

# Santa Piggy Figurine Ornament

<jensoriginalsembroiderydesigns.yolasite.com>

Posted 2023 July 14

In keeping with the “piggy” theme that permeates my family, I picked up this pig figurine a while back; my intention was to make it into a Christmas ornament, but I just haven’t gotten around to it



I rediscovered the piggy again while doing some clear-out in the craft space, and decided -- finally -- to see if I could complete the project.



To begin, I selected some bits and pieces from my stash: some holly leaf beads, round red beads, jump rings, short head pins, a short length of jewellery chain, and this acrylic Santa hat. I’ve had a few of these hats for a while and wasn’t sure how I’d use them, but they’re ideal for this project.

On impulse, I also grabbed some alphabet beads to spell “SANTA”. A few seed beads and some 18-gauge wire completed my supplies.



First things first: I located the balance point and added a loop made from 18-gauge wire, so I’ll be able to attach a hook or string for hanging the ornament. This figurine is made from fairly soft vinyl, so I was able to simply push the sharp ends of the wire in with a pair of pliers. If he had been harder plastic, I’d have had to find a different method to attach the loop, but for my vinyl pig, this method is perfect.



I tried the hat on for size: although it doesn't quite sit flush to the pig's head, I think I can make it work. But before I attach it, I'll add an adornment for around his neck.

I decided to make a wreath (necklace?) using the alphabet beads and some metallic seed beads.



To make the wreath, I pushed one end of the wire into the pig's neck just behind his ear.

I strung on the beads, then bent the wire at a right angle and trimmed to about 1/4".

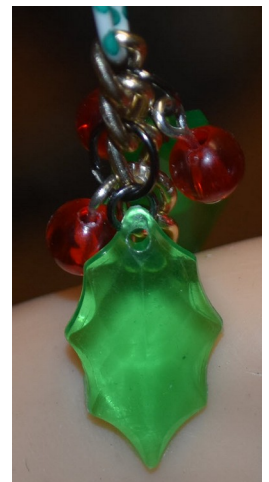


I used my pliers to push the other end of the wire into the pig's neck behind his other ear. The soft vinyl receives the sharp wire without too much resistance, and will hold it in place without glue.



I thought my Santa Piggy needed a little more embellishment, so I made a dangle using holly leaf beads, round red "berry" beads, and jump rings, attached to the hanging loop with a short length of chain.

Now to add the hat, and Santa Piggy will be complete.



Adding the hat is a bit of a challenge. Gluing it isn't really an option: although the hard acrylic hat will take glue well, I know from experience that soft vinyl like the pig's body won't hold, even with a good glue like GOOP. I'll have to try something else.



In the end, I decided to pin the hat to the pig's head. With a very fine drill bit in my Dremel tool, I made holes in the hat just above the trim on either side. I'll use short dressmaker's pins to keep it in place.

I used pliers to push the pins through the drilled holes and into the vinyl figurine, securing the hat in position on the pig's head.



You can just see the heads of the pins where indicated by the arrows.

With the addition of his hat, Santa Piggy is finished, and I'm quite pleased. Check the next page to see how he turned out.



I'm quite tickled with the SANTA wreath and with the holly dangle, which add just the right festive touch.

And although the hat doesn't sit quite flush to the head, the pins will keep it secure. The slight gap won't be noticeable when he's on the tree.



Come Christmas, when I hang Santa Piggy on my tree, I will be thinking of my family, and especially of my dad and my brother, who are now no longer with us.

They both had prodigious pig collections – whether they wanted them or not! Their pigs were thrust upon them by siblings, by children, by friends and acquaintances, but with barely disguised pleasure they both embraced the love. May they rest in peace, and remain in our hearts for always.