

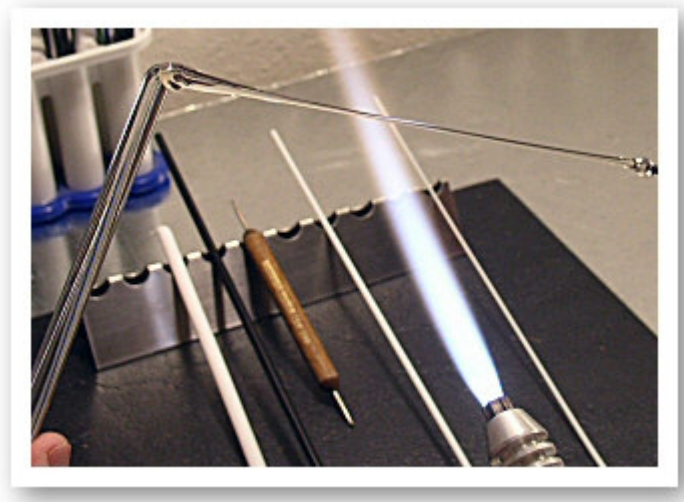
## Floating Bubble Bead

This tutorial will teach you how to make a bubble bead where the bubble actually appears to "float" in the bead.

**Skill Level:** Beginner to Intermediate

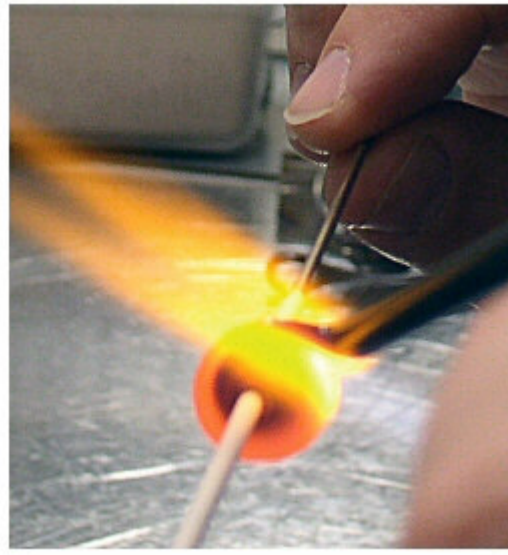
### What You Will Need

- 1 color (your choice) rod of glass
- 1 white rod of glass
- 1 clear rod of glass
- 1 coated mandrel
- 1 uncoated mandrel
- 1 tungsten pick



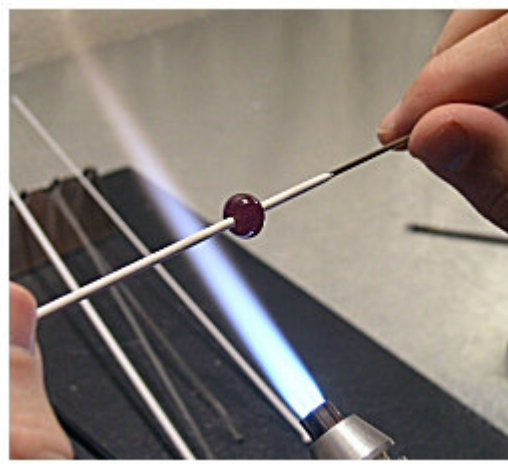
### Step One

The first thing you will need to do is make a few stringers. You will need to make a stringer of clear and a stringer of white. The way to do this is to heat the tip of the rod until you have a molten ball the size of a pea. Then heat the tip of an uncoated mandrel and stick it into the molten ball. The glass should stick to the mandrel as long as the tip was slightly heated. When you feel the glass stick to the mandrel and start to stiffen slightly, or you see a "skin" start to form on the molten ball, begin pulling slowly.

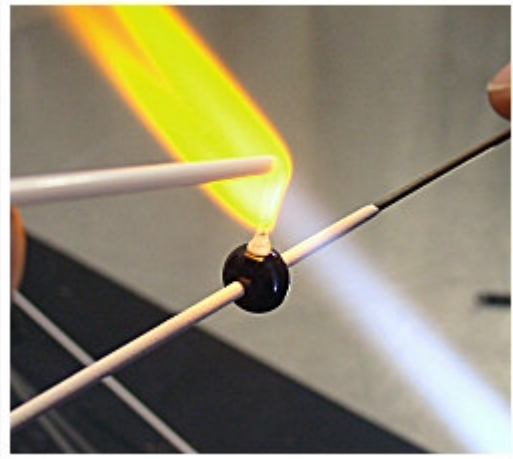


### **Step Two**

Make a round bead. To do this, heat the tip of a glass rod until you have a ball about the size of a pea. Bring your coated mandrel up into the flame to heat the area where you will be starting your bead. You just need a warm (not hot) surface to start winding onto or the glass will not stick. Begin winding glass onto the coated rod by rotating the mandrel away from yourself.

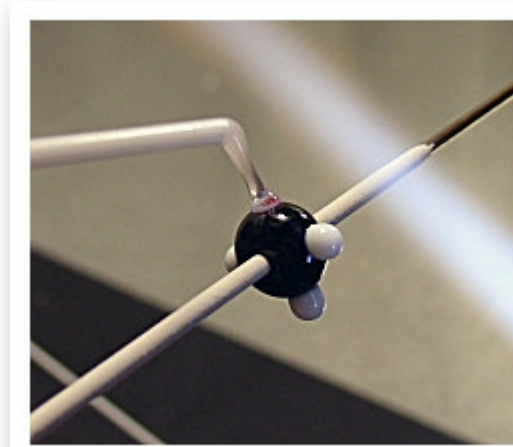


This bead should be about 10mm in diameter. Remember, we will be adding more glass, so the finished bead will be larger.

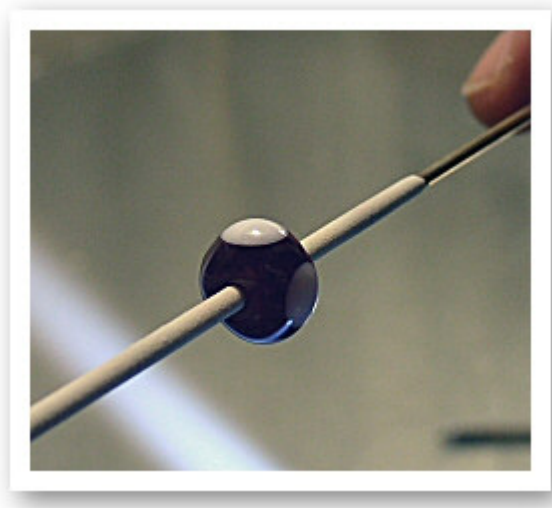


### **Step Three**

Once your bead is formed, grab your white stringer and heat the tip of it until you have a nice little molten ball. Then bring your bead up under the flame and your stringer down towards the bead. Touch the surface of the bead with the molten tip of the stringer and then bring it back up into the flame to burn off.

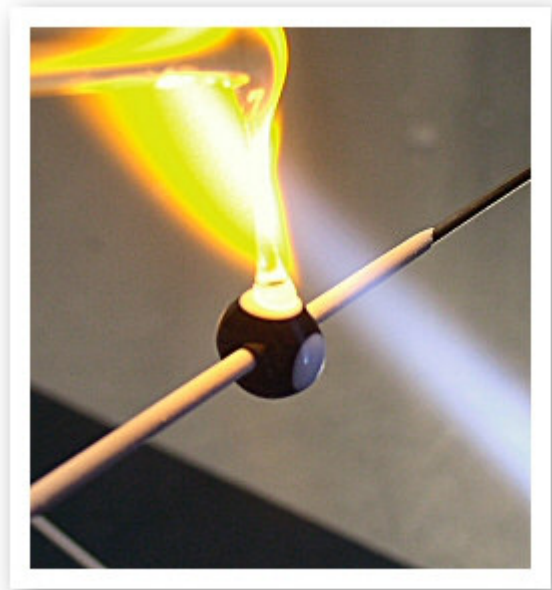


You will have placed four dots of white around the equator of the bead by the time you're finished.



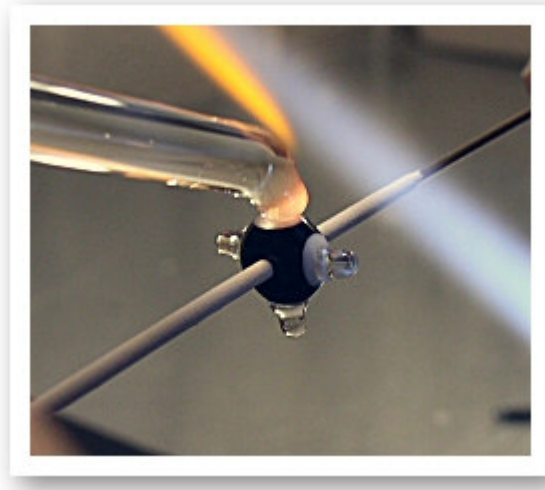
**Step Four**

Melt all four bumps down to make four dots as shown here.

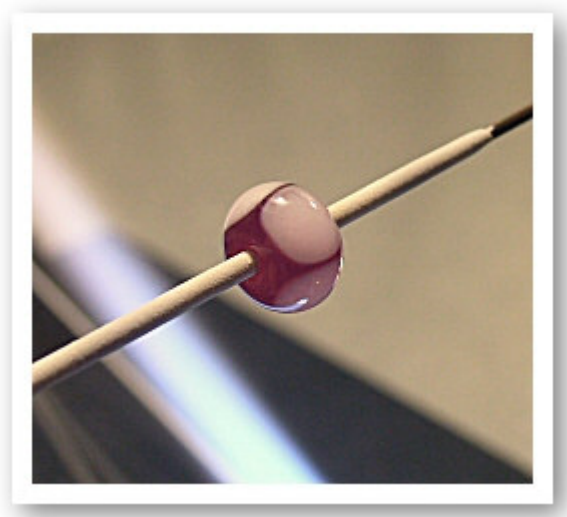


**Step Five**

Grab your rod of clear (not the stringer) and heat the tip of it until you have a nice little molten ball of glass that will completely cover the white dot you placed on the bead. Bring your bead up under the flame and your clear rod down towards the bead. Touch one of the dots with the molten tip of the clear glass and push it onto the white dot, covering it completely. Then bring it back up into the flame to burn off.

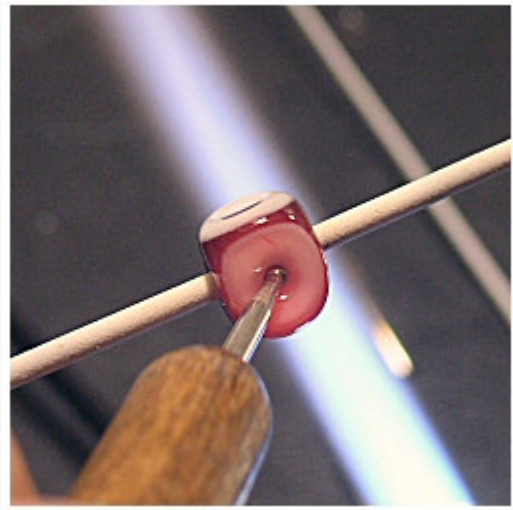


You will have placed four dots of clear, over the white dots, around the equator of the bead by the time you're finished.



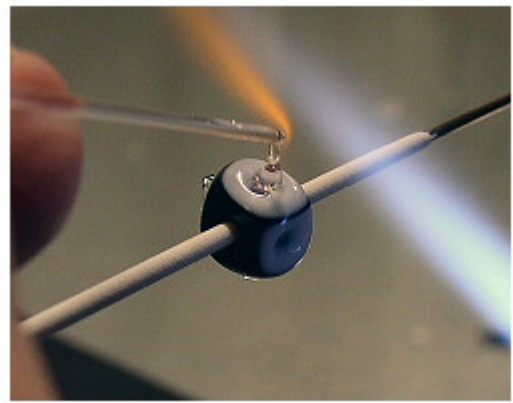
**Step Six**

Rotating the bead away from yourself, melt in all four clear bumps. Your white dots should have spread out slightly during this step. Something to keep in mind when you place your original four dots, depending on the size you want for your finished dot.



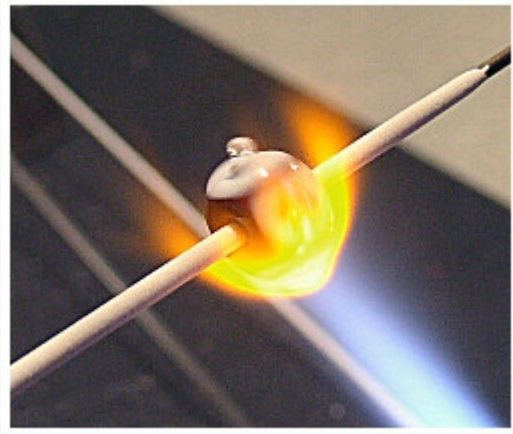
### **Step Seven**

Heat one of the four white dots just until you see a slight red glow. Bring your bead out of the flame and, using your tungsten pick, poke a hole in the center of the white dot. Don't push too hard or you will make your bead go out of round.



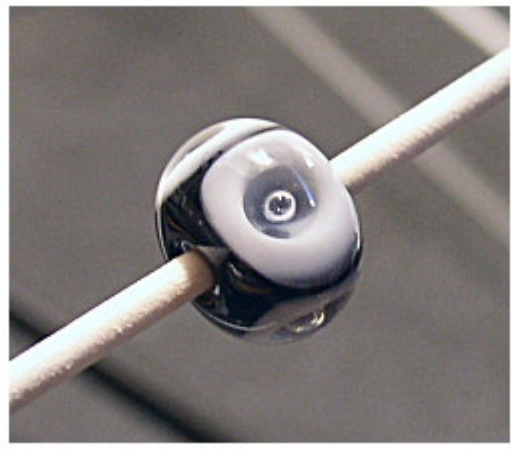
### **Step Eight**

Once all four dots have been poked, grab your clear stringer. Heat the tip of the stringer to form a small molten ball. Then bring your bead up under the flame and your stringer down towards the bead. Touch the molten tip of the stringer onto the hole you just made and then bring it back up into the flame to burn off. Continue to do this to all four dots.



**Step Nine**

Melt in all four clear bumps. When you're finished, your final bead should look like the one shown below.



We hope this tutorial was helpful to you!