Decorative Tassels with Porcelain Caps



Decorative Tassels with Porcelain Caps can be used in as many ways as your imagination can dream up. Here are a few suggestions:

Small

Christmas Tree Ornaments Hang over a wine bottle instead of using a gift bag Hang from knobs on hutches or armoires Use as a tie-back on small curtains

Large

Hang from door knobs
Use as tie-backs on large curtains
Hang from stair posts

They can also be used in your shop to display different yarns. Since there are many ways to write on them that are only semi-permanent, you can reuse them many times!

Ways to decorate the caps

The caps are made of white porcelain, thus they can be decorated in many different ways. Some ways are permanent, some are semi-permanent, meaning they take something special to get back to the white surface, and with other methods, the decoration can easily be removed.

Here is a chart of some suggested methods and how they fare:

	Permanent	Semi- Permanent	Very short drying time	Drying time needed	Needs to be baked	Can be removed with acetone	Can be removed with steel wool and water	Easily removed with dry or wet cloth
Permanent Markers		☆	☆				☆	
Oil based Paint Markers		☆	☆				☆	
Porcelain Paints	☆			☆	☆			
Nail Polish		☆		☆		☆		
Dry or Wet Erase Markers			☆					☆



• Permanent markers such as **Sharpie® Permanent Markers** create a semi-permanent finish. It will not smudge or come off with gentle handling, but can be removed with something abrasive, such as steel wool and a little water. This will not damage the porcelain finish. They dry quickly, are easy to handle and are relatively inexpensive. The

only drawback is, that with a lot of handling, the color may eventually come off and/or fade.

• Oil based markers hold up better than permanent markers with lots of handling, and also create richer colors. However, they are also harder to use, because they have a fine tip that disperses liquid only when pressed down. They are also more expensive.

• Porcelain Paints, once baked in your oven, are permanent. This is a good choice for tassel

caps where you want the finish to last forever. Once baked, you will not be able to get back to the white porcelain finish, but you will have a finish that will last a lifetime. Color choices are limited, but you can mix colors to create your own.





Nail Polish

4. Nail polish creates a very shiny finish that will stay put, even with heavy handling. There are thousands of colors on the market to choose from, including colors that crackle. Nail polish can be removed with a cotton ball and acetone, without damaging the porcelain finish. Another nice point of using nail polish, is that it comes with a brush built in. However, do ventilate your area if using nail polish as it does create a very strong odor.

5. Dry or Wet Erase Markers are a great choice for writing things on the caps that can be easily changed. Example: if you use the caps to display a yarn in your shop you can use a dry erase marker for writing down the name or price of the yarn featured.

Additional items that can be used to decorate the porcelain caps: three dimensional fabric paint, stick on crystals and nail tattoos.

Once the caps are decorated, you will need to create the tassel portion and the hanger.

Building Instructions



Step 1

Hanger:

You can use many different things to hang your tassel with, including silk cording, I-cords, twisted cords, leather cording or kumihimo cording. Whatever you choose, cut the cording to the length you would like it, plus 3" for the small tassels and 6" for the large ones. Tie a knot at each end of hanger cord. Set aside.



Decide on the length of your tassel and add 1 1/2" for the small tassels, or 3" for the large tassels to that length.



Step 3



Step 5



Step 7

Using a strong piece of cardboard cut to that length, wrap your chosen yarns around the cardboard. The amount of times you wrap the yarn around the cardboard will be determined by the thickness of the yarn, and how full you want your tassel. The thinner the yarn, the more wraps. The fuller you want your tassel, the more wraps. (see Step 1)

Once you have your desired thickness, use a piece of scrap yarn that will NOT break in your hands, and tie a knot at the top of the cardboard, as tightly as you can. (see Step 2)

Remove the yarn from the cardboard carefully (see Step 3), and using the scrap yarn, wrap the yarn around the top of all the strands as tightly as possible, about 20 times, securing in all the strands. (see Step 4) Test by pulling on a strand to see if it comes loose. If not, you are good. If it does, you need to wind tighter, do not cut scrap yarn. Attach the hanger cord to the tassel by laying the knotted ends of hanger over the tassel wrap. Wrap the scrap yarn around the ends as tightly as possible, and as close to the knots as possible. (see Step 5) When the hanger cord is firmly in place, then you can tie a knot with the scrap yarn to keep it secured.

Finishing:

Using an open paperclip folded in half, pull the hanger cord through the body of the tassel cap and through the hole in the top. (see Step 6) Pull tight. Tie a knot in the hanger cord to keep the tassel in place. (see Step 7) Cut the ends of the tassel yarn so that they may hang freely.





Step 2





Step 6

