

# Camp Clamp



**BY TINA WOJTKIELO SNYDER** Getting a grip on the tiniest of findings, such as jump rings, might require looking outside of the typical jeweler's toolbox. During a recent Home Depot shopping trip, Karen Christians of *Cleverwerx* ([cleverwerx.com](http://cleverwerx.com)) in Waltham, Massachusetts, spotted some small and large rubber-tipped clamps that work perfectly for holding tiny elements during fabrication.

"The large clamps with their lurid orange rubber grips have been a familiar and useful clamping system for holding everything from tablecloths to wires," she says. "However, when I spotted tiny ones for 37 cents, I purchased two—and they proved to

be a cheap, but smart, bet."

At about 2.5 inches in length, the clamps pack a lot of gripping power. Christians says they are particularly suited to clamping down on a small jump ring so she can file a concave profile to ensure a tight fit for a curved bail before soldering. She has also used the clamp to drill a pearl, first dunking the tip into water and then drilling into the pearl with her flex-shaft and pearl drilling bit.

"The clamps fit nicely in my hand and are a comfortable and ergonomic alternative to trying to grip a pair of pliers in one hand and file with the other," she adds. ♦