

## WHY DOESN'T MY DIY JEWELRY LOOK PROFESSIONAL? 10 JEWELRY FINISHING TECHNIQUES THAT MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

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### GUIDE

10 FINITIONS POUR  
RENDRE VOTRE  
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You've chosen beautiful beads, come up with a lovely color combination, and spent time on your creation. Yet, once your piece is finished, something doesn't quite feel right. It seems less crisp, less balanced, or simply less polished than you'd imagined.

Good news: it's usually not the design that's the problem. The difference often lies in the details.

A slightly warped ring, a loop that's too large, a visible thread, or a poorly proportioned clasp are enough to alter the overall look of a piece of jewelry. Conversely, a few well-executed finishing touches can immediately result in a more harmonious and durable creation. Whether you're just starting out in jewelry making or looking to perfect your assembly techniques, here are 10 things to check before considering your piece finished.

## 1. Close your connecting rings perfectly

This is the number one mistake, and it's immediately obvious. Many beginners pull the two ends of the ring outward. The result: the ring becomes oval-shaped and will never close properly again.

The correct method is lateral twisting: use two pliers to rotate one end toward one side and the other end toward the opposite side.

- Twist—don't pull.
- Close it by gently moving it back and forth so that the two ends touch perfectly.
- Check with your fingernail: no gap should be visible.

Everything is illustrated in detail in our technical guide on [how to open and close a ring](#).

Our designer's tip: also remember to adjust the ring's diameter and thickness to match the weight of your piece. A very thin ring isn't suitable for a heavy pendant.



## 2. Form even loops on your ear wires

Are you making earrings or charms with studs? Take a close look at your loops.

Are they truly round? Do they all have the same diameter? Are they placed at the same distance from the bead?

Regular loops quickly give the impression of imbalance, especially on a pair of earrings.

To create a clean, even loop, first bend the wire at a 90° angle, trim off the excess, and then form the loop with round-nose pliers. When working with a series of identical charms, try to consistently position the wire in the same spot on the pliers to ensure a consistent diameter.

For jewelry subjected to greater tension, the pigtail loop provides a stronger hold. If you haven't quite mastered the technique, the [Looper pliers](#) for forming loops will be your best friend.



## 3. Mastering the Crimp Bead (and Covering It)

The [crimp bead](#) is the quintessential jewelry-making finish. Thread the bead, pass the wire through the clasp's ring, thread it back through the bead, then flatten it with pliers (all steps are detailed in our [technical guide](#)).

The step many designers overlook? The bead cap. It snaps shut over the flattened bead and creates an invisible finish, just like on fine jewelry.

Two things are important to keep in mind when using it:

- Keep two details in mind: the wire must be threaded through the hole twice.
- Pay attention to the dimensions: the bead cap must be large enough to completely cover the bead you're flattening.

## 4. Choose a clasp that's proportionate to the piece

The [clasp](#) isn't just functional—it's an integral part of the design. A large Lobster Clasp on a very thin chain can throw off the visual balance of a necklace. Conversely, a clasp that's too small can be difficult to use or unsuitable for the weight of the piece.

Also pay attention to consistency among the various findings: clasp, rings, extension chain, end caps, and connectors.

For example, avoid mixing gold-plated brass with gold-plated stainless steel: they won't have the same gold finish when the piece is first made, and they won't age the same way over time.

A good habit: also check the back of the piece. A well-finished piece should look clean when you turn it over.

## 5. Hide knots with a knot cover

A visible knot, even a tight one, always gives away a DIY assembly. The knot cover encloses it in a small metal shell fitted with a ring.

Here's how: place the knot (or the Crimp bead) inside the shell, add a dot of glue, and gently close it using nylon-tipped pliers. Then attach the ring to the clasp.

Discover the complete method in [How to Use a Knot Cover with Rings](#), and browse our selection of [metal knot covers](#) or our [\\$25 Sterling Silver knot covers](#).

On an elastic bracelet, the knot must be tied tightly and then concealed whenever the design allows. Depending on the thread and the project, it may slip inside the bead, in which case you won't need a knot cover. Here are 3 easy tips to [neatly hide your knot](#).

For weaving projects, carefully thread the cord through several beads before cutting it.

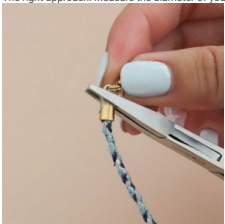
## 6. Use end caps designed for cords

A cleanly cut and knotted cord is still just a knotted cord. A cord slipped into a cord end becomes a finished piece of jewelry.

Two types to know:

- Glue-on end caps: Apply a dot of glue to the bottom, push the cord through, and let it dry.
- Clamp-on end caps (claws): Fold the cord back on itself, then close the claws with flat-nose pliers.

The right approach: Measure the diameter of your cord before buying. Our guide ["Which End Caps for Which Cords"](#) provides the exact matchings, and the fact sheet ["How to Use a Finishing End Cap"](#) details the process step by step.



## 7. Cut metal rods and wires cleanly

A wire sticking out by 2 mm will prick your skin and be noticeable. Get into the habit of cutting flush with precision cutting pliers, then gently flattening the end with flat-nose pliers.

For beaded jewelry, the real trick is this: thread the excess wire back through two or three adjacent beads before cutting. The wire disappears into the piece.

No more protruding wire = a professional-looking piece of jewelry. A simple step that makes all the difference!

## 8. Pay Attention to Spacing and Symmetry

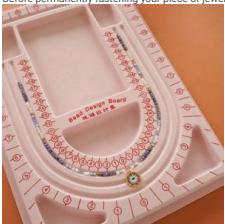
Sometimes, all the technical elements are assembled correctly, yet the piece still seems off-balance. Lay it flat and examine it.

On a necklace, does the pendant actually hang in the center? Are the beads spaced symmetrically? Are the charms spaced evenly? On earrings, are both sides exactly the same length?

To help you with the design of necklaces in particular, you can use an [assembly tray](#).

For an [asymmetrical design](#), the rule still applies: the asymmetry must appear intentional.

Before permanently fastening your piece of jewelry, take a few seconds to check the overall visual balance.



## 9. Use glue sparingly

More glue does not mean a stronger bond. Glue that oozes around a cabochon or a stone can, on the contrary, ruin a perfectly crafted piece.

- First, choose an [adhesive](#) compatible with the two materials you're joining. Metal, glass, natural stone, resin, fabric, and polymer clay don't necessarily require the same product.
- Then apply only the amount needed and remove any excess before it becomes difficult to remove.

For small components, use an applicator tip that allows for precise application.

## 10. Choose a pigtail clasp over a simple clasp

On a flat-headed pin, a [simple clasp](#) is sufficient for a lightweight charm. But as soon as there's tension (dangle earrings, charm bracelet), it opens.

The [pigtail knot](#) wraps the wire around itself: it can no longer open, and the even coiling is a true sign of craftsmanship. Plus, it will give your creation a very sturdy finish!

## Result



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