

The Versatility of a Crimp Tube

By Tamara Honaman for *Fire Mountain Gems and Beads®*

Technically Speaking features in-depth tutorials for beading techniques that you can adapt to your own creations. Take an intensive look at a new technique every issue!



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tube into a crescent-moon shape (Fig. 1).

2. Turn the crimp tube 90° and place it into the front notch of the crimping pliers. Squeeze (Fig. 2).

3. If the folded crimp tube is misshapen, gently round it out using the front notch of the crimping pliers.

(Note: While this is not a tutorial on tools, it's important to note that there is a front and back to regular crimping pliers. The crimping end has a slight bend in it. You want the bend to aim toward your body when using the pliers. When using tiny crimp tubes, you'll need a Micro Crimper tool. The Micro Crimper's end is straight.)

Decorative Flat Crimp

When you need to secure beads to beading wire in a situation where your piece's structural integrity is not at stake (such as when you secure beads in a floating necklace), you can use a pair of chain nose pliers to squash the crimp tube in place on your wire (Fig. 3). In the necklace shown, notice how the flattened crimp tubes on the branches add texture as well as a design element to the overall appearance of the necklace.

Crimp Tubes as Spacers

Let's face it. A crimp tube is a tube-shaped bead, and the sterling silver and gold-filled versions can become beautiful spacer beads if your design calls for it. Don't worry—the beading police won't come looking for you!

Materials:

- Accu-Flex® Beading Wire
- Beads of your choice
- Crimp tubes

Tools:

- Chain nose pliers
- Crimping pliers

Think that crimp tubes are just findings to secure the ends of a strung design? Think again! Let's take a closer look at the ever-useful crimp tube:

Secure Fold-over Crimp

When you're adding a clasp to a design, or in any place where the crimp tube will be subject to a fair amount of stress and movement, a proper fold-over crimp is the way to go. To do a fold-over crimp, pick up your crimping pliers and follow these simple steps:

1. Once the crimp tube is in place on your wire, nestle the crimp tube into the large, half-round part of the crimping pliers' back notch (the notch closest to the joint). Squeeze firmly, shaping the crimp



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

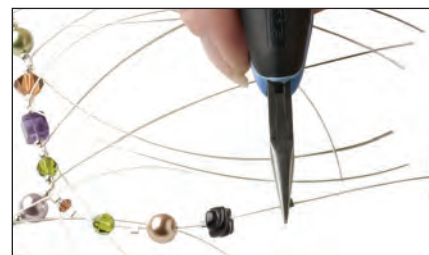


Fig. 3