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## LIVING

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# How Do You Change the Size of a Ring

By Stephan Gunning



It's so wonderful to get a new ring, but sometimes the person giving you the gift doesn't know the exact size of your finger and the ring needs to be resized to fit you

This is a particularly nice reason to have to resize a ring

You can also inherit a ring, this bittersweet ring will never replace the person you've lost, but will always remind you of that wonderful person that has passed the ring down to you. But now it needs to be adjusted to fit your finger.

Other reasons are deciding to wear a ring on another finger or perhaps overtime your hands have changed and the ring that fit beautifully needs to be adjusted.

Changing the size of ring can be a relatively easy task or an extremely complicated task.

The easiest rings to size are plain bands rings that are the same width and thickness all the way around. If you're not changing the size by a lot, plain bands can often be stretched or compressed to make the size changes that you need. A well equipped, Goldsmith will have the tool to do this. You're not adding or removing any metal to change the size and you just need to refinish it the ring to make it look like new.

Other rings if they have a heavy enough band going around the back and you're sizing it up can be done by carefully, stretching the gold on the back of the ring, using a hammer to move the metal and then you refinish the back of the ring to make it look like new.

The next approach is more complicated and more often than not. This is a technique that needs to be used when sizing a ring any significant amount.

You need to cut through the ring and add a piece of gold to make it larger or remove a piece of gold to make it smaller. Then you need to connect the sides of the ring back together and refinish the area that was worked on.

Whether you're making it larger or smaller, there are many different things that need to be considered. Because you are changing the basic arcs of the ring, this can loosen stones that will need to be tightened to make the ring safe to ware so you do not worry that your stones will come out.

And then we get to the rings that are very challenging. The ones where the stones go all the way around these are called eternity rings. A number of jewelers find these so challenging they say the rings cannot be sized but that's not true. It just takes an expert that knows what he's doing to size these rings.



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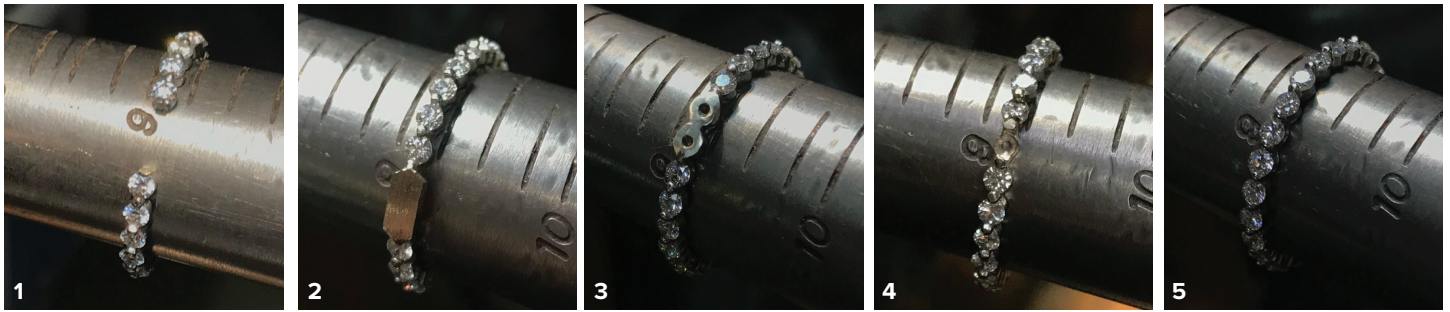


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These are the steps in sizing an eternity ring up.

1. You need to find a suitable place to saw through the ring between the gemstones.
2. A piece of metal of the same type that the ring is made out of needs to be welded into the ring to make the ring the correct size.
3. That piece of metal needs to be shaped to accept setting the gemstones that are the same shape and size as the other stones in the ring and in a fashion identical to the setting style in the rest of the ring.
4. The stones need to be set into the ring, using the same technique as the other stones.
5. All of the stones need to be checked to make sure they are secure and the job is completed.

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