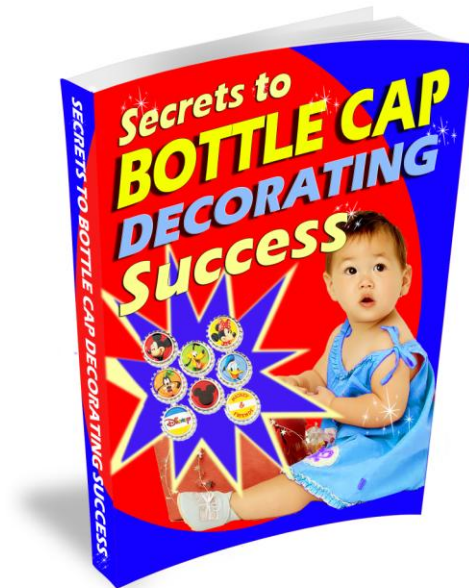


Secrets to Bottle Cap Decorating Success



by Jenn Spencer

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One of the hottest ways to decorate the center of your hair bows is with beautiful bottle cap embellishments. Here are the simple supplies and easy steps to create your own bottle caps.

You can even wear these bottle caps as jewelry or add to other craft projects, if you'd like. They are fun to make and beautiful to use for embellishing all kinds of crafts.

Supplies Needed



- Bottle caps – I prefer to use ones you can buy at most craft stores in the Scrapbooking section, but I've seen people use bottle caps off soda/beer bottles too (just not as pretty and could be sharp!)

- Craft table or table covering (it can get messy!)
- Acrylic paint (if you want to paint on your caps)
- 1 inch hole punch (in Scrapbooking section at craft stores ☞ I got mine at Hobby Lobby) ☞ shown in pink in photo
- Scrapbooking paper, magazine images, old children's books, newspapers or other design to cut out into a 1 inch circle
- Buttons or other embellishments (if you want to use them to decorate your caps)
- Mod Podge and/or Glue Stick or mounting adhesive dots (1 inch size)
- Resin ☞ I use EnviroTex Lite® Pour-On High Gloss Finish (16 oz. kit should last you pretty long!)
 - (Michael's and Hobby Lobby had this, but AC Moore didn't carry in store, FYI)
- Hammer or mallet (if you want to flatten out your bottle cap for a different look) ☞ OPTIONAL
- Krylon Outdoor Spray (if you want to make your entire cap a different color)

TIP: If you want to flatten the edges of the bottle cap for an optional unique look:

Simply use a hammer (or better yet a mallet) and carefully pound the edges to slightly flatten. **CAUTION:** Watch your fingers so you don't hammer them!

You could also flair the edges of the cap out by using a pair of pliers and pulling the ridges out slowly.



In this photo, the top is the regular bottle cap and the bottle one has hammered edges.

To make it even, be sure you are applying the same amount of pressure with your hammer and pliers, if you chose to do one of the above options.

There are a few ways to decorate your bottle caps. Here are steps for the most popular types you'll want to create:

Paper Bottle Cap Design

Use a 1 inch punch to cut out your design from paper, a bottle cap sheet design, newspaper, magazine, old book, sheet music, or anything else you desire!



In this photo, I've used my 1 inch circle punch to cut out a piece of yellow shiny scrapbooking paper (on left) and a plain piece of white paper which I wrote on with permanent marker (on right).

TIP: Can't find a 1 inch punch? A quarter is the perfect size! Simply trace the quarter around the image you wish to use and cut out carefully!

TIP: Want to find out what part of your paper design or magazine page will look best? Make a template out of card stock with a 1 inch circle cut out. Then you can hold the template up against the paper design and figure out what looks good!

Next coat BOTH sides of your paper gently, and completely, with Mod Podge to seal the paper well. Allow to dry.

Now position your paper centered on the top of the bottle cap and glue down. I like to use a scrapbooking embellishment glue stick. Allow to dry for just a few minutes; be sure that it is completely flat against the cap.



If it is not completely secured, you'll find that the resin will creep up under your paper image and will not look very good.

Now mix your resin as directed on the package. It is typically one part resin to one part hardener.



Mix well in a small disposable container. You do not need a whole lot for each bottle cap.

Next take just a bit of the resin and gently cover the surface of the cap. Do NOT allow it to pour down over the sides. This will take some practice.



Just add a little at a time in the center of the cap and gently move around in a circular motion to fill the entire area. (For this I use a disposable plastic spoon.)



Use a needle or straight pin to gently pop any large bubbles at the surface. The smaller bubbles typically work their way out as your cap dries.

Now allow to sit in a dust-free area for at least 24-36 hours to dry completely. Don't mess with it!

Once your bottle cap is dry, you can use as an embellishment for the center of your bows.



These are VERY basic examples, but you can make all kinds of bottle caps with beautiful designs! (These have not yet dried so you can see the bubbles on them still.)

Inexpensive bottle cap images to purchase:

http://www.blessedbydesigns.com/category_35/Bottle-Cap-Graphics.htm

<http://www.ewenmeprintables.com/shop/index.php?act=viewCat&catId=15>

<http://www.ebay.com> - search for bottle cap images

<http://www.bottlecapco.com/DigitalImages.html>

<http://www.etsy.com> - search for bottle cap images

TIP: Be careful when making bottle caps that you do not use copyrighted images or attempt to sell any licensed characters, sports team names or emblems, etc.

TIP: Don't want to mess with resin? You can make bottle cap images by sealing with a few layers of gloss Mod Podge too! It doesn't look as nice, but its an easy way to make bottle caps if you don't want to use the resin.

Painting A Bottle Cap

Also, you can simply use acrylic paint to make a design directly on your bottle cap. Then coat the entire painted surface with a clear acrylic sealer so the paint doesn't peel off and you'll have a beautiful design that lasts!

If you want the very best look for your painted bottle cap, I suggest priming it with Krylon indoor/outdoor spray paint gloss, painting it, then sealing it with the clear spray. You could make it cheaper and faster by just painting it, but your paint will probably chip off quickly.

You can paint letters or numbers on the cap, polka dots and stripes, names, even paint the full cap to look like a ladybug!

Fill a Bottle Cap

For another way to use bottle cap embellishments, you can easily glue down objects inside the bottle cap (instead of on top of it like the other designs) and seal it. Here's how:

Use a mounting adhesive or glue down any buttons, gems, or other small items to the bottom of the cap. You can even adhere a piece of paper here if you'd like!

TIP: I like to glue the items down with a scrapbooking embellishment glue stick or E6000 for a secure hold.



Be sure the item(s) are secured in place and glue is dried before continuing (otherwise they will float instead of staying neatly in place.)



Now follow the instructions on the resin to make enough to fill the bottle cap.

Once it is mixed up, carefully pour it into the cap and fill to the top (be careful not to overfill!)



The cap on the right of the photo has been filled with resin and is sitting to dry.

If you have large bubbles, you can pop gently with a straight pin. Most of the smaller bubbles will disappear as the cap dries.

The resin might appear cloudy, but it does dry clear.

Sit on flat, dry, dust-free surface. Allow to dry for at least 36-48 hours or longer, depending on humidity.