

This tutorial will teach you how to make single colored stripes by encasing dots. This is the most basic style of encased striped bead. Experiment with different color combinations for stunning stripes!

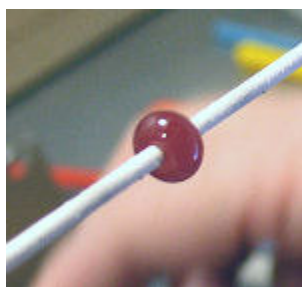
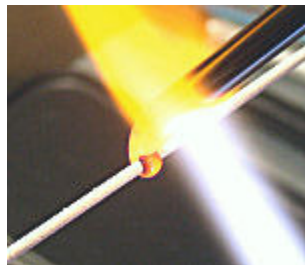
What You Will Need

- 1 color (your choice) rod of glass
- 1 color (your choice) glass stringer
- 1 clear rod of glass
- 1 coated mandrel



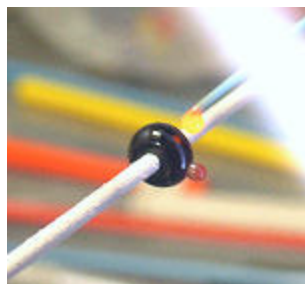
Step 1

Before you make any beads, you will need to pull a stringer for the stripes. To make a stringer, heat the tip of a rod of glass 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 steadily for a uniform thickness stringer of desired length.

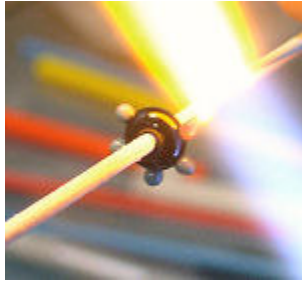


Make a tiny round bead. *We used black as our base color.* To make a bead, heat the tip of a glass rod until you have a ball about the size of a pea. Bring your coated mandrel up into the flame to heat the area where you will be starting your bead. You just need a warm (not hot) surface to start winding 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 4 to 5mm in diameter. Remember, you will be adding dots as well as layers of clear so your finished bead will end up much larger.

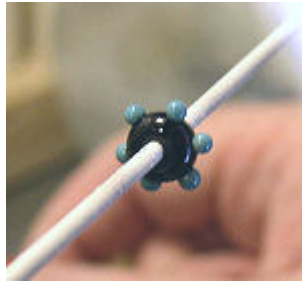
Step 2



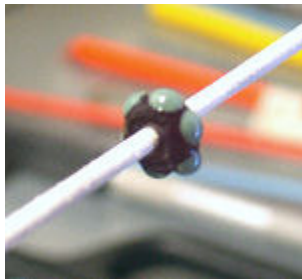
Once you have a nice little round bead, begin applying bumps with your stringer. *We used turquoise for our bumps.* To do this, heat the tip of the stringer in the edge of the flame. Keeping your tiny bead just under the flame, bring the heated stringer tip down to your bead, touch the bead and bring the bead up to burn the stringer tip away from your newly formed bump. Repeat this 5 or 6 times around the equator of your bead.



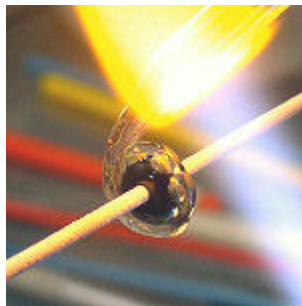
The key to uniform stripes is uniform sized bumps that are evenly spaced. This takes a lot of practice!



Step 3



Once you have all the bumps of glass placed, bring your bead up into the flame and melt the bumps ALMOST flat. If you melt them in all the way, the dots may run into each other covering up the color of the core bead. Then your stripes will not have "separation" between them and your bead will not look striped.

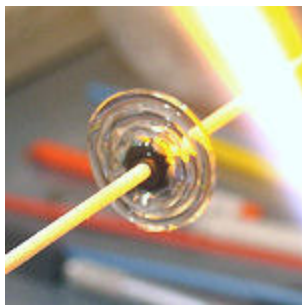


Grab a rod of clear glass and heat the tip to form a nice pea sized ball of molten glass. Holding your glass rod in the flame, keep your bead just under the flame and begin covering the equator of your bead with clear.

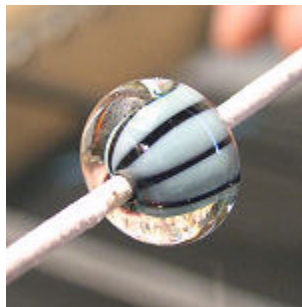
Note: While you are heating the clear rod, be sure to just flash your tiny bead in and out of the flame to just keep it warm so it will not crack. The key to a good encasing for stripes is to have your core bead NOT molten or even glowing when you start applying the clear glass to it. Otherwise, you will end up with smeared stripes. So just a

quick flash in and out of the flame before applying clear will suffice.

Step 4



Continue to wrap the clear glass around your bead until you have gone around the bead a few times. The more wraps, the larger your bead. It is a good idea to start out with just a few wraps and melt that in (slowly) and then go back and add another wrap or two around the equator of your bead if you would like a larger sized bead. Remember to apply heat to the clear wrap **only**, while turning the bead away from yourself, just in the bottom edge of the flame. Do not bring the bead up too high into your flame or the whole bead (including core) will become molten and your encasing will go out of balance quickly. Heating just the wraps themselves in the bottom edge of the flame keeps the encasing going nice and even.



Your finished bead should have clear encasing all the way (or almost all the way) to the edge of your bead from hole to hole. And your stripes should all have a little bit of the bead core color in between them. That's all there is to making a single color striped bead. Try applying different colored bumps to the bead for a rainbow of stripes!

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