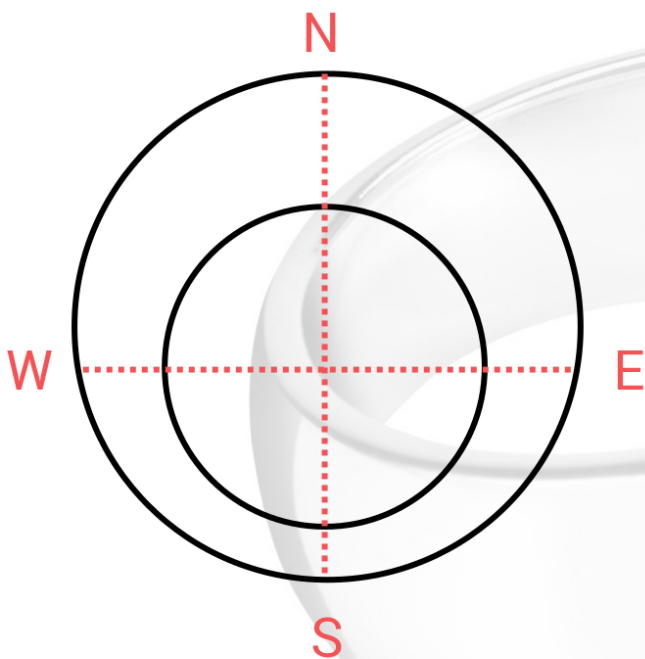
- Permanent Marker - A pen that will leave a mark you can see on the wax with a slightly pointed tip. A black Sharpie is absolutely perfect for the purpose of this class.
- Medium sized sewing needle - With all the handling of the wax, it can be easy to wipe of your marker, so a sewing needle is perfect to mark out the shape in the wax
- Anything in your house that leaves a mark on the wax! At the end you have the opportunity to create texture in your piece. Get creative! A craft knife, a biro, a phillips screwdriver! If it marks your wax, it creates!

# SILVER WORKS

## Carve a Wax Ring Online Taster Class

### Step by Step

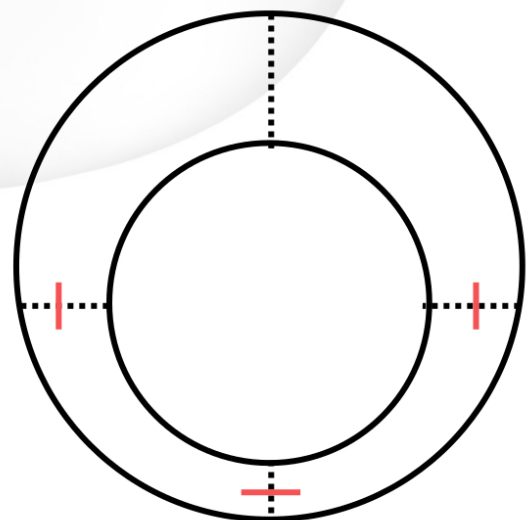
Your wax blank has been opened out to the size you provided when you ordered your course. However, it is still a little bit too thick to wear comfortably. We are going to start by removing some of the excess weight and mark out the basic shape of the ring.



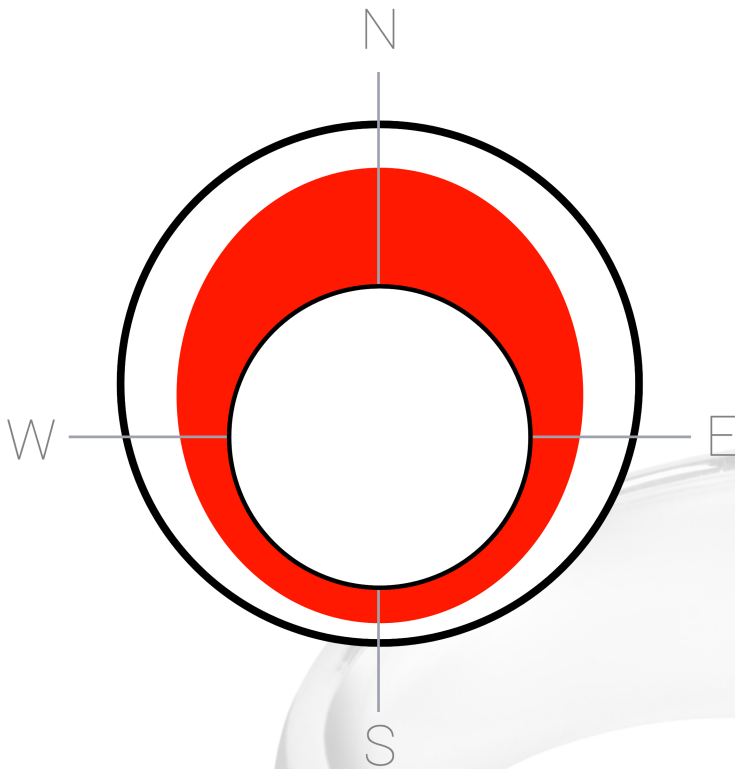
Use your marker to split the front profile of your ring into 4 points; North, South, East, and West. These will be your guidelines for marking out overall shape of your ring.

When marking out your East-West line, your point of reference is the centre of the cut out section rather than the centre of the wax blank.

Find the centre point between the outside and the inside of the inside of your ring on your East, South, and West lines and mark them.



## Carve a Wax Ring Online Taster Class

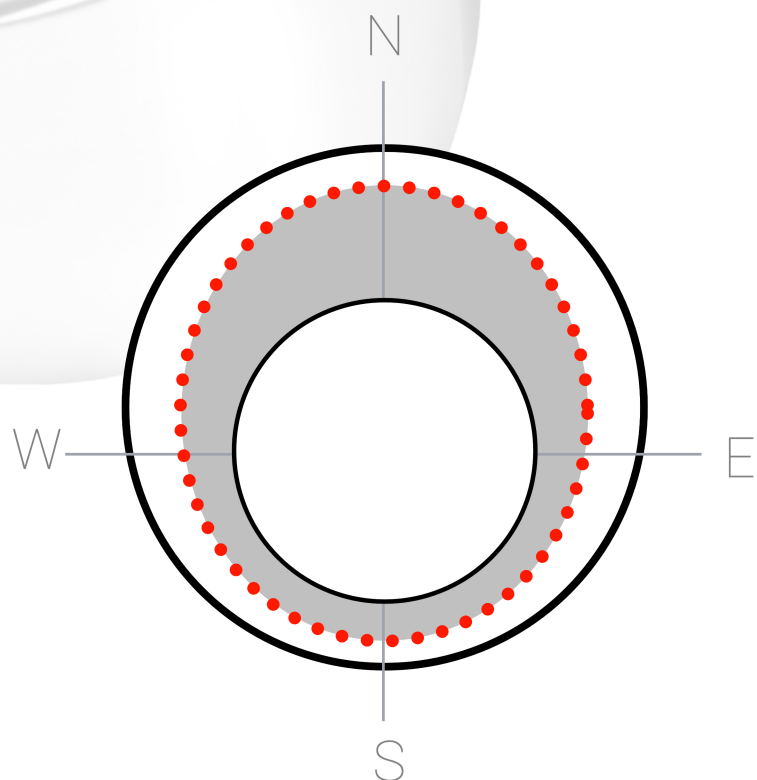


To get the profile shape of your ring, you want to join all your mid point lines together, a little like "join the dots".

Take your time and go section by section with this bit. You are trying to maintain the curved shape of the ring here.

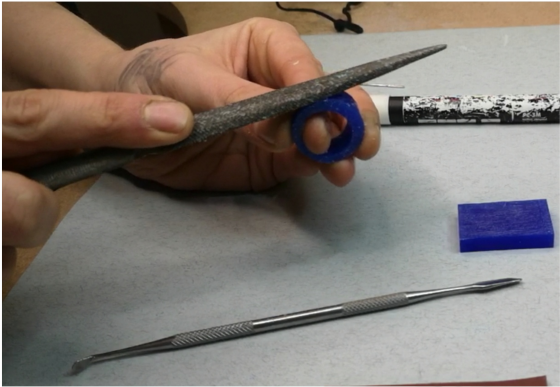
Use a pin, or something with a sharp point, to mark out the outer edge of the line you have just drawn with your marker.

With all the handling, your mark can get wiped away so this ensures you always have something to work to.



# SILVER WORKS

## Carve a Wax Ring Online Taster Class



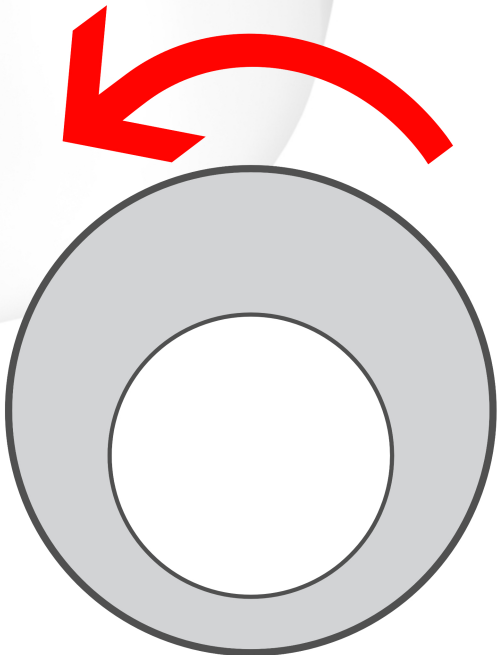
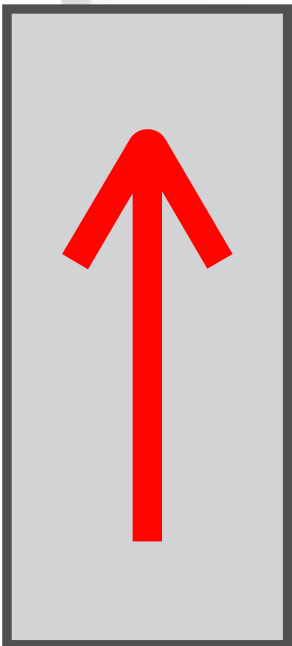
Before you begin filing, take a look at how you are holding your file.

You want to hold the file in your dominant hand and you wax in you non-dominant hand.

Keep your index finger on the back of the file to help with keeping your pressure consistent and to help direct your filing action.

You always want to file in a forwards direction following the curvature of the ring.

Once you've completed the forward stroke, lift the file, reset, and repeat in the same direction, rather than filing backwards and forwards.



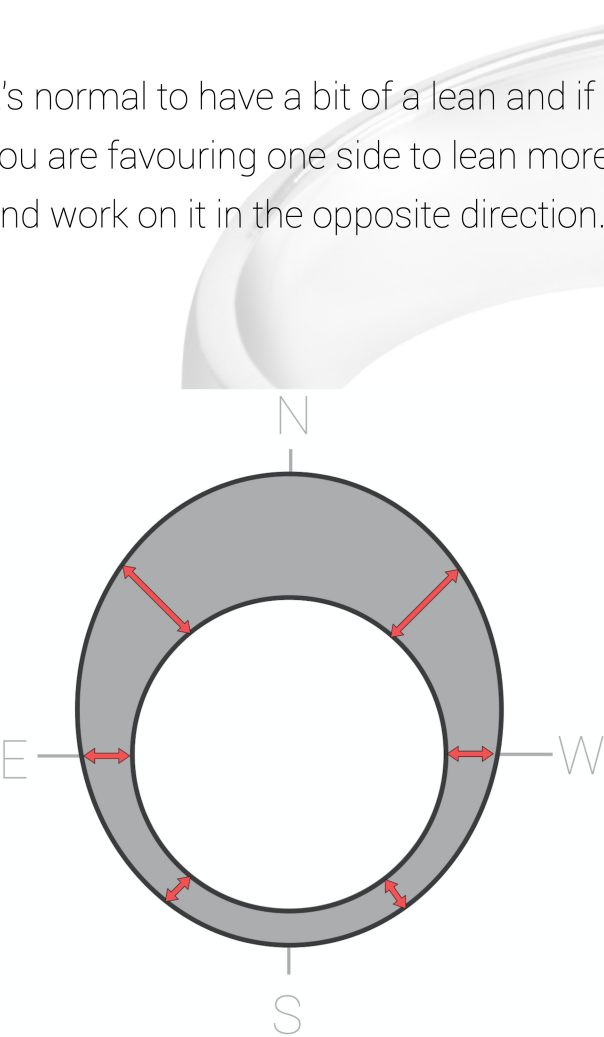
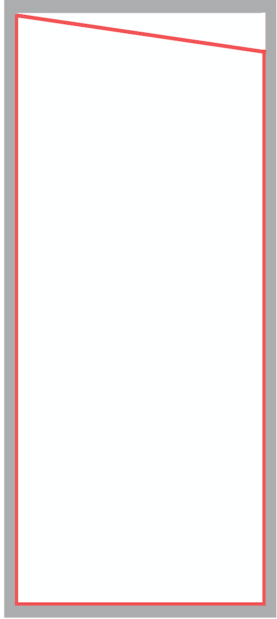
# SILVER WORKS

## Carve a Wax Ring Online Taster Class

Keep checking in on your profile from the side, making sure that you are keeping your filing straight and even all the way around.

You want to avoid any slanting on your side profile, so make sure you look at the ring all the way around.

It's normal to have a bit of a lean and if you are noticing that you are favouring one side to lean more, turn the ring around and work on it in the opposite direction.

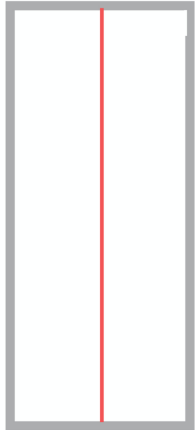


When you are getting close to the guideline that you have drawn, make sure you check in on your shape from the front and back profiles of the ring.

At this stage we want to get a nice balanced shape.

Move the piece back and forth and trust your eye - it's a great measuring tool in itself with a little bit of practice!

## Carve a Wax Ring Online Taster Class



When you are happy with how your profile looks from the front and back, you want to start tackling your side profile.

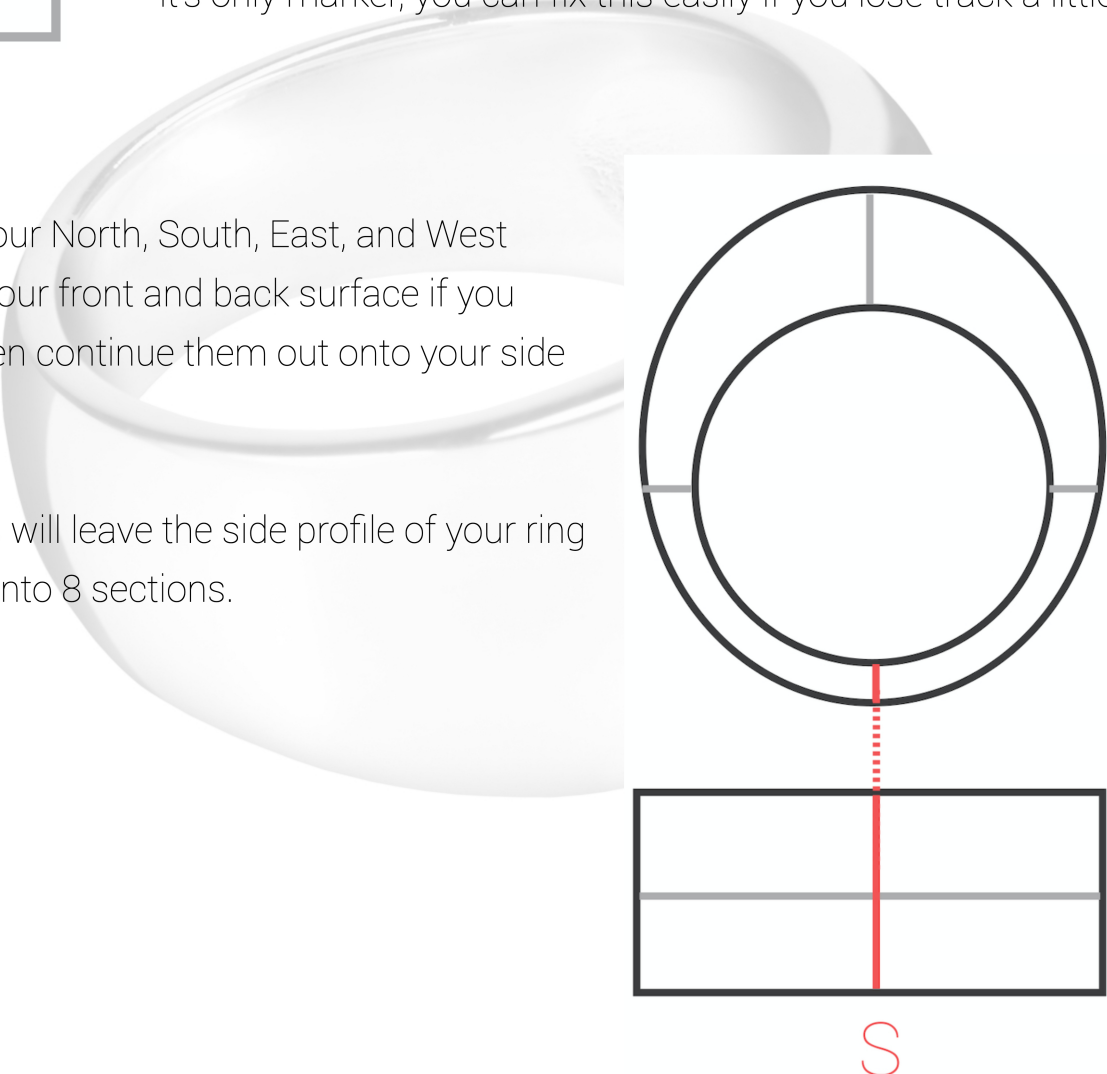
Start by marking out a line mid way all the way around your ring.

Again you are doing this by eye, so take your time and remember, it's only a marker, you can fix this easily if you lose track a little.

Redefine your North, South, East, and West points on your front and back surface if you need to, then continue them out onto your side profile.

These lines will leave the side profile of your ring divided up into 8 sections.

|

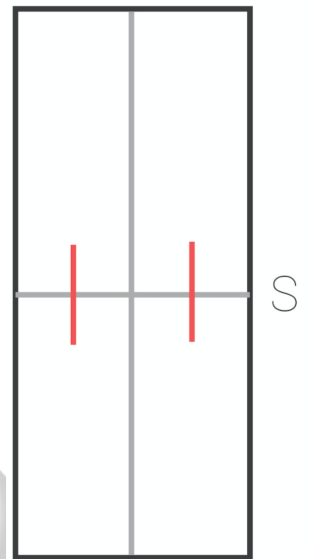


## Carve a Wax Ring Online Taster Class

At each of your points, North, South, East, and West, you want to mark 2 small lines either side of your central line, equally spaced apart.

These lines are going to determine the width of your ring, so keep this in mind as you are marking out your guidelines.

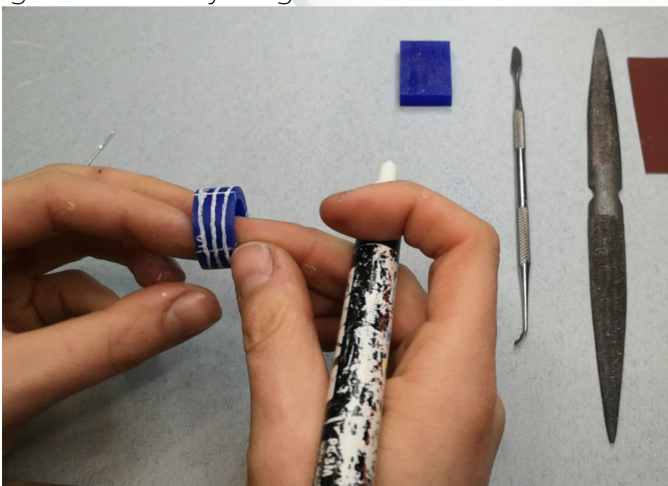
If you want a ring that tapers from thicker at the top to thinner at the bottom, make sure the lines at your Southerly point are closer to the central line and your Northerly ones further apart.



You now want to join up all these points together all along the outer surface of the ring.

It doesn't matter if you go around one side all the way first, or do a little bit on each side at a time.

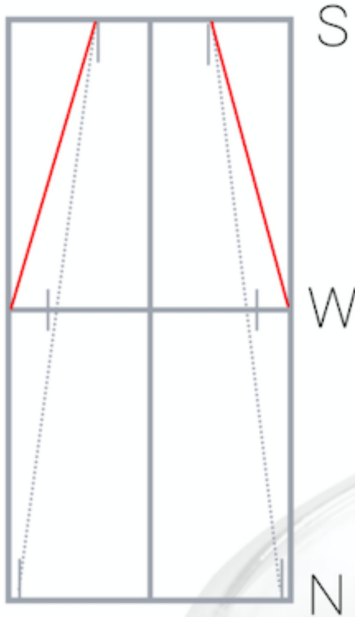
What is important is that you keep going back and checking the balance of your guideline as you go.



Each side should be a mirror of the other side so keep looking all the way around to see that you have a nice smooth line.

This is the outer side profile of your ring mapped out.

## Carve a Wax Ring Online Taster Class



You are going to use the file to bring the wax to your guideline.

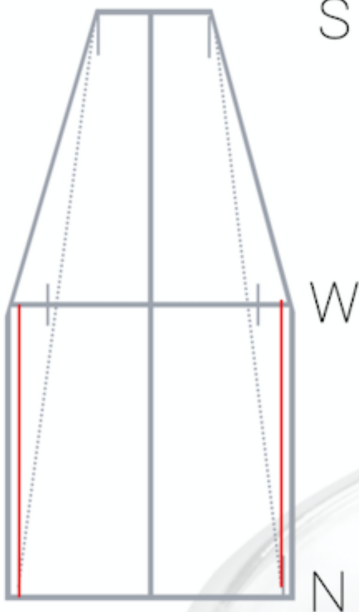
Start with using the coarse end of the file and the flat side to do all the work (so keep the flat side on the wax).

Start working towards the thinnest point of your band (so in my example this is my South point). Angle the file toward this guideline and using long strokes in a forward direction, begin filing away the wax.

Try and work along the entire surface of that lower half (so your file is not making contact around your Northerly section).

Don't worry about bringing the West and East points into your guideline, we'll deal with those later on, you are just coming into meet your South guideline.

## Carve a Wax Ring Online Taster Class



S You're going to repeat the same steps on the opposite side of your ring (so working into your Northerly section).

This will likely be your thickest part of your band.

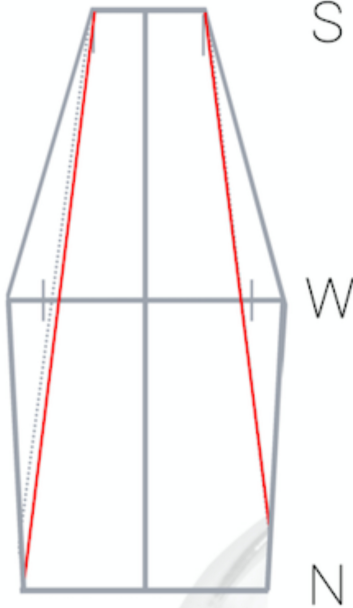
Again, we aren't focused on our West and East points here.

The technique is still the same, using the flat side of the file.

It helps to file forwards, stop, lift and then reset the file rather than filing backwards and forwards.

This allows you to see your work as you progress and keeps your work consistent.

## Carve a Wax Ring Online Taster Class



S So now that you have brought your North and South points into your guideline, you will be left with 'corners' or high points at your East and West points.

Keep using the flat side of your file working across those higher points.

Always working with long strokes in that forward action, forward, lift, reset, repeat.

Take your time with this, you are aiming to blend those points in with your North and South lines.

Once they come down to meet the rest of the surface, you can use the finer sides of the file to smooth out and refine the sides.

Make sure you keep checking in on both sides, you are looking for balance here all around the ring.

Take time to turn the ring around and check it from all angles to make sure you are creating a nice form in your side profile.



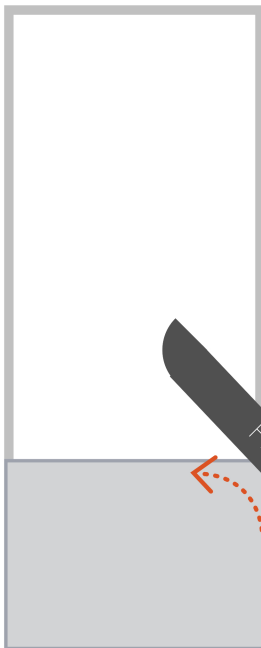
## Carve a Wax Ring Online Taster Class

You'll notice that your ring blank has sharp edges along the inside and the outside of the ring which can create a sharp edge against the ring.

We're going to break these using the file to leave the edges soft and comfortable.

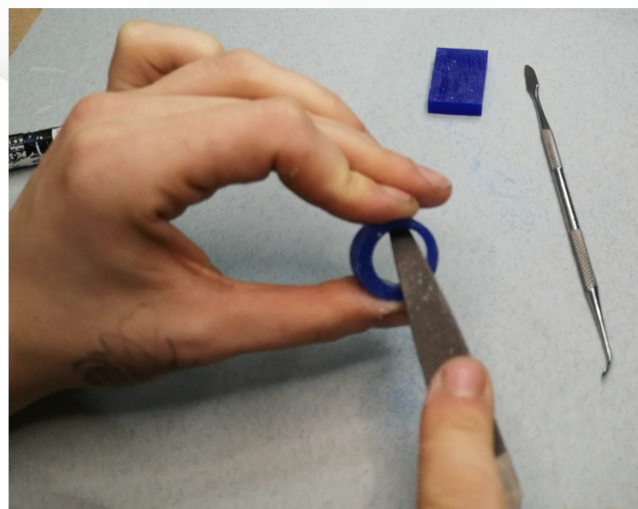
This time we are going to use the curved side of the file.

Place the surface of the file against the inner edge of the ring (you'll probably only be able to use the top quarter of the file), and angle it so it is not lying flat against any surface - it should be on the sharp edge.



Like before, you want to work with the curvature of the ring, but this time you are going to be with the inner shape.

After a few strokes, give the ring a small turn and continue filing all the way around to create a 'comfort fit'

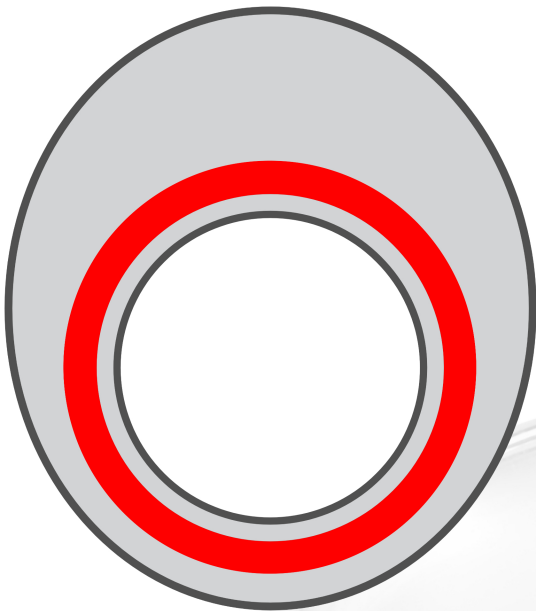


## Carve a Wax Ring Online Taster Class

Once you've created your comfort fit on the inside of both sides of the ring, we are going to shift our focus onto the outside of the ring.

Start by marking out where the lowest part of the curve of the ring is going to be on your front and back surfaces.

How much of a curve you are going to have on your shape will be determined here, but it's a good idea to keep his shape parallel to the inside shape of the ring.



The goal at this stage is to take off all the corners around the outer edge of the ring.

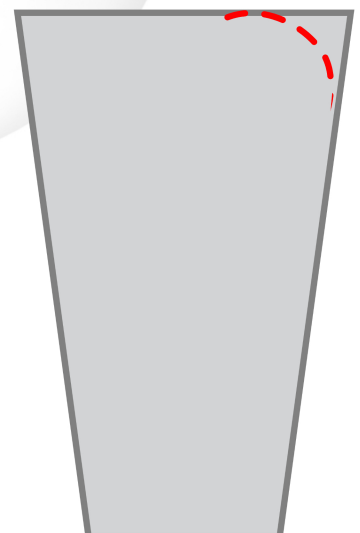
Start with 'breaking' the sharp outer edge of the ring all the way around the outside using a similar technique to how we shaped the outer profile of our ring.

So you want to curve the file around shape.

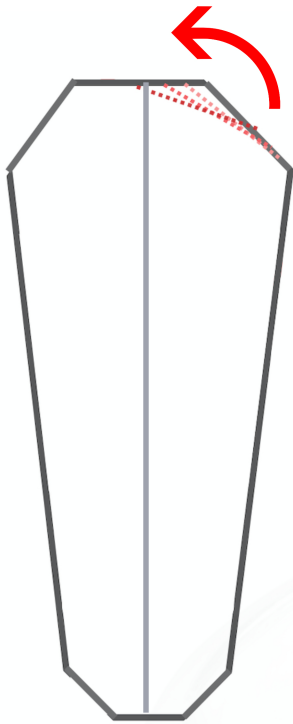
The difference this time is that we are working on the corner rather than the flat.

Keep going until you come into the guidelines on the front and back profiles.

Don't worry about coming right the way into the centre of the ring, we'll deal with that next.



## Carve a Wax Ring Online Taster Class



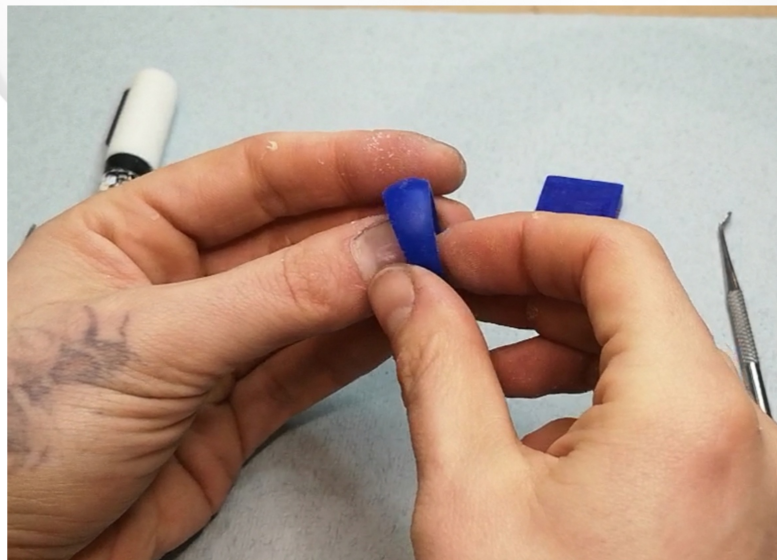
You should have removed the excess wax all the way around coming into that guideline you created on the front and back surface.

Next you want to come back into the centre of the ring, smoothing out and curving any angular lines along that side profile.

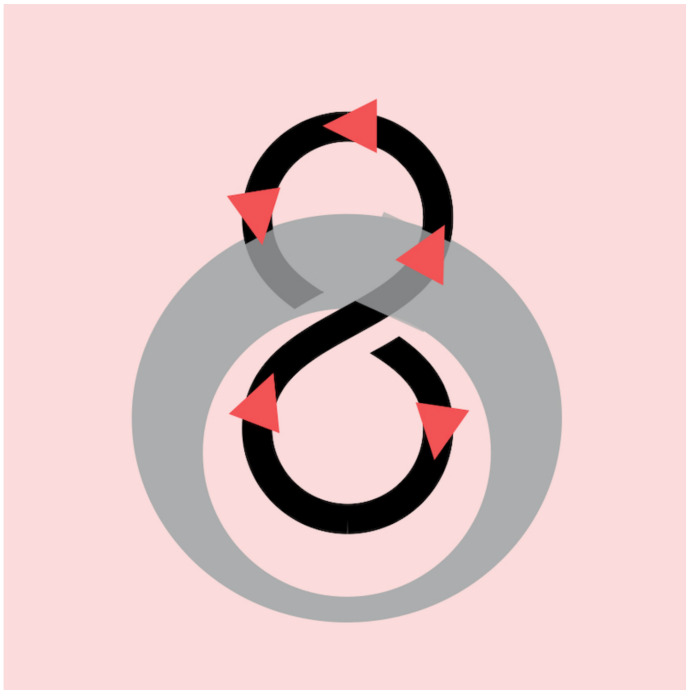
Keep curving your file around the shape of the ring, slowly working all the way around, smoothing out those angled and sharp areas from the outside, in towards the centre of your ring.

Obviously once you've done one side, you are going to need to work on the other as well.

Keep taking a break and checking in to look at your balance on both sides, looking at the ring from all the way around.



## Carve a Wax Ring Online Taster Class



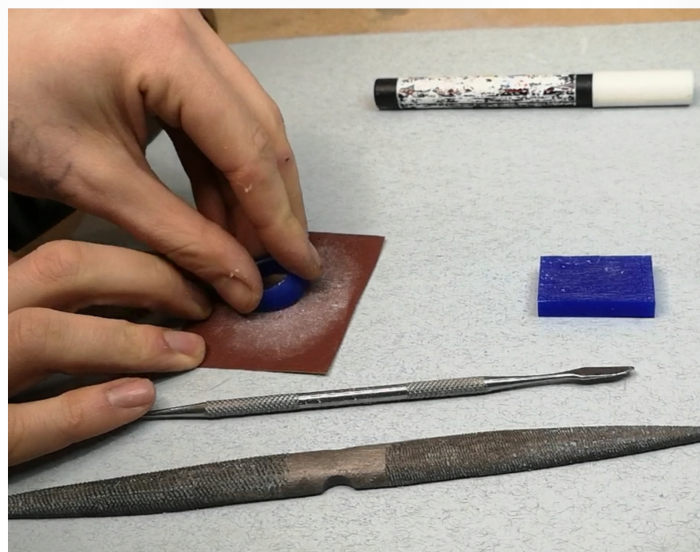
Once you have carved out your wax ring into a shape you are happy with, you will probably notice that the file has left some scratches around the surface of the wax.

We want to get the surface as smooth as possible.

Lay your emery paper onto a flat surface and put your ring on top of that.

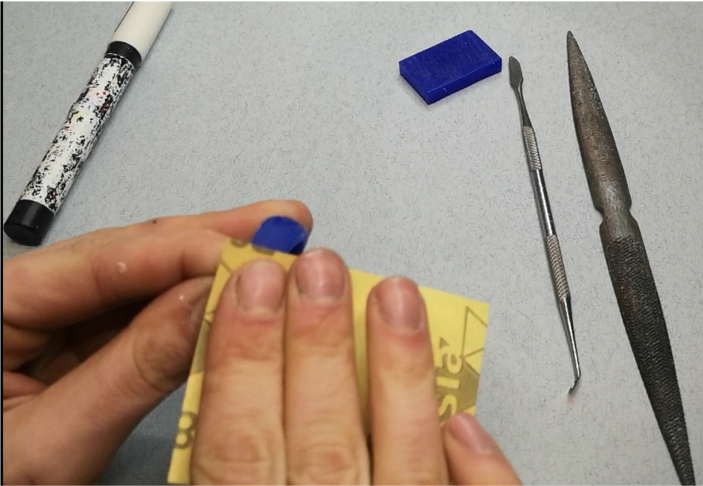
With 2 fingers placed on top of the ring, move it around the emery paper in a figure of 8 action

Keep checking in as you go as you don't want to ruin all the work you have done, but you should notice very quickly how smooth the surface starts to become.



# SILVER WORKS

## Carve a Wax Ring Online Taster Class



You can also use your emery paper to smooth the outer surface of your ring.

Holding the emery in your hand, allow it to curve over the surface of the ring.

Work in all directions to ensure you get a nice clean looking surface.

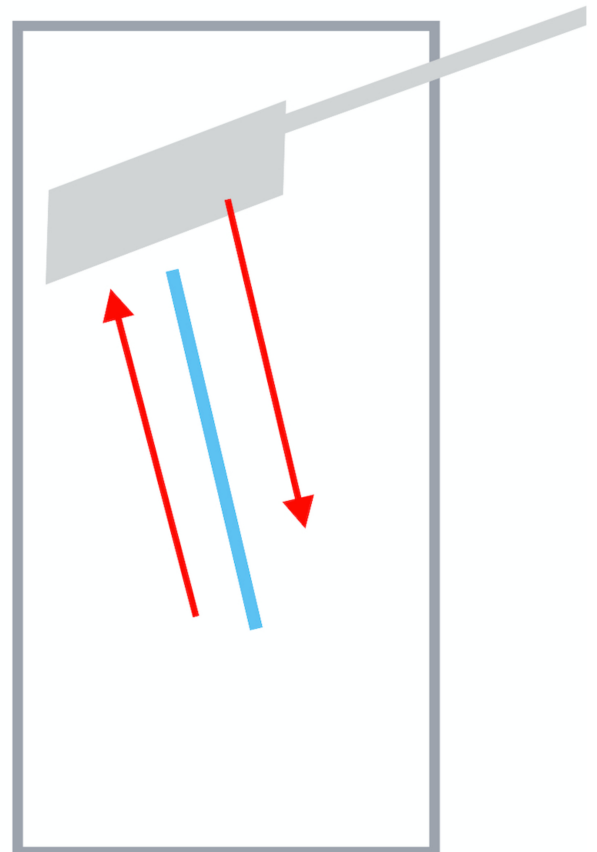
You might find that your file has left some marks which are too deep and stubborn for your emery to remove.

Use the edge of your flat part of the dental tool to gently work back and forth over the scratch in the same direction that the scratch itself is running.

This will help to bring those high points on either side of the scratch down to meet the lower point of the scratch.

You don't want to go across the scratch as this can make it deeper.

Once you have finished, just go back over the area with your emery paper again.



# SILVER WORKS

## Carve a Wax Ring Online Taster Class

We'd love to see your progress pictures!  
Tag us as you go and with your completed wax piece:  
[@silverworksdublin](#)



