

1409-2

Debbie Simon teaches a technique using two part epoxy putty with crystals for a pave look.

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**'a la Pave'**

*Pave' the way to a sparkling future....*

*Pave' has a certain appeal, simulate the look without expert metal-smithing skills. No one will ever know how easy this is.*



**Tips:**

Clay can be sticky slightly oil your hands and tools to keep clay from sticking.

Use up to 5 sizes of each color of crystals...at least two sizes is really helpful.

Magnifying glass will help see pattern.

Use a small dollop of polymer clay to measure how much you need to not waste materials.

You will find stones don't stick easily as the clay starts to harden. I find if you pierce the surface it is still tackier below the film.

Popsicle stick helps get out the clay.

Premix colors first; as opposed to trying to adjust colors after you mix parts a and b and clay has started to activate.

Black and other dark colors can stain your hands. Use a baby wipe to clean them off.

After laying out design stones Easier or best to work inside out or outside in start filling with filler stones.

Again, having varying size stones allows you to fill more tightly.

Clean up tools immediately, epoxy will start to harden on.

Don't have to bake hardens to rock hard.

Completely cured piece can be sanded, carved, drilled and even painted with color.

Working time is best within an hour. **As opposed to the 3 hours manufacture instructions say.**

**The adhesive properties are best in the first 30 minutes or so...plan accordingly.**

## Materials needed

SWAROVSKI ELEMENTS XILION Chaton; Article No. 1028 in varying sizes -

I typically use 10pp, 14pp, 18pp, 21pp and 24pp

SWAROVSKI ELEMENTS Fancy Stones in varying shapes and sizes

Apoxie 2 - part adhesive clay in a variety of colors. (Fire Mountain Gems firemountaingems.com)

1 - 2 - hole bezel (Fire Mountain Gems firemountaingems.com)

2 - complimentary strands of SWAROVSKI ELEMENTS CRYSTAL Pearls; Article No. 5810

## Tools

Magnifying glass

Tweezers

Wax stick

Tooth pick

Scissors

Teflon paper

Baby wipes

## Instructions

*Mixing 2-part Apoxie adhesive clay material:*

Take two equal parts of each material. Use cautions to not cross contaminate the two parts. They are meant to react to one another so any residue can impact future material. To measure you could use a measuring spoon, or cup but I find for smaller applications, as used in jewelry pieces, can be eyeballed. To do this I take equal amounts of both parts; as equal as I can visually judge. I then roll both into balls. By looking at it as balls it makes it easier to see if the balls are close in size. Keep in mind, although you would like to be as accurate as possible, these putties do not have to be as precise as other materials.

1. Remember, **time is of the essence**. Before mixing make sure you have your bezel and crystals set out already to go. Refer to manufactures directions for specifics especially taking note to see how much working time you have once mixed. Note: whatever the manufacture says is the max is the MAX; I would assume it is a shorter window to make the best piece.
2. Following manufacturer's directions, knead the two parts together. Remember you will need to work fast because the working time is limited. Too much kneading can cause heat which will alter or speed up curing time.
3. Continue to mix the two compounds together until the marble pattern becomes a solid color. They make the two parts different colors to make it easier to see if you are mixing fully. Once all marbling is kneaded to an even color you are ready to start working with the putty/clay. Working time is up to three hours but will vary for a lot of factors including environment.

## *Making your bezel*

4. Fill bezel with mixed putty by rolling mixed clay into a ball and push down into the flat surface of bezel. Make sure to push into corners of bezel. Fill until almost full. With your fingers smooth out until you have an

even surface.

5. Continue until you have a nice even fill in your bezel.

### *Add crystals*

With a straight edge make cross hairs to mark the center of the bezel. Now you have a template to help spacing.

Using the cross hairs as a guide set your colored accent stones with tweezers. Only push far enough to hold the stones. (You will push further in when everything is set. This will help make sure you don't push in too far and still can adjust as needed.)

Starting in the center; with tweezers or wax stick start filling with filler chaton stones. Moving outward add the same color crystal around inner circle. Try to space out evenly. Use the cross hairs to help you space.

Move to the outer edge; with tweezers or wax stick, add crystal chatons. Add the same color crystal around outer circle. Try to space out evenly. Use the cross hairs to help you space.

Add crystals alternating between outer and inner edge. Use additional size crystals to make an even pattern. (By going from the outer circle to the inner circle and by using varying size stones, you will be able to fill it more tightly.)

Continue until bezel is filled. Remember Apoxie remains workable for adding crystals for about one hour. Pierce top layer with toothpick when working time is closing in on you and the crystals aren't sticking.

After the bezel is filled completely gently push down all the stones until they are pushed into the clay evenly and securely.

### Making Bracelet:

Decide on size of your bracelet; cut two pieces of beading wire that length (7 inches + 4 inches = 11 to 12 inches).

On one length, add crimp end and string through clasp. Fold over wire into crimp end. Clamp crimp end close.

On the other length of wire, follow step 2 and add crimp to clasp.

On one length add one color of pearls 2/3rds of the way (about 4.5 inches).

Repeat step 4 with other length of wire and second color of pearls.

Thread finished bezel onto both strands of wire (two separate openings).

Add remaining pearls on each wire.

On one length, add crimp end and string through other end of clasp. Fold over wire into crimp end, tighten wire leaving a little space between clasp and crimp. Clamp crimp end close.

On the other length of wire, follow step 8 and add crimp to other end of clasp.

### Guest:



**Debbie Simon**

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