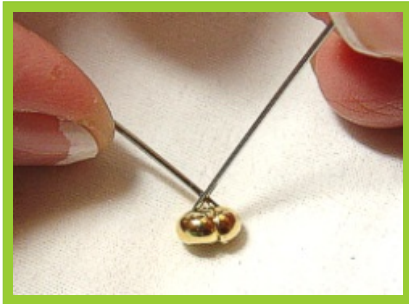


Crimp Bead Covers

the BASICS by Judy Markwell

Crimp Bead Covers are absolutely wonderful. They make your work more professional looking, even if you're an expert crimper. And if you're NOT, then a cover may make your work more comfortable, too. It won't take you a couple of minutes and you'll be up and running!



The first thing that you need to do when you start using your crimp bead covers is get those little guys separated. During shipping they seem to pair up as if they're going to a dance, and it took me a little while to figure out a quick way to get them apart.

I now keep a couple of straight pins (the kind used for sewing) in with my crimp covers, and I just lay the covers down and push them apart with the pins as shown. It's a lot faster than trying to pull them apart.



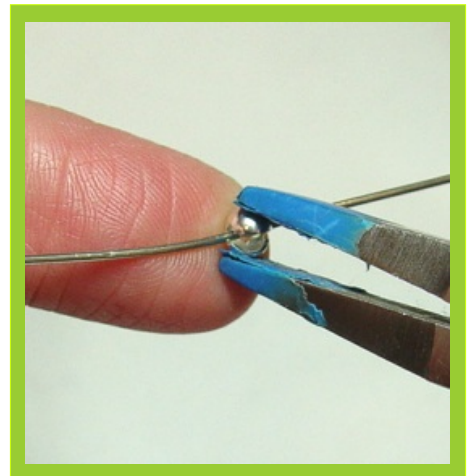
Covering a Crimp Bead

Start by putting your crimp bead cover over your crimped crimp bead. The great thing here is that it doesn't matter at all what kind of crimping job you do - it's not ever going to show. This picture shows the crimp bead on a wire so you can better see how the cover works. There's a crimp bead underneath, but it doesn't show up very well.



The first way to close a cover is to use a Mighty Crimper and close it as shown. Keep the seam of the bead towards the hinge of the crimper and slowly close the crimp bead cover.

The second way to close is to use large flat nosed pliers. I've coated mine with Tool Magic, and position the seam of the bead towards the hinge of the pliers, slowly close the cover.



Another trick I like is to cover the loop on the end of Memory Wire with a crimp bead cover. It is so much easier than using Memory Wire End Caps - no sanding or gluing - and the final result is very nice - just a tiny hole in the end that's barely visible. For pictures, see the Memory Wire Basics Tutorial.