

# Talking Torches: Choosing the Right Torch

Invest in a torch system to help you create like never before. Head pins, jump rings, brooches, rings, belt buckles, sintering metal clay and casting can all be accomplished using a torch: which one is right for you?

Before you start shopping, evaluate the space you have for your set up—does it allow for a large torch system or would a hand-held butane or propane torch be better suited? Review building codes and check with your homeowner's insurance to verify what is allowed. What size or type of work will you be doing; this is a key factor in determining which torch is best for you. **Please Note:** Always wear the appropriate safety gear when operating a torch, including safety glasses, apron, mask, etc. Safety first!

## Butane torches

Butane is a very common fuel for many small applications. The Blazer butane pencil torch works well for creating head pins and for soldering smaller jump rings. Two bigger options are the Blazer butane torch and the large butane torch. The Blazer offers the most control in a hand-held torch and is the ideal companion for the metal clay artist and jewelry-makers doing small to medium soldering or brazing jobs. The advantage of the large torch is that it holds more butane allowing you to do more between refills.

## Fuel and Oxygen systems

Propane/oxygen or acetylene/oxygen systems offer the widest range of versatility of any torch. These systems will do everything the hand-held torches will do and so much more. Large soldering, annealing, even casting can be accomplished with most of these systems. The larger systems are delivered in a handy carrier that also acts as a storage device that safely holds the tanks. The acetylene and air system is a staple in the industry and is slightly less expensive than the fuel/oxy systems, yet does most everything necessary including some small casting jobs.

## Refilling the tanks

For acetylene and oxygen, it is very easy to have tanks refilled or exchanged at your local welding supply store (some may even do propane). In many cases the propane tank can be refilled at gas stations.

*A wide variety of torches are available:*

### Blazer Butane Pencil Torch (500-227)

- A slim, maneuverable hand torch offering fast ignition, easy portability and a built-in stand for hands-free operation.



### Bernz-O-Matic® Propane Pencil Torch (500-142)

- This affordable, portable propane set-up is ideal for home hobbies, trade shows or demonstrations. Includes a handpiece with stand and three tips.



### Blazer Butane Torch (500-230)

- Self-contained, hand-held torch delivers a fine-point flame and electronic ignition with one-handed flame adjustment and auto-ignition. The metal clay artists' first choice!



### Large Butane Torch (500-086)

- Jumbo, ergonomic torch features an electronic ignition and 90 minutes of work time per fill-up.



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# choosing the right torch, continued

## Little Torch™ Propane/Oxygen System (500-076)

- Steel carrier holds tanks securely and keeps them conveniently next to the bench. This is a portable system—just pick it up and go!



## Little Torch™ Acetylene/Oxygen System (500-030)

- Get everything you need to equip your shop for soldering and brazing. Complete every soldering and melting job with confidence and ease! Easily portable.



## Little Torch™ Propane and Oxygen Set for Disposable Tanks (500-090)

- The perfect torch for the beginner, this set offers plenty of heat for general purpose soldering at a much lower initial cost.



## Acetylene and Air Soldering System (500-109NW)

- Use this complete system for silversmithing and light casting projects—features an easy one-handed control and six tips, ideal for most projects.



### *Other items used during this segment:*

Acetylene and Air Soldering Tip #00 (500-155)

Acetylene and Air Soldering Tip #0 (500-156)

Acetylene and Air Soldering Tip #1 (500-157)

Acetylene and Air Soldering Tip #2 (500-158)

Acetylene and Air Soldering Tip #3 (500-159)

Acetylene and Air Soldering Tip #4 (500-160)

### Automatic Torch Ignitor (503-048)

- Hands-free ignition offers years of reliable service.

### Torch Striker (503-025/15)

- Produces up to 2000 ignitions and sparks by friction.

### Flashback Arrestor Set, Regulator Mount (500-008)

- Built with in-line check valves to prevent a hose fire from reaching the regulators or tank, this set is strongly recommended for all dual gas torches.

# choosing the right torch, continued

## Little Torch™ Torch Holder (500-018)

- Secure your Little Torch™ and tips for convenience and safety.

## Disposable Propane Tank (500-091/2); Disposable Oxygen Tank (500-092/2)

- Designed for use with Little Torch™ propane and oxygen disposable tank systems.

## Acetylene Tank (500-060)

- Provides standard capacities for most jewelry manufacturing needs.

## Oxygen Tank (500-063)

- This tank is commonly the jewelers' choice for their oxygen needs to perform most soldering, brazing and small casting operations.

## Propane Tank (500-136)

- The 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" tall, lightweight tank will accommodate your basic soldering and casting needs.

## Butane Refill Cartridge (500-181)

- Economical fuel source refills.

## Safety Glasses (201-052)

## Leather Apron (113-670)

## How to Choose The Right Fuel Source

Choosing a fuel source for your soldering and casting needs can be difficult, especially when city, state and federal regulations, building codes and safety concerns must be considered (not to mention widely varying fuel costs).

Consider the following information on natural gas:

### Natural gas . . .

- Costs less than other fuels—for the same BTU performance, natural gas is  $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{1}{3}$  the cost of propane, roughly  $\frac{1}{10}$  the cost of acetylene, and as little as  $\frac{1}{20}$  the cost of hydrogen.
- No clumsy, heavy, dangerous cylinders—you pay for the gas as you use it, not in advance as you order it.
- Cleaner to use than other fuels—in fact, next to hydrogen, natural gas is the cleanest burning gas available.
- Considered to be safer to use than other fuels—natural gas is lighter than air so it will rise and dissipate if there's a leak.

**Please Note:** Most torches will not run on the existing pressure in gas lines—to increase the pressure use the G-Tec Pressure Booster (item #500-295).



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