

DESIGN; - TECHNICAL JOURNALS

Whatever you are working on, keeping a book of your notes is really useful. In very general terms; - Sketchbooks often hold your notes, ideas, tips, images and inspiration, Technical journals hold specifics about techniques you used. Both will help you plan future projects, store information for the future, work through ideas, learn and remember techniques and price your work.

You can keep a single book or file to cover both technical notes and project ideas/images / inspiration, or keep them separately - whatever works best for you. They can be as fancy or simple as you like, but the more effort you put into keeping them updated, the more useful they will be to you in the future.

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT + PREPARATION

It makes life very much easier and saves making possibly expensive or time consuming mistakes when you come to make a piece if you can plan it out first - plan the size, the shape, how things are connected and what it will look like from different angles, and how the piece will be made. Using your technical journal to help work out the technicalities can be really helpful - referring to how you've made similar things in the past, or to make notes of any research into new techniques to help you complete your planned design.

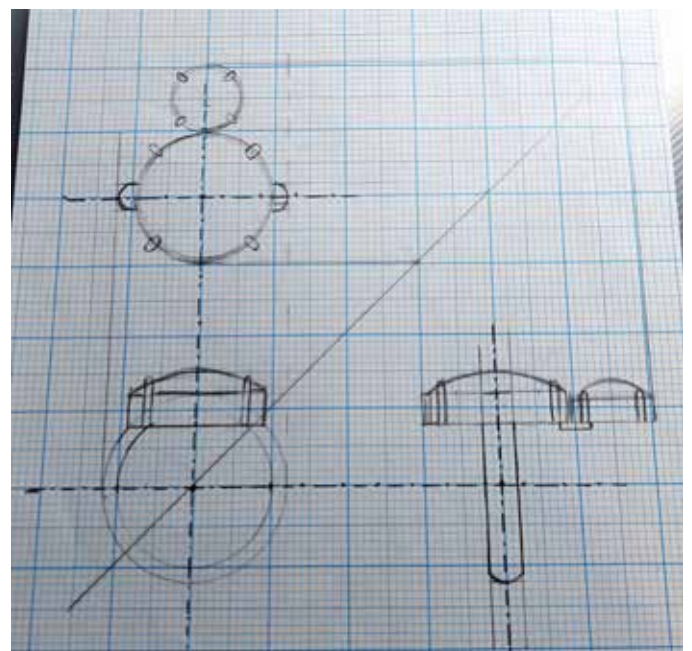
Drawing quick diagrams, or making models out of card, wire or plasticine will help a lot, so that you can work out as many of the technical questions or issues before you start the real piece. It can also help you decide if there might be a simple change or two to the design that would make it easier or more practical to actually fabricate the piece.

You can keep notes, drawings, ideas, models, or templates all in your sketchbook or your technical journal - keeping them in a technical journal might be helpful if you want to keep all your technical notes and info all in one place!

TECHNICAL JOURNALS

A technical journal is useful to keep to check how you got a certain effect, or how you made something in the past, what equipment you needed for a technique or how much metal you needed to make a certain piece. This will help for future projects, and also if you come to sell pieces to help work out your time and materials for pricing.

It could be digital - a collection of typed notes and photos, or it could be a real life notebook / sketchbook, or a combination of the two.



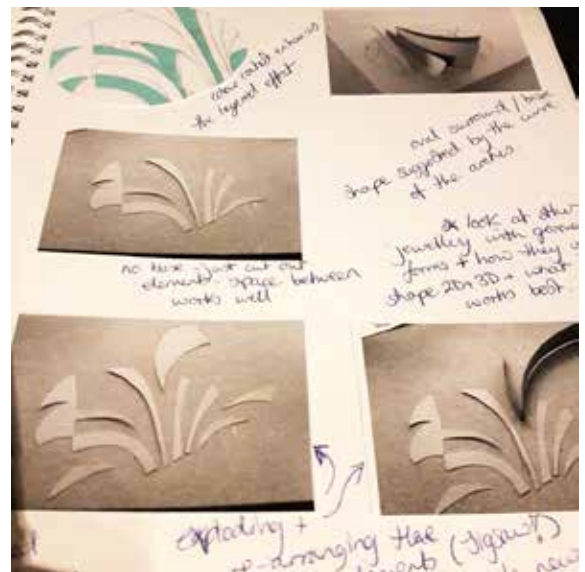
The more time you spend on making and collating these notes, the more useful they will be to you for the future as a reference for future projects.

USEFUL THINGS TO KEEP A NOTE OF; -

- How to do different techniques - make your own notes, keep class handouts, save links to online tutorials or videos
- How you made a particular piece & the order you did things in - make written notes, or keep a photo diary
- The measurements you used for a certain piece, for example; how thick was the metal, what size was a ring, what length of wire you needed to create a bangle
- What materials you used, where you got them or how much they cost
- Problems you had and how you resolved them
- Notes of things that didn't work, or could be improved if you did this again
- Questions you need to answer

A TECHNICAL JOURNAL CAN BE FULL OF; -

- Annotated Drawings
- Written notes
- Diagrams
- Templates
- Step by step notes
- Weights
- Measurements
- Costs
- Timings
- Step by Step Images



USEFUL RESOURCES FOR TECHNICAL RESEARCH

Graph paper, Tracing Paper, a Scale Ruler
Card, Staples, Tape, Wire, Modelling clay, Clips, Pins, Pliers

Google Images - www.pinterest.com - www.instagram.com - www.etsy.com
www.ganoksin.com

USEFUL YOUTUBE CHANNELS; -

Soham Harrison - Rio Grande - Andrew Berry / At The Bench - Cooksons - The Goldsmiths Centre - Goldsmiths Hall - Lucy Walker Jewellery - Jewel School