Technique Tutorial

How to Make a Tassel using a Tassel Cap

A tassel cap is a metal top for a tassel; it holds cut yarns, and fringes of all kinds together to create a fashion forward, fun accessory. Hanging method varies depending on the tassel cap style. Some styles have chains or clasps already attached to the cap. Use tassels for key fobs, bags and totes, package decoration or create one-of-a-kind jewelry. Technique varies depending on the fringe style. Tassels add movement and excitement to a project. And they are easy and quick to make!
How to Make a Tassel using a Tassel Cap (continued)

Supplies per tassel:
Fringe supplies:
  Fringe — 7”– 9” of any length OR
  Leather or suede — 1 piece 6”– 8” wide x desired length OR
  2 – 4 Yards yarn (yardage varies depending on thickness)
Dritz® Tassel Cap styles 821, 822, 823, 824, 825 or 826
Tiny Phillips head screwdriver
Glue such as E6000
Rotary cutter, mat and grid marked ruler to cut leather
Scissors to trim fringe and yarn

1. CUTTING: Fringes can be constructed out of many things — leather, cut fringe, yarn, feathers and beaded fringe. Precut fringe and beaded fringe are already flat and ready to use. Other raw materials must be cut into fringed ends. Once cut, it is handled the same as precut fringe.

Leather cut fringes: Place leather on cutting mat. Draw a line about 3/8” from one end. Use rotary cutter and grid marked ruler to cut leather into 1/8” wide strips, stopping at the marked line. Do not cut through the top edge of the leather.

CREATIVE OPTION: Looped Leather Tassel
Using the same method as in Step 1, cut only the center of the leather, leaving top and bottom edges connected. Fold cut leather in half, lining up top and bottom edges to create a looped tassel. Follow remaining steps to roll, glue and complete. This can also be done with other types of fringe.
Yarn cut fringes: Yarn varies in thickness, so it is difficult to tell exactly how much will fit into the cap. You may have to do this more than once to get the best fit.

Wrap the yarn around a piece of cardboard cut to the desired length of the tassel.

Tie the top loops of yarn tightly together. Slide out the cardboard. Test to make sure the wrapped yarn fits inside the cap. If it does not fit, untie and wrap again. When the tied end fits snugly into the cap, cut the bottom loops of yarn, creating a tassel.

Uncapped tassel looks like this. Skip to Step 5 to complete the tassel.
2. TESTING SIZE OF TASSEL: To make sure the tassel will fit, roll up the leather or fringe first and insert into cap to test. Trim off any excess.

3. GLUING: For all flat fringe (precut fringes and cut leather fringes): Place the fringe flat on your work surface. Place a line of glue along uncut edge of wrong side of fringe.

4. ROLLING: Carefully roll up fringe. Make sure the top edge of the tassel is even as you roll. Use a clip to secure the top of the tassel or place a heavy book or other item on top of the rolled tassel to hold until glue is dry.

NOTE: Yarn cut fringes do not get glued or rolled as you have already created the tassel shape by tying the yarn together.

CREATIVE OPTION: Tiered Tassel
Cut 3 separate pieces of leather, each a different length. Layer to create a 3-tiered tassel. Test the required size of each piece before gluing by rolling and inserting the layered leather into the cap. Adjust the size accordingly.
5. INSERTING TASSEL INTO CAP:
For all tassel types, fill the cap about 1/4 full with glue. Immediately insert the top end of the tassel, pushing it into the cap until it stops. Allow the glue to solidify slightly before inserting set screw.

6. FINISHING THE TASSEL:
Carefully insert the set screw. Use a tiny Phillips head screwdriver to gently turn the screw until it stops.

IMPORTANT:
Screw is tiny and very delicate. Do not forcefully turn it as you can easily strip the threads on the screw. To help prevent the stripping, use a small pliers to turn screw as close to cap as possible. Use screwdriver to finish inserting the screw.

CREATIVE OPTION:
Wrapped Tassel Cap
Styles 821 and 824: Add a contrasting or matching band around the indented sides of the cap. Cut leather to fit the space. Test the fit before gluing. Sparingly apply a glue such as E6000 to the sides of the cap, and position the fabric strip, wrapping it evenly around cap. Allow to dry completely before handling.
Be Creative! Add beads, feathers, sequins and assorted fibers to your tassel for ultimate flair. To be sure beads stay on the tassel ends, knot the thread below the bead or add a drop of glue.