What is riveting?

Goldsmithing Techniques · https://www.purejewels.com/faqs/goldsmithing-techniques/what-is-riveting/

While jewellery is often celebrated for its brilliance and design, the way it's assembled is equally fascinating. One of the most traditional yet understated joining techniques in jewellery-making is **riveting**, a method that combines strength, elegance, and craftsmanship without the use of heat.

At **PureJewels**, where heritage and technique go hand in hand, understanding processes like riveting deepens our appreciation for the true art of jewellery.

Riveting Defined: Joining Without Heat

Riveting is a mechanical technique used to **join two or more pieces of metal together** using a small metal pin — called a **rivet** — which is **hammered or pressed at both ends** to hold the pieces in place.

Unlike soldering, which uses heat and filler metal, **riveting is a "cold connection"** method, meaning it relies purely on pressure and mechanical bonding, not melting.

How is Riveting Used in Jewellery?

Riveting is often used to:

- Attach **different metal layers** (e.g. gold over silver)
- Join **moveable parts** (such as hinges or articulated elements)
- Combine **metal with other materials** (like wood, leather, enamel, or gemstone plaques)
- Add **decorative detailing** in a subtle and secure way

In high-end artisan jewellery, **riveting is also a visual design choice**, showcasing the handmade, architectural nature of the piece.

Types of Rivets in Jewellery

1. **Standard (Flush) Rivet** – Clean and flat, nearly invisible when polished.
2. **Decorative Rivet** – Designed to be seen; may use domed heads, textures, or even gemstone accents.

3. **Tube Rivet** – A hollow cylindrical rivet, often used when a lighter or more refined look is desired.

Benefits of Riveting in Jewellery

- **No Heat Required** – Ideal for heat-sensitive materials like pearls, enamel, or antique elements.
- **Strong Mechanical Bond** – Offers long-lasting durability without affecting surrounding components.
- **Design Flexibility** – Perfect for mixed media, multi-metal, or kinetic designs.
- **Preserves Purity** – Maintains the integrity of high-carat gold that might be sensitive to repeated soldering.

Riveting vs Soldering – Key Differences

Feature	Riveting	Soldering
Method	Mechanical, uses pressure	Heat-based, uses melted filler metal
Visual Impact	Can be hidden or decorative	Usually invisible if done cleanly
Heat Involved	No	Yes
Ideal Use	Mixed materials, movable parts	Permanent joints, traditional assembly

Does PureJewels Use Riveting?

While most **PureJewels** designs are crafted using **traditional goldsmithing and soldering techniques**, **riveting is occasionally used in bespoke, multi-material pieces**, or heritage restorations where heat must be avoided.

In these instances, it reflects our **commitment to both craftsmanship and conservation**, preserving every element of the piece with care and skill.

Final Thoughts: Strength in Stillness

Riveting may not sparkle like a diamond or gleam like polished gold, but it holds jewellery together in **quiet strength**. It is a celebration of **form and function**, used by artisans for centuries to create pieces that endure.

At **PureJewels**, we honour techniques like riveting not only for their practicality, but for the story they carry, a legacy of making things that last.