

## Using Hotfix Rhinestones

### Customer Profile

This method was submitted by Rene who has been sewing and stoning skating dresses and outfits for skaters for over 15 years. "I absolutely love to use hotfix stones; there is no glue smell, and they set beautifully!"

### Rene's Method

Always test a few stones on the material you intend to stone prior to actual stoning, as the heat may cause damage to some fabrics or materials.

If you are working with more than one size of stone it is great to have an applicator for each size. I just plug them all into my multi-outlet extension cord. I don't have to switch tip sizes, and I don't lose time waiting for the tips to re-heat.



The 2 other tools that I always use are fine nose angled tweezers and an Olfa cutting mat that is approximately 6" x 8".



- The tweezers help to dislodge stones if they don't want to stick to the fabric. They can be used to secure final placement, by pressing down on each stone to make sure it is set. Remember, the stones are hot!—so use tweezers and don't touch them with bare fingers. Tweezers are also great for retrieving a stone if you drop one in a tight place.
- The mat is great for placing under the fabric when applying stones. It provides a rigid surface to work on, but is still easily movable within a garment. It also protects other parts of the fabric from the heat and glue that sometimes penetrates a layer of fabric.

Make sure to periodically clean the residue left on the tips of the setter. Clean them with steel wool while they are cool. If a tip doesn't seem to want to pick up stones anymore, try cleaning, or just replace the tip.

To set a stone...

- 1) Place stones on a flat surface, right side up.
- 2) Take tool and place on top of a stone and pick up (stone viewed wrong side up now).
- 3) Wait for glue to just start forming little bubbles all around stone bottom.
- 4) Place stone on desired surface.
- 5) Use tweezers to dislodge stone if necessary (there are slots on the sides of each tip that the fine tweezers fit into).
- 6) Carefully press on stone to finalize setting.
- 7) Repeat.

If a stone goes somewhere you don't want it, you can usually pull it off while it is still warm and move it. You may have to pull excess glue off as well, and place that glue on the bottom of the stone. (I usually roll the excess glue into a little ball and place it on the bottom of the stone and re-melt it before setting again.)