

Non-Penny 'Gems

JumboGems, like PennyGems, are sized to fit perfectly onto a U.S. coin; in this case, a quarter. Obviously, quarters cost a lot more than pennies. You can also get fender washers at many hardware stores for less than 25 cents each. They're slightly larger than quarters, so washer-mounted JumboGems will show a metal border, but most people don't find this particularly problematic.

However, *if* you ordered JumboGems with the quarter-sized copper discs that I now have available, you should know that the discs are slightly larger than a quarter, and so are the JumboGems that I send along with them. Generally, you won't notice any difference unless you try to apply disc-sized JumboGems to a quarter, which I don't recommend.

IMPROBABLE OBJECTS

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<http://www.ImpObj.com/>



*Various
&
Sundry Tidbits
of Information About
PennyGems*



Choosing Pennies

You might think that you need (or want) bright shiny pennies for your PennyGems. This is not actually necessary. Once you've applied the stickers, only the edge will show, and most of your friends won't even notice that the edge isn't just like the rest of the token. The shiny label itself will distract them. As a result, you can save yourself some time and effort by merely making sure that the pennies you use are clean, and not worry about how shiny or dull they are.

On the other hand, even if they don't notice, you will, so if you still want shiny edges, you will get the brightest shine with the least effort if you buy some metal polish. The various vinegar/lemon juice/salt-type schemes will also work, but paste polish designed for copper, brass, silver, or other softer metals will quickly make a dazzling edge. You can get through many pennies quickly if you make small stacks and just polish the edges of the stack.

Assembly

Most people find assembling PennyGems is easier than they expected. If you've purchased a large set, it can take a while, but I find you can get a lot of them done while watching television or while waiting to take your turn in a game.

1. Hold the penny between your thumb and middle finger.
2. Hold the label in the other hand, the same way.
3. Bring the label and the penny together. Your fingers should slide between one another. This will neatly center the label on the penny.
4. Use your index (pointer) fingers to gently press them together.
5. Repeat steps 1-4 on the other side. (With practice, you can apply the labels to both sides at the same time.)
6. Now pinch the edge of the penny to seal the edge. It's not necessary to apply a lot of pressure to the center; it's the edge that really matters.

If it looks off-center or you can feel the edge of the label, just carefully peel it off and try again. The adhesive will grow in strength over the next few days. Yes, you will be able to see a faint impression of the surface of the penny through the label once you apply it. This will also become less noticeable with time. The same application technique works for JumboGems.

In case you're not sure, the "standard" way to assemble PennyGems is to put the same color on both sides, with one side showing an icon and the other side blank.

Maintenance

The clear polyurethane dome is astonishingly durable. It is impervious to most household chemicals, including concentrated muriatic (hydrochloric) acid. Solvents like acetone and lacquer thinner take hours to have much effect. Also, it's somewhat self-healing; dents or scratches will rebound over time.

Nevertheless, most of the time, just wiping them with a cloth is all the maintenance they should need. You can also use soap and water if necessary. Both the dome and the inks are UV-resistant; PennyGems will retain their rich colors even under prolonged exposure to direct sunlight.

Perfection

I do inspect every sheet before shipping to try to weed out any defective labels. However, inspecting labels is pretty boring, and I don't have enough minions to chain to the wall to do it for me, so boo-boos slip through from time to time. If there's a problem with your order, please contact me. I will make every effort to ensure that you are completely delighted with your purchase.

E-mail: pennygems@ImpObj.com

Web site: <http://www.ImpObj.com>

PennyGems are not recommended for children under 3 years old. "PennyGems," "JumboGems," "Improbable Objects," and the electric lamp device are trademarks of Improbable Objects. Blah blah yak yak legal blah blah.