

DUCT TAPE AS A DOP STICK

By Jim Marburger

I am a dop stick believer when grinding and polishing cabochons. (I never mastered doing cabochons by holding the stone to the wheel with my fingers.) To me, the dop stick gives you better control of the piece being worked and polished.

For near 60 years, I have used the standard green dop wax. In the past year, I have moved to using super glue with machine screws as the dop stick. These are placed in a holder that is matched to my hand size. When I set up stones to be worked, I now can super glue many at one time; it just depends on how many machine screws I have. Buy them by the box of 100. This is a good production run of cabochons.

For clear or transparent stones, it helps to polish the back side so it reflects the light that enters the front of the cabochon. The cabochon will brighten or give added pop to the stone. Now this is where I have moved from green dop wax or super glue to the duct tape dop. By cutting a strip across the tape, folding it with the sticky side together and two short section folded out, the sticky side of the legs can be stuck to the front of the cabochon. Now the back side can be polished by using the duct tape as the dop stick. The tape can be easily removed after the polishing is completed.

Just remember...duct tape fixes most anything.

