

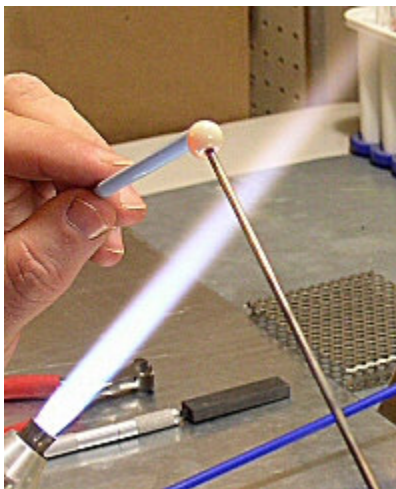
Create A Consistent Spiral Wrap

This tutorial will show you how to make a nice even spiral wrapped bead. Once you can make a spiral wrapped bead, you will be able to incorporate other bead designs using the spiral. Be sure to check out our "Hot Tips" box on the left hand side of this page.

Skill Level: Beginner to Intermediate

What You Will Need

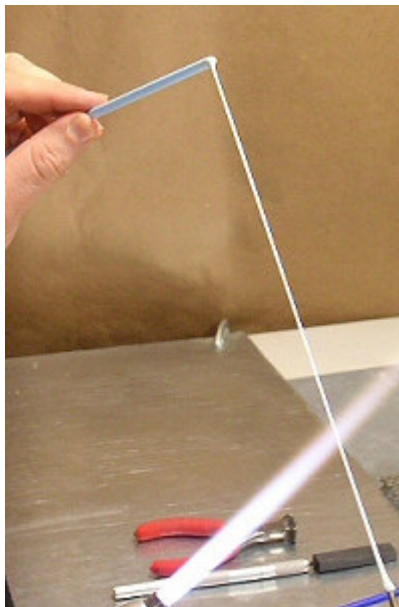
- 2 colors of glass rod (contrasting colors)
- 1 pair of tweezers or graphite paddle
- 1 pair of small cutters (nippers)
- 1 uncoated mandrel
- 1 coated mandrel (with bead release)



Step One

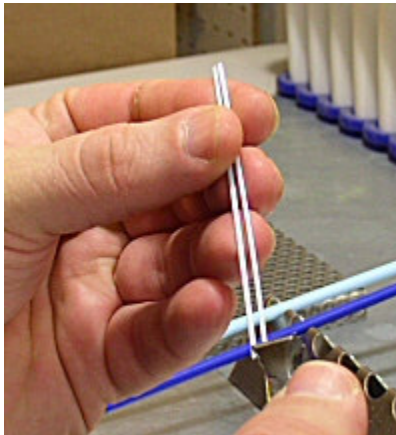
The first thing you will need to do is make a few stringers. The way to do this is to heat the tip of the rod you will be using for the spiral. We chose lapis blue for the base bead and sky blue for the stringer for a better visual during this tutorial. A molten ball slightly larger than pea size is a good size to start pulling stringer from.

Take the uncoated mandrel, heat the tip of it in the flame and then poke it into the molten ball of glass. You want the rod to stick to the molten ball .



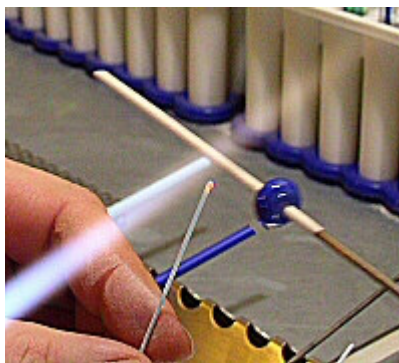
Step Two

Once you see a "skin" start to form on the molten ball of glass, start pulling slowly and gently until you have a stringer about 12" long. The speed with which you pull the stringer will determine the stringer width ie; slower speed, thicker stringer.



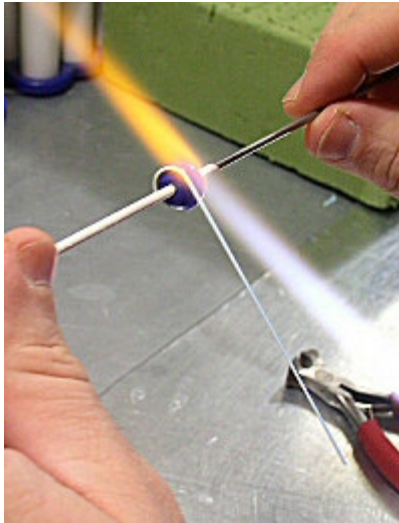
Step Three

Cut the thick ends off of the stringer using small nippers. Then cut the stringer into 4" pieces. This much stringer will usually go around a 14mm bead approximately two and a half to three times.



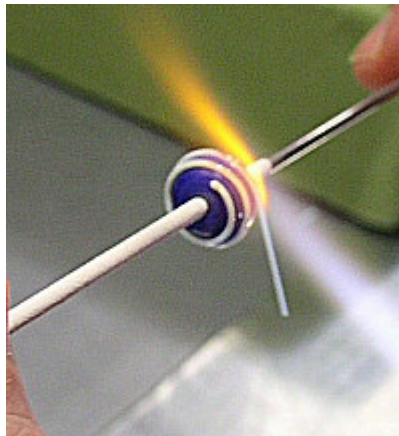
Step Four

Make your bead using a contrasting color to your stringer. When you're ready to place the stringer, hold the bead under the edge of the flame and warm the tip of the stringer at the same time you're heating a spot on the bead. If you don't warm the stringer and heat a spot on the bead, the stringer will not stick to the bead.

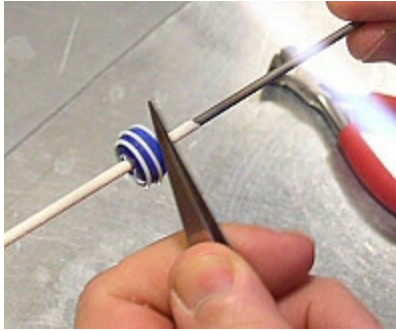


Step Five

Once the stringer is attached to the bead, let go of the stringer. Holding the mandrel in both hands, rotate the bead away from yourself. Be sure to keep the top edge of the stringer (where it is adhering to the bead), on the underside of the flame. *Too much heat will melt the stringer in.*



Keep rotating the bead away from yourself, guiding the stringer onto the bead by tilting it slightly as you rotate the bead. If you started out with the right size stringer, you should be able to wrap it around the bead continuously until you reach the end of the stringer (and the other side of the bead). If you finish winding the stringer into place and have left over stringer, simply cut the remainder off with your small nippers (carefully).



Step Six

Use your tweezers or graphite paddle to make adjustments to the stringer while outside the flame. You can also use these tools to tuck the end of the stringer down firmly. Rotate the spiral wrapped bead in the bottom edge of your flame to adhere the stringer to the bead more firmly. If you don't do this, the stringer will pop off! If you go too far into the flame, you will melt the stringer.



Step Seven

Place your finished bead into your kiln for immediate annealing, or place it gently in a fiber blanket to cool slowly for batch annealing. Remember not to 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.

We hope this tutorial was helpful to you!

