

1510-2

Mark Nelson shows how to glue pearls on posts and use pearl links.

For more information visit:



Products. Service. Know-how.
Sharing your passion for making jewelry.

www.riogrande.com



Please continue to page 2 for project instructions.

Guest:



Mark Nelson

Copyright © 2011 Beads Baubles and Jewels, All Rights Reserved



Sharing your passion for making jewelry.
Products. Service. Know-how.

Gluing Pearls Into Pearl Caps

Pearl caps are a simple and elegant way to finish pearls, leaving them ready for you to turn into a pendant or earrings or dangles for a variety of necklace designs.

Steps:

1. A 5-minute epoxy works great to glue pearl caps on. It holds securely, but will allow you to remove the pearl to make changes or repairs. **Please Note:** Be sure to work where you have plenty of ventilation as the fumes from the epoxy are unpleasant and unhealthy.
2. Test-fit the peg of the pearl cap into the pearl hole. If the pearl hole is too small, enlarge it using a steel twist drill.
3. Using the corner of a file or a pair of flush cutters, prepare the peg by creating some grooves on it. Since we are trying to create a mechanical bond with the epoxy, the grooves give the epoxy something to hold onto.
4. Mix the epoxy for the recommended amount of time, and then apply it to the pearl. Put some in the hole, too, using a toothpick or a broken saw blade.
5. Place the pearl on the peg and then give it a twist to make sure the epoxy is evenly distributed.
6. If you have too much glue on the pearl and some oozes out the edges of the pearl cap, allow it to dry. Once the epoxy cures and hardens, you can trim away the excess with a craft knife. Do not try to clean wet epoxy; it will smear across the pearl surface and be harder to clean up.

If you need to remove the pearl, one method is to use an epoxy solvent such as Attack adhesive remover to dissolve the epoxy without harming the pearl. Always use solvent in a well ventilated area and keep it covered, as it evaporates very quickly.

Another way to remove epoxy is to heat the epoxy. You can do this by heating the metal with a soldering iron or torch and, as you do so, pull gently on the pearl. As the epoxy heats up, the adhesive breaks down and releases the pearl. Be very careful with this method; too much heat can damage the pearl.

⚠ CAUTION! Always wear eye protection when performing these processes.



supplies:

Order #	Description
687-171	Pearl cap, 4.2mm beaded
687-172	Pearl cap, 5.6mm beaded
687-173	Pearl cap, 4.3mm double-row
687-174	Pearl cap, 5.4mm double-row
686-873	Pearl cap, small with peg
686-874	Pearl cap, large with peg
077-890	6mm half-drilled pearl
630-046	4mm ear post
111-026	Swanstrom pliers and cutter set (use cutter to groove pegs)
114-765	#3 needle files (use triangle needle file for scoring posts)
206-024	5-minute epoxy (use scrap paper and toothpicks for mixing)
206-051	Attack adhesive remover
201-054	Citation safety glasses
—	Craft knife (for cleaning up extra glue)
—	Broken saw blade (for mixing and applying epoxy)
—	Drills (for enlarging holes)