

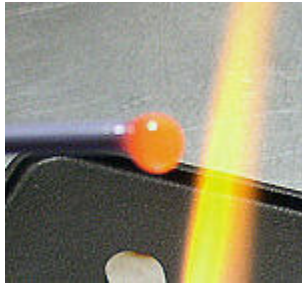
This tutorial will show you how to make garden party lentils using the Catt Lentil tool from CatWalk Designs. Lentils are the perfect bead shape for bracelets and watches. You will learn the basic steps used to create a nice shaped lentil as well as a three-petal surface flower.

### What You Will Need

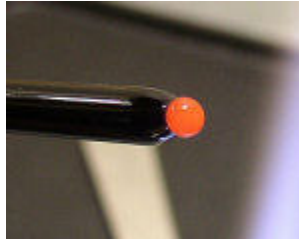
- \* 1 color of glass rod for your base bead - light blue
- \* 3 colors of glass rod for "confetti" part of the bead - pastel yellow, violet, coral & white
- \* 1 rod of Moretti black for wispy "streamer" part of the bead
- \* 1 stainless steel spreader knife (graphite or brass marver will work)
- \* 1 coated mandrel (with bead release)
- \* 1 uncoated mandrel to use as a punty
- \* 1 pair of glass nippers
- \* CattWalk Lentil shaping tool *from [www.catwalk.com](http://www.catwalk.com)*

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### Step 1



Before you make any beads, you will need to pull stringers for the "confetti" part of this bead as well as white stringer for the flower petals. To make a stringer, heat the tip of a rod of violet until you have created a molten ball of glass that is a little bit larger than the size of a pea. Take the uncoated mandrel, heat the tip of it in the flame, and poke it into the molten ball of glass. You want the rod to stick to the molten ball. Take the rod and mandrel out of the flame. Working underneath the flame, watch for a "skin" to start to form on the molten ball of glass. Start pulling slowly and gently until you have a stringer that is 8" to 12" long. Stringer thickness isn't really an issue with this bead since you will be applying it randomly.



You will also need stringer from the Moretti black rod as well. However, this stringer is only as thick as a thread. To pull a thread sized stringer, heat the tip of the black rod until you have a molten ball the size of a small bb. Take the uncoated mandrel, heat the tip of it in the flame, and poke it into the molten ball of glass. Take the rod and mandrel out of the flame and pull fairly quickly before the molten ball forms a "skin". When you're finished, you should have a very thin thread sized stringer. Set all your stringers aside.

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### Step 2

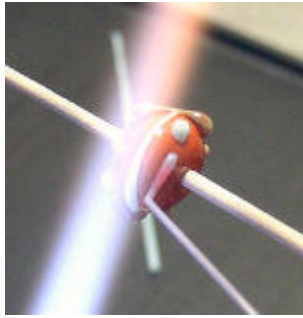


Before actually making your bead, place the lentil press where it will be within comfortable reach for you. You will need it in place before you start so you aren't reaching around the area where your flame is.

Take the pastel yellow rod of glass and melt the tip of it in the flame until you have a large pea sized ball of molten glass. Heat the coated mandrel 3" down from the end, then place the molten ball on the heated area while turning the mandrel away from yourself. Build the glass up so that you have a bead about 15/16mm in diameter. If you turn the mandrel slowly enough, the bead will "spread" and become wider, which is what you want when you're making a lentil out of it. You want a more round bead rather than donut shape.

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### Step 3



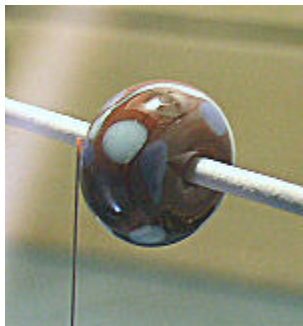
Once your bead is formed, take a stringer of any color (except the black one) and place swoops, dots & lines on your bead at random. Then pick up another color and do the same. Fill in all the blank spaces on your bead with random colors in this manner until you're satisfied that you have enough "confetti" on your bead. Remember to add colors of glass on the edges of your bead as well, near the mandrel. This way, when you smash the bead into a lentil shape, the designs will cover the whole bead & not just the center area.



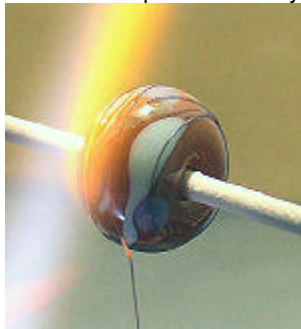
When you are finished, your bead should have swoops, lines & dots in all three stringer colors (violet, sky blue & coral).

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### Step 4



Bring your bead into the flame and, rotating away from yourself, melt all the stringer design in flat. Once you're finished melting in the design, pick up a thread thin stringer of the Moretti black glass. Holding your bead and thread thin stringer just beneath the flame, bring them both up towards the flame until you see the tip of the stringer start to glow. Touch it to your bead and rotate the bead away from yourself. Feed the stringer onto the bead in this manner until you have "wrapped" the bead with wisps of black thread thin stringer. Don't worry about breaking connection from the bead with your black stringer. If that happens, simply start again in a different spot. Remember, this is all going to be a nice random pattern when you are finished.



### Step 5



Now let's make this bead into a lentil shape! Heat your bead, rotating the mandrel away from yourself until the bead is glowing red. Bring the bead down towards the lentil tool base (keep rotating it at this point or the bead will go out of round). Place the bead in the smallest lentil cup making sure that the mandrel is aligned into the mandrel "channels". With the hand press part of the lentil press tool, press the bead firmly but briefly.



Bring the bead back into the flame to flame polish any chill marks and to bring the bead temperature back up. DO NOT rotate the bead in the flame or you will end up with a round bead again. Metals take the heat out of glass so it is very important to flame-polish your bead when you press it with the metal press tool. This will prevent the bead from cracking along the mandrel!

**Hot Tip!** If you have a “lip” that is too large on your lentil, heat the lip and let gravity help to smooth out the lip. If your bead doesn’t have the lentil shape you like when you’re finished, heat the lentil on both sides and place it in the middle lentil cup. Press firmly but briefly then bring the bead back into the flame to flame-polish and bring back up to temperature again. If you have to use the press more than once each time, that’s ok! There is no given rule of thumb as to how many times you can press your bead. Just make sure you flame polish each time. That’s VERY important! Once you are satisfied with the shape of your lentil, you can add surface decoration such as a small flower.

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### Step 6



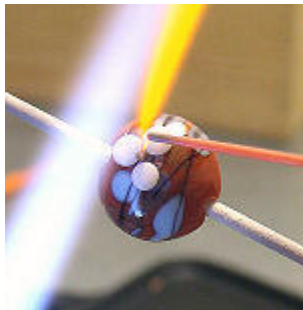
To make a nice little surface decoration such as a three-petal flower, heat the tip of your white stringer (or color of choice) until you have a nice little ball of molten glass about the size of a bb. Touch the molten ball of glass to the surface of the lentil and bring the bead/stringer up into the flame to burn off the stringer. Repeat this step again twice more, making a little triangle of dots for the flower petals. Remember to give your lentil a good dose of heat on the reverse side throughout this process. You don’t want the bead to get cold and crack!



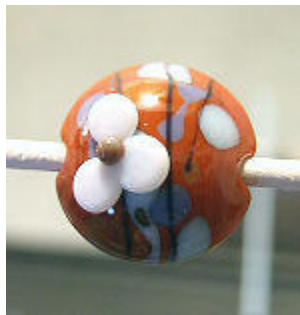
Now you will need to flatten these petals so that you have an actual flower shape. Bring the bead into the flame and heat all three dots of white at the same time. Once all three dots of white are glowing, use your stainless steel spreader knife (graphite paddle or brass stumper) to gently smash all three dots at once.

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### Step 7



Once you have all three “flower petals”, you’re ready to give the little flower a stamen. This flower has a coral stamen. Heat the tip of the coral stringer (or color of choice) until you have a very tiny molten end on the stringer. Then gently touch the molten tip in the center of the three “petals”. Bring the bead/stringer up into the flame to burn off the stringer. Heat the flower in the edge of the flame to adhere the flower petals & stamen in place. Flame-polish your finished lentil once more, being careful not to melt your flower in.



Place your lentil into the kiln for immediate annealing, or place it gently in a fiber blanket to cool slowly for batch annealing. Do not place the bead into the fiber blanket until the red glow is completely gone. Otherwise, you will end up with marks in your bead and bits of fiber blanket stuck to it.

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### Step 8 (Optional)



You can decorate your lentil bead a little bit more by adding bumps around both edges of the bead as shown here. That’s pretty much all there is to creating beads that are ready to party. Try making these beads using different color combinations for a whole new look!

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