



First of all – which glue to use?

NEVER apply adhesives of the “superglue” type to foiled or vacuum-coated rhinestones! The reaction of their chemical composition may cause irreversible damage to or even complete destruction of the stone's reflexive layer (foil) or similar metal coating. This results in the stone's 'fogging', or the stone may even separate from the carrier material.

Gem-tac has been the go-to multi-purpose adhesive tried and trusted for years specifically formulated for securing rhinestones and gems.

This is a fluid glue with a white colour which dries to clear. The white colour allows you to see where the glue has been placed. As it is a fluid adhesive, for precise application the [Needle Tip Bottles](#) are the perfect tool! Just decant the glue into the bottle and screw on the top - always replacing the protective rubber cap to prevent the glue drying out. Also suitable for smaller-gauge syringes if that is your preference.

Fabri-Fuse is like gold dust; it is PERFECT for stretch fabrics, designed especially to be used on spandex, lycra, leotards, swimsuits etc. No syringe needed as the bottle has a ready-made application tip protected by the lid. An exceptional adhesive choice for all types of fabric and decorative items. Its extreme flexibility allows fabric to move and stretch - even after washing!

Fabri-Fuse produced in America is an E6000 product - and it is the Ultimate fabric glue. The go-to choice of costumiers, crafters and performers across the world.

E6000 Plus is thicker, gloopier and clear - a more solid glue to work with, but beware the elasticity of it! Choose an E6000 Plus or similar for shoes, hard surfaces and fabrics like suede, deep weft velvet or leather. Leather must be roughed up before using glue on it.

It can take some getting used to. If covering larger areas, it's possible to smear from the bottle, but for precision decanting into a wide-gauge syringe (Olive) is recommended.

Normal E6000 was banned in the EU for its toxicity – beware people selling old stock and Chinese imitations. We sell E6000 Plus direct from the American manufacturer, newly formulated to be the same reliable product without the noxious fumes and approved by the EU and Great Britain.

Before you start:

When handling them, do not touch the back of the stones with bare hands. Pick them up with either a wax pencil or tweezers.

The stones should be dry, degreased and cleared of all possible surface stains before you start. If you're on a mission and spending quite a period of time stoning, it is wise to check your hands regularly and see if they need washing again. The last thing you need is to be transferring dirt or grease to either your stones or fabric.

Fabrics designed for outdoor clothing have, as a rule, various surface finishes, mostly water-repellent ones such as microporous membranes made of fluoroplastics, polyurethane coatings or other similar finishes that might make gluing stones onto them complicated or even completely impossible. Textile materials must be degreased and cleared of all traces of chemical surface treatment by washing, dry-cleaning or by the combination of both. When washing, do not use conditioners.

It is useful when using new untried adhesives or applying the stones to unknown carrier materials, it is recommended to run a peeling test first, at the same time strictly observing technical instructions given by the adhesive's manufacturer.

How much glue? Too much and it will not properly set, creating a gel-like surface that can crack, or will move along with the crystals, or soak into and ruin the fabric. It could stain the fabric around the stone, leave an unsightly adhesive strip surrounding the stone - or even swallow up and cover the whole gem and therefore not allow the sparkle to come through properly! Too little and the stone will drop off a hard surface over a short time or ping off fabric with any movement.

Glue-on properly and you will not lose stones. The bra you see here I made from scratch. The stones are glued with E6000 on the boning and Gem-tac everywhere else. It's been performed in, rehearsed in, flung across stages over 100 times. I haven't lost one stone yet.



The main thing to remember when placing your drop of glue, make it slightly bigger than the stone you're fixing then carefully drop the stone into it. The glue will shrink back around the stone and grip it, the same way a stone is set into a ring.

If you're rhinestoning something elastic or with stretch (e.g. knickers or leotards), it is advisable to pre-stretch them slightly first. This simple technique helps decrease the forces that could cause future adverse joint stress.

As you apply the stones also make sure you glue it stretched. The pattern you create will then not "spread" when the garment is worn and it also avoids putting it under "ping pressure" when you wear it! I've used embroidery hoops, pillows wrapped in clingfilm, picnic tubs - whatever best fits. I got frustrated stuffing bra cups and found a way of using my knee but it requires a period of sitting still!

If you're doing this regularly, we would recommend the [Dolly Boards](#). Templates (including one specifically for garment arms) which allow you to stretch the item across the board and glue and leave. They are easy to fit into suitcases for travel, too.

For fishnets, take the plastic that was part of the packaging and slide it over the cardboard backing before putting the tights over it. This way, you're not gluing the tights to the cardboard. Gluing at intersections is stronger but you **MUST** let each piece dry thoroughly before moving on.

Having mastered the glue drop there's the second really key thing to "stick to". Drying time. Leaving your work 24 hours will really seal the deal! Do **NOT** be tempted to use fast-drying glues because these will destroy the foil backing on your stones and in some cases cause damage to the stone and/or fabric. Superglue, for example – which, in addition, is runny so in your hurry to get the job done, stones will slide with it across the surface if you are not *extremely* careful. Learn from my experiences!

Ah yes, on that collective *gulp* as all you last-minute people start a new debate about how late you can leave it, have a great day 😊



Follow the recommended procedure:

1. Prepare the carrier material.
2. Check the stone for cleanliness; if it is not clean, clean it.
3. Make sure that the selected adhesive is suitable for the carrier material used, meeting technical requirements specified in the instructions given by the adhesive's manufacturer.
4. To test the adhesive, select a scrap piece of surplus carrier material. If it is not available, try to find an unseen part of the material used, where you can carry out the test without fear of spoiling the final product.
5. Apply an appropriate dose of adhesive to the carrier material or to the stone's back according to the manufacturer's instructions.
6. Applying gentle pressure, press the stone onto a drop of adhesive placed on the carrier material.
7. Let the adhesive set according to the manufacturer's instructions.
8. After the adhesive has set, it is advisable to run a peeling test. If the results are satisfactory, you can continue gluing the remaining stones.