

precise fit, rings offer unique challenges to the maker. These two books address those challenges, and both are good additions to any jeweler's reference shelf. Each can be read in one sitting, but will take much longer to truly explore.

In the introduction to *The Rings Book*, McGrath describes her mission: "This is a book concerned with looking at the principles and basic necessities for ring making, which I hope will provide a foundation to which can be added your own imagination and creativity." McGrath adds that those wishing fuller explanations should look at other books for details on techniques. This is good advice—the techniques covered in McGrath's slim volume are sketched rather than detailed. The organization is a little odd, requiring the reader to jump from one section to another to follow the construction of a single design. But the book covers a surprising variety of design choices and techniques, providing ample food for thought, as well as exciting approaches to explore.

I expected Alan Revere's *Ring Repair* to be more advanced and difficult to follow—especially given its heading of *Professional Jewelry Repair Series*—but it was pleasingly

informative and clear, even for the nonprofessional. The author's approach is thorough, putting the reader in the jewelry-repair role at a jewelry store complete with amusing characterizations of the "customers" and their needs. The book is organized as a series of ring-repair projects that become increasingly ambitious as you turn the pages. However, the clear photographs and equally clear prose lead the reader step-by-step through even the most seemingly difficult job in a manageable way.

If you make and wear rings (and even if you never expect to do professional repair work in a store), sooner or later you'll be glad to know how to enlarge, shrink, rebuild, and rejuvenate rings. What's more, the book offers many tips and techniques that fall into the I-never-would-have-thought-of-that! category, which will make you glad you read it.

—Noël Yovovich

Professional Jewelry Repair Series: Ring Repair

Alan Revere

RAJA Press, 1999

Soft Cover, Color and B&W, 125 pages
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Earrings may be the most popular form of jewelry, but rings are arguably the most beloved. They are the most laden with symbolism, the most intimate, and the most personal, since they are fitted to the wearer like no other piece of jewelry. Because of their small scale and

► Add a ring-making section to your library with these idea-generating tomes.

