

November 24, 2009

Dear....

OK. First you have to understand that I am the worst photographer in the world and I just not took these pictures so I wouldn't have to spend 3 days explaining what you'll see in the photos. (-:

1. I put as small a drop of adhesive as I can on the top inside and bottom inside tip of the bail. Then using a wooden dowel I sharpened in a pencil sharpener I spread the drops as shown along the edge. Can you see the two individual dots of adhesive? Don't put adhesive inside the central depression. It is a trademark. It is not designed to be an aid to adhering the bail to the cabochon, though many people incorrectly think this way. You will see other bails that copy our designs and methods, but that is all they are, copycatters. They did no development and research so they don't know what they are talking about if they tell you the center section of a bail is an enhancer for fixing the bail in place. If you put adhesive inside the center IT WILL NEVER SET. The adhesive has to be able to interact with air and the moisture in the air to bond and set. That is why you only put adhesive along the flat perimeter border.



2. After spreading the adhesive (we use CA40H by Scotch Weld) I carefully rotate the bail and gently place it on the cabochon where I want it to be. If you don't touch it after you place it, it will stay where you put it. Then.....



3. I very quickly clamp it with a strong super cheap mini-clamp I bought a couple of dozen of at Home Depot. They have really strong springs that mash both the bail and the glass really close together minimizing the thickness of the adhesive. Then I let it sit for 15-30 seconds, remove the clamp and have a super strong bond.





I don't use tape anymore because fingers can't clamp strongly enough to thin out the adhesive in the case where we may have placed a bit too much on one spot.

If you use an adhesive like E6000 you will have to wait 24 hours for the bond to set.

If you use epoxy or another similar adhesive, you have to be aware that they have no give and a sharp shock like dropping the item on the floor can cause the attachment to break.

I hope this answers your questions. Feel free to call me at my studio if you have any more.

Best regards,

Jeffrey

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