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The Lowest Prices on Micro Beads and O'So Sticky Tape!

Penny Wise Arts
Where Your Favorite Color Can Be Clear!
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Micro Bead Basics - Product Information

Product Review

To start, I want to review just a few basic things about the main ingredients of our class. Glass No Hole Micro Beads – whew! That’s a mouthful for something so tiny! Let’s just call them micro beads from here on! And then, of course we have our exclusive product - O’So Sticky Tape!

Micro beads are manufactured from recycled glass products – so when you are “Beading The World”, with us, you are also helping to conserve its resources by making something new from something that was used!

If you have a bag of PWA clear micro beads handy – pick it up and look closely ...

You may notice some little black specs mixed in with your clear beads here and there. These are called “culls” and are a natural occurrence in the recycling process. Many companies pay people to pick all the culls out – and then YOU pay for it in higher prices! At PWA, we do a basic sifting and grab out the bulk of the culls before we sit down to package them for shipping. But, we don’t spend a lot of time on that – since we want you to get the best deal you can on your beads! You may also find a few culls in your translucent (see through) colored beads, but there won’t be any in the opaque beads because they are completely coated with color and will look like all the other beads in the package!

Mister Penny Wise is working on a gizmo that will search out and remove those culls in the future – but his #1 priority right now is our custom bead coloring machine!!



Storage and Use of Micro Beads

Next, let's review a few things about your beads and ways to store them. I have clear plastic containers – one for each color. They have lids that snap on tightly, and they stack well in my cubby shelf! We call them bead storage boxes, and sell them on our website! Some people choose to keep them in their original bags and pour them into a tray for use, and then funnel them back into the bag when they are done. It all depends on your space and what works best for you.

Don't Touch!

One thing that you need to know is that your hands/skin have naturally occurring oils on them - in addition to any creams or lotions that you may add!

For this reason, we recommend that you DO NOT “play” in your beads – if these oils get onto them, you may find that your beads won't stick or will later fall off of your projects. I know it's tempting – but TRUST me on this!

Static Cling & Humidity

If static cling is a problem in your area – try putting your beads into a glass or metal pie pan to work with them – this should solve the problem! Another nifty trick is to use coffee filters! Ta-da! No more static cling!

Are you all familiar with the little desiccant packets of silica gel that come in various products that you buy? We called them “Do Not Eats” at our house – because that's what they say right on them – “Do Not Eat”! Ü

Well, these nifty little freebies are a great way to help keep your beads free from static, as well as protect them from humidity (if that is an issue where you live). Humidity is basically water – if the beads are moist – then they won't stick so well! So I recommend that you start saving all the “Do Not Eats” that you can – and place one in each of your bags of beads!

When making shaker cards, I always swipe the acetate with a damp paper towel to eliminate having my beads cling to the window!

A Little History Lesson on Tape

If you have been around PWA since the beginning, (March of 2003) will remember that we originally sold a product called Terrifically Tacky Tape. There are several other products out there that are similar – Red Liner, Bead Bond and Wonder Tape to name a few. Basically, O'So Sticky Tape is the same thing – but with PWA improvements!

O'So Sticky Tape is a heavy-duty double sided adhesive that is SUPER sticky! It will REALLY keep your beads and other embellishments in place for a long time to come! It works great on wood, glass, metal, plastic and paper. It is also Non-toxic, Acid Free (Perfect for Scrapbooks), Transparent, and Heat Resistant.

Tape, surface and other materials MUST be clean and dry. (You probably knew that)

But something that a lot of people DON'T realize is that the tape and materials must also be WARM!

Air conditioning, cold, and humidity will interfere with adhesion. For best results materials should be around 75 degrees. If colder, warm gently with a heat (embossing) gun or hair dryer. In a pinch, you can even sit on it – we discovered that once when the power was out! Ü

Please note that O'So Sticky Tape may damage some surfaces if removed. O'So Sticky tape cures over night for even stronger hold! It is NOT waterproof.



What Makes O'So - So Much Better?

What makes O'So Sticky Tape BETTER than the rest? I'm glad you asked! Ü To start with – we have OPTIONS!!! O'So Sticky Tape rolls come in SEVEN different widths! AND – our rolls have 6 YARDS on them PLUS – the core is PLASTIC – so you don't waste the last 9 inches of O'So Sticky – like you would with TTT or others that come on a cardboard core! That means you have 26% MORE TAPE than our competing brands – AND on top of that -- our prices are still LOWER!!

In addition to the rolls, we also sell O'So Sticky Tape in 6" by 8" SHEETS! These are the most versatile tape product you can buy! The "original" O'So Sticky Tape has two liners – with the adhesive sandwiched in between. One liner is made of kraft paper (mustard in color) and the other side is an orange polyliner (plastic). The paper side can be stamped on – for getting just the right shape of tape to bead an image – such as a flower! (We'll be demonstrating this shortly!)

In 2004, we introduced a BRAND NEW member to the O'So Sticky Tape Family – it's our Paperback Tape! Made of the very same adhesive as the original "O'So" – the Paperback Tape is just that – paper backed – on BOTH sides with a white kraft liner. There are several advantages to this:

1. It Cuts and Punches Better than Polyliner tape
2. It Reduces Gumming of scissors and
3. It can be used with your PUNCHES!!!

There are some tips and tricks to using your punches with O'So though – so before you dive in – be sure to review them in this document ->

<http://www.pennywisearts.com/pdf/PunchingOSo.pdf>

Storing O'So Sticky Tape

You'll want to be sure to store your tape in the original plastic bag (or something similar) to keep it clean and free of dust and dirt particles.

For more information on O'So Sticky Tape – you can visit this document called Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About O'So Sticky Tape ->

<http://www.pennywisearts.com/pdf/AllAboutOSoSticky.pdf>