

Photo 12 Use a small pair of flat-nose pliers to fold each prong upward to 90 degrees. We ground an old pair of flat-nose pliers to a .090" width to match the width of our prongs.

Photo 13 At this point make a trial fit of the cabochon. Adjust the prongs inward or outward as needed, but do not fold the prongs over at this time.

Photo 14 With the prongs folded up and out of the way, you now have room to file.

Photo 15 We used a 6" barrette needle file to clean and smooth the edges of each petal and prong. A barrette file has no teeth on the back, so it won't mar adjacent surfaces.

Photo 16 We used our 3M radial bristle discs to shape, sand, and polish the finding beginning at with 120-grit and working through to the finest, 1 micron.

Set the Cabochon

Photo 17 Place the round cabochon into the finding and use a bezel pusher to force the prongs into contact with the stone, working back and forth from opposite sides so the cabochon is centered.

As you can see, our bezel pusher is an old plastic toothbrush handle that we cut off and sanded smooth. It's our favorite bezel setting tool because it won't scratch the cabochon if there is an inadvertent slip. You decide how you wish to hang your pendant and/or if you wish to add a bead or pearl drop. The simplest choice is adding a jump ring through one of the ten holes for a bail.

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PAGE
20

*Adapt your own round cab
for a custom piece*

