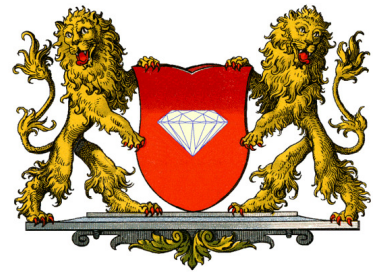


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Attaching Aiglets

For more background information and documentation about attaching aiglets to cords in various ways, visit my website: www.livingstonjewelers.com/aiglets.html and download the paper “Aiglets. Medieval, Post Medieval, and Modern”, and read the chapter entitled “attaching the aiglets to cords”.

This document was written to explain what I think is a good method for securely attaching aiglets by sewing. Discussing riveting is a long subject and that is covered in the paper above.

The first step in attaching your aiglets is to prepare your cords. There is evidence that some aiglets have residues of what may be adhesives remaining inside so it is not a long stretch to assume that, at the very least, some sort of adhesive or paste was used to stiffen the end of the cord so it would be less likely to unravel, resulting in the loss of your aiglet. It may have also been used to help hold the aiglet on the end of the cord. You will want to purchase some fabric glue. This glue is water resistant and has a bit of flexibility when dry. If you want to be historically accurate, you will want to use cheese glue¹.

Lay out a sheet of newspaper to protect your tabletop and on this lay you cords, aiglets, some steel T-pins, glue, and an old towel to wipe glue off of your hands as you work.

1. Start by taking some glue and putting into a small container. The lid of a soda bottle works well.
2. Dip one end of a cord into the glue and work this into the cord.
3. While twisting, work the end of the cord into an aiglet as far as you can.
4. Once you have the cord worked into the aiglet as far as possible, take a T-pin and push through the holes in the side of the aiglet. This will let you have space for the sewing needle or rivet once the glue is dry.
5. If the aiglets you purchased or made have triangular tabs at the top, this is when you want to use a small wooden stick to push the points into the cord. A set of disposable chopsticks work well for this as you can just throw them out when you are done.
6. Once the adhesive has had time to set, use gentle pressure to twist the T-pin back and forth to release it from the aiglet.
7. Take a piece of button thread and thread it into a needle. Run this through the hole in the aiglet but leave about 3 inches.
8. Loop around the aiglet and run the needle through the aiglet hole again. Loop around the other side of the aiglet and do this at least three or four times.
9. Take your loose end of the thread and tie a sliding knot in the thread. Pull this very carefully into the aiglet as you tighten it as much as possible.
10. Use a toothpick and put a drop of glue on each side of the hole in the aiglet and lay the cord aside.
11. When dry, trim the thread as close as you can to the metal.
12. Continue until all of the aiglets have been attached.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at glivings@livingstonjewelers.com

Thank you.

¹ Heath, Maya. 2007. A Practical Guide to Medieval Adhesives. Milpitas, CA: Society for Creative Anachronism. Pages 12-16.