

Adding a Magnetic Clasp to Pearls & Glue-Setting Crystals

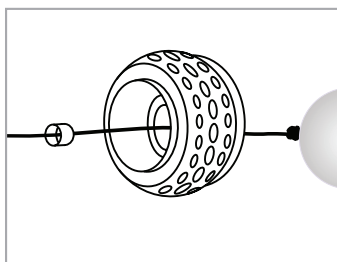
by Linda Arline Hartung

CRYSTALLIZED™ - Swarovski Elements offers crystal pearls both knotted and unknotted in various lengths. Knotted pearls with unfinished ends will have a few pearls left unknotted on both ends. This is done to allow some flexibility in determining the final length of the piece. You will need to knot all the pearls on the strand to add the magnetic clasp shown in these instructions.

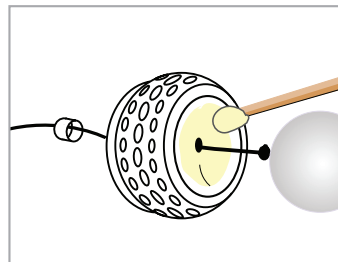
GLUE-SETTING CRYSTALS: The illustrations show the 'Magnetic Crystal Barrel' from Alacarte Clasps™. The techniques shown for gluing can apply to all glue-set crystal clasps and components from Alacarte Clasps™. Large scale manufacturing would use gluing equipment. Glue-setting crystals can be learned quickly. You'll make the process much easier with less clean-up if you apply glue precisely where needed and without overdoing it. Flooding the cavity with glue or getting it outside the glue area will create a mess and, if it gets on the crystal face, will make it dull and cloudy. Use isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol on a dampened (not soaked) cloth or Q-tip to clean off excess glue before it is dry. It is important to only use 2-part all purpose, clear drying epoxy. The most readily available is in dry times of 5-minute and 30-minute. Either is suitable though you will get higher strength with less stink if you use the 30 minute.

SUPPLIES: Any Magnetic barrel clasp from Alacarte Clasp™ - magnets are included with clasp. Qty. 2, 2x2mm crimps

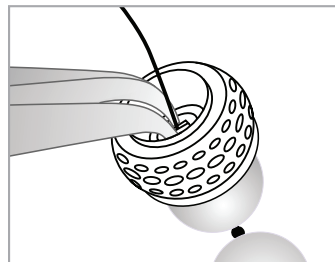
TOOLS: Bent nose or chain nose pliers, emery board or fingernail file, 2-part all purpose clear drying epoxy. Toothpick for mixing and applying epoxy. Removable adhesive putty (used for attaching posters to walls without removing the paint - available at most craft stores) or jewelers beeswax or museum putty.



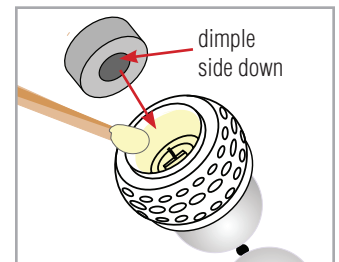
1: Knot the last pearl and slide through hole in bottom of clasp. Slide on crimp size 2x2mm.



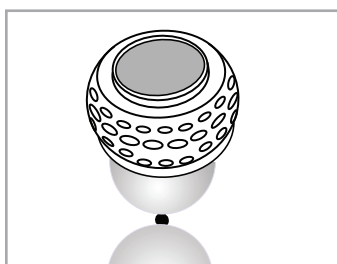
2: Apply a thin layer of epoxy on the smooth cupped area. Then pull to glue pearl into clasp. Pearl knot should pull into the hole.



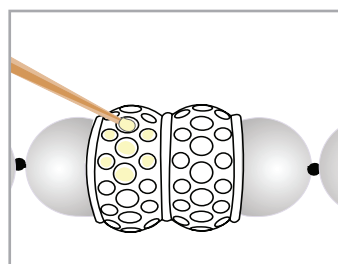
3: Pull up on string so pearl is against glued cup of clasp. Let crimp drop into the small well in the bottom of the clasp. While pulling up on the string, use your bent-nose pliers to flat crimp. Let dry. Trim string leaving a little extra. **BEFORE PROCEEDING: Test that your magnets will fit in the clasp and it closes properly.**



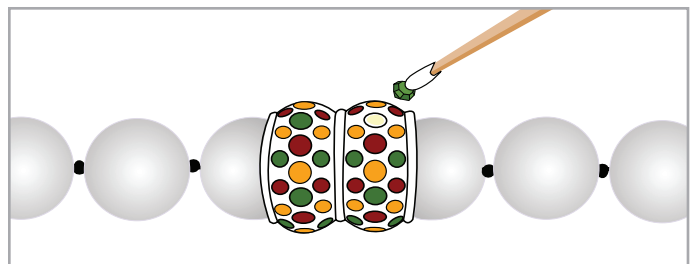
4: Use an emery board or nail file to lightly rough up the sides and dimpled side of the magnet. Apply epoxy over crimp and sides of clasp. Place magnet DIMPLE SIDE DOWN in clasp. Firmly press the magnet and wipe off any excess glue that seeps out. Use a cloth or Q-tip dampened with rubbing alcohol.



5: Smooth side of magnet should be showing. Place clasp so that magnet is **straight up** while glue is drying. Laying it down could cause the magnet to slip and prevent the clasp from closing properly.



6: Crystals can be set either before or after the clasp is attached. To glue crystals use a pointed toothpick and add a tiny dab of epoxy to cavity. Only add glue to as many as you can set before the glue dries.



7: Setting very tiny crystals can be a daunting task - unless you have some insider tips! Simply roll a tiny bit of removable adhesive putty (used to hang posters on your walls without removing the paint), or jewelers beeswax or museum putty on a toothpick tip. Then touch the top of your crystal with the putty and place it in the glued cavity. If you get glue on the putty, get fresh putty as the glue will cause the crystals to become cloudy and lose their sparkle.