

Snow Globe

A BEADS OF COURAGE TUTORIAL



By Trudi Doherty

I don't think you ever get too old to appreciate the wonder of shaking a snow globe! It's quite therapeutic to see the swirling snow and glitter whirling around before settling down. These would make such wonderful Beads of Courage Beads. We'll be making the one in the center in the photo above. Enamels are safe for kids in the program, so you can use them either on the surface or encased in clear. Snow globes are fun to make and I can just imagine how wonderful these will be to the children that receive them!

If you are not confident with using enamels or dichroic, don't panic as you can also make these with mica flakes. They still look great. So channel your inner child and have some fun making these!

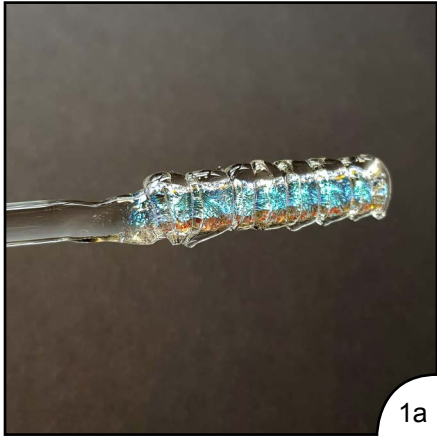
TOOLS AND SUPPLIES:

- Dichroic Strip – [Riley Designs](#) Red/Silver Blue
- Effetre Super Clear (006)
- Thompson White Enamel (9010)
- Reichenbach Deep Black
- Un-coated mandrel - 2mm (5/64-inch) or 2.4mm (3/32-inch)
- Water jar
- Round marver - optional
- Coated mandrel (3/32-inch or larger)

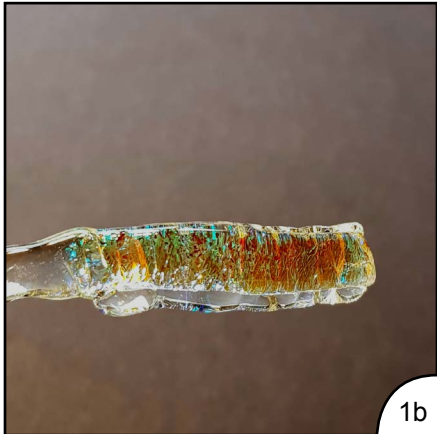
TIPS BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

I always clean my clear before use with a microfiber cloth and household glass cleaner.

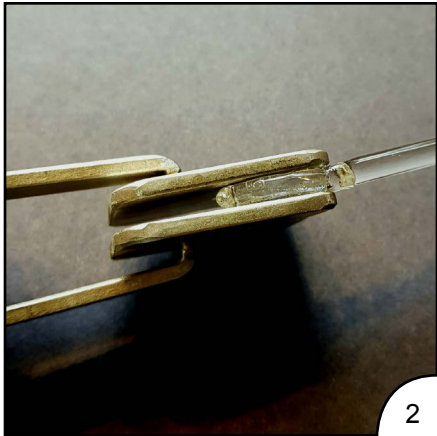
I use Deep Black in case some of the black overlaps onto the clear. It stays black, whereas a standard black will show purple hints. As my Deep Black rods were thick, I pulled some into thick stringers.



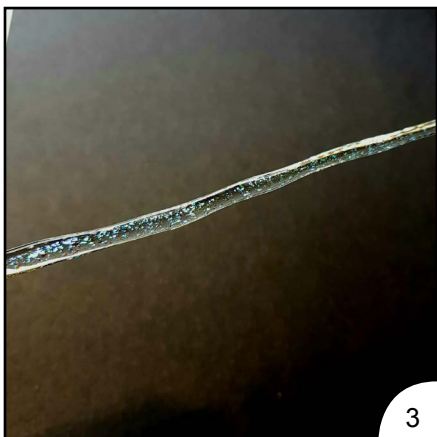
1a



1b



2



3

MORE TIPS:

I make my dichroic stringers with a little heat, pulling short sections at a time, not pulling them too thin. They may look a little “rustic”, but it doesn’t affect the quality. I find my method gives me more options on how I can use the stringers. As the sparkle is more saturated, you can gently lay this onto a bead with a more concentrated look. For this tutorial though, we will wind it on the bead, which will naturally stretch it out like a “normal” stringer.

When re-heating pre-used uncoated mandrels, warm them in the flame with the end pointing away from you - if there are any little pieces of glass on there, it will help stop them spitting towards you. Alternatively, you can also sand them down after use.

THE DICHOIC STRINGER:

Steps 1a and 1b: Prewarm the dichroic strip. I place mine inside the kiln door for a few minutes. Working in a cool flame so that you don’t shock the dichroic, warm up a section of the glass-coated side (about 2cm - this will be enough to make one or two beads depending on how much you use). Once it is warmer you can turn up the flame slightly. Using your clear rod, encase a 2cm section of the dichroic, ensuring that you cover right around the sides. Melt smooth.

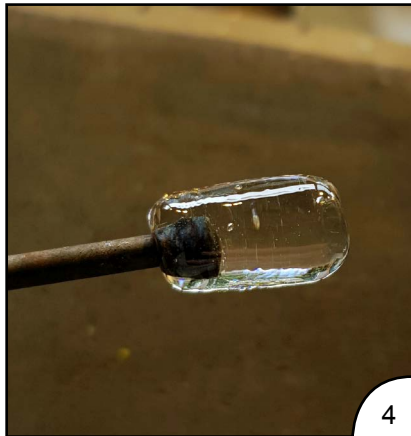
NOTE: Before my dichroic gets too short to heat in the kiln, I punty up to a longer handle. This is what I have done with the example in the picture.

TIP: When heating the dichroic strip, you need to keep the exposed dichroic out of the flame.

Step 2: Warm again and, using mashers, squeeze the gather to help push out any trapped air. Alternatively, you can also use two marvers.

Step 3: Attach a clear rod to the end of the encased dichroic. Gently heat a small section from the dichroic rod (when close to the un-coated side, heat just from the coated side) and gently pull a section, move along, and then heat the next part until it is all stretched. Gently melt off the end from the dichroic rod, you will now have a nice stringer with a glass handle. Place the dichroic end in the kiln to keep warm - the handle sticking out will stay cool.

TIP: Having the glass handle on the dichroic stringer gives you a cool part to hold, it lets the stringer go right into the warmest part of the kiln, and enables you to use every last bit!



THE ENAMEL STRINGER:

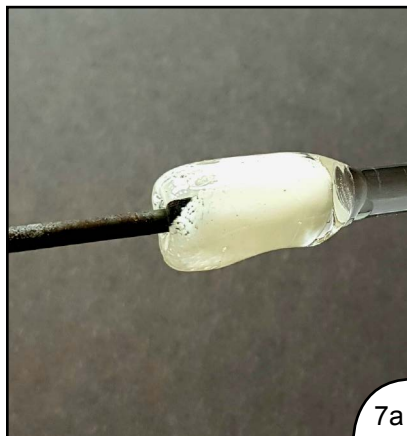
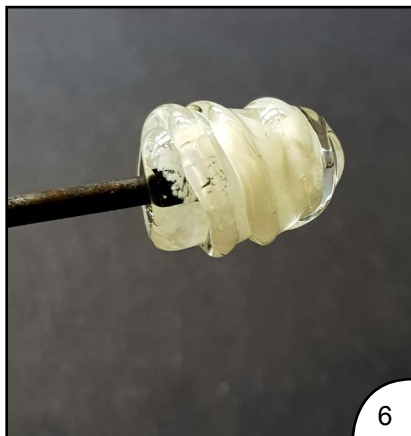
NOTE: Be sure to use proper safety equipment here including a face mask.

Step 4: Melt a 2cm gather of clear onto an uncoated mandrel. Marver smooth.

Step 5: Heat the gather and roll in the white enamel giving one good coat. Heat and marver smooth.

Step 6: Encase in clear.

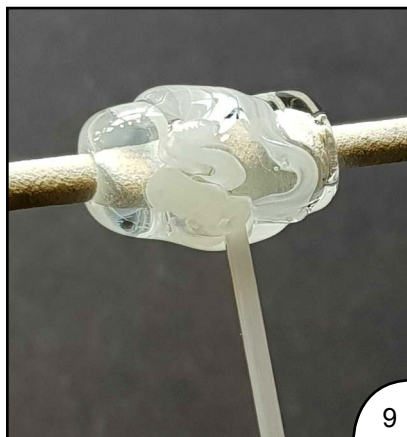
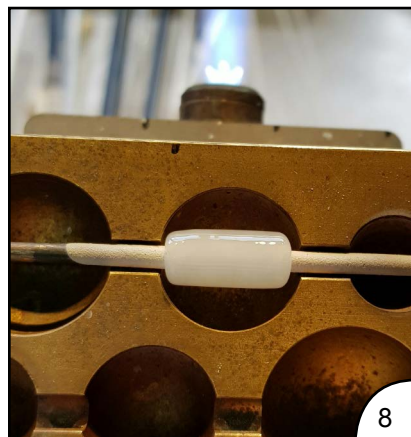
Steps 7a and 7b: Attach a clear rod (or you can use another uncoated mandrel if you prefer). Heat thoroughly, remove from the flame, and pull into a stringer about 2mm thick. Melt off the ends from the mandrel, and while warm, dunk the mandrel in a water jar to shock off the excess glass.



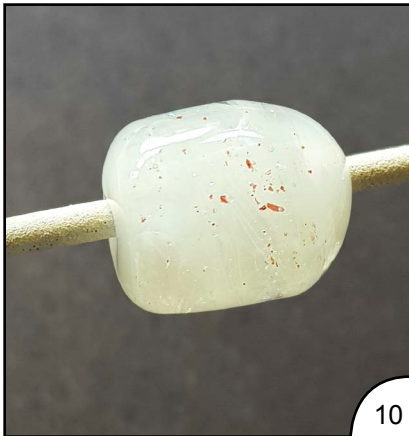
MAKING THE BEAD:

Step 8: Using clear, make a barrel shape a few millimetres short of your desired size.

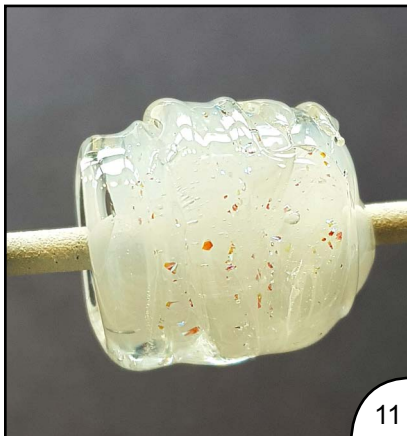
Step 9: Heat the barrel until it's gloopy, and drag your enamel stringer randomly through it. This doesn't have to be done all at once; if you lose heat, you can repeat. Don't press so hard that you break the bead release, and try not to wildly distort the bead.



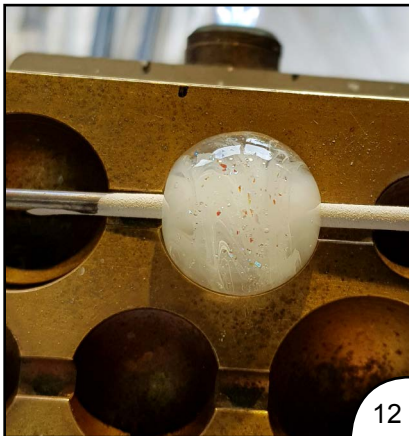
TIP: Don't add too much of the stringer as you will want to see a mix of clear and stringer to get the swirling effect. If you want to add more depth here, add dabs of clear and more stringer - trying to fully encase could make your bead much bigger than you planned!



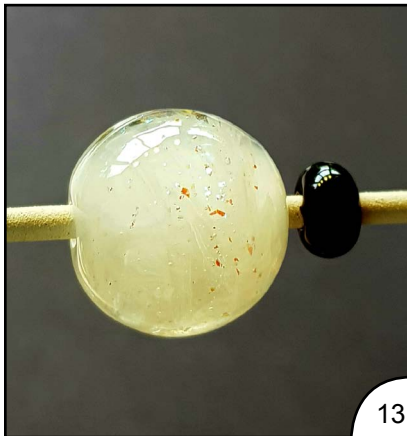
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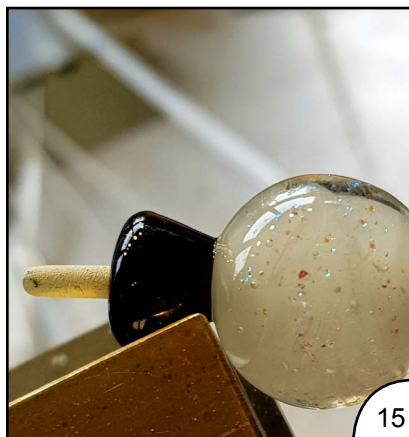
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14



15



Step 10: Take your dichroic stringer from the kiln, and working in a cooler flame to prevent shocking, add random swirls around the bead.

Step 11: Encase in clear. Depending on how much you need to add to get your desired shape and size, you can add just swipes of clear to sections if that's what you need!

Step 12: Shape into a smooth round. I have used a bead roller, but if you don't have one, don't let this stop you!

ADDING THE STAND:

Step 13: Using Deep Black, add a small bead close to the "globe". I find it easier to place it here - if I try and get it to attach right up to the globe, I sometimes get too much on the globe part!

Step 14: Heat and use a marver to gently nudge the two parts together. The picture shows me using the edge of the press. I was taking these pictures one-handed, quite tricky. But you can use whatever tool is suitable, then marver smooth.

TIP: Remember to also keep the globe warm while you are concentrating on this end.

Step 15: Add more black to the base of the stand and gently use a marver to angle it into a cone shape. Place in your kiln. Your snow globe is done and ready to send to a child who will love it!

NOTE: If you don't have dichroic, you can substitute mica flakes. And if you don't have enamel, you can always just use mica flakes as I have in some of the globes in the opening photo.

ABOUT THE ARTIST:



Trudi Doherty is a U.K. lampworker based in the Midlands. She is a full-time lampworker and, in addition to selling her beads on Etsy and Facebook, she also teaches and was a regular contributor to *Beads & Beyond* magazine. Trudi is also a member of GBUK and is lucky enough to live close to other lampworkers and enjoys getting together to share ideas and have fun!

Website – www.glitteringprize.co.uk

Etsy - www.etsy.com/uk/shop/GlitteringprizeGlass

Facebook - www.facebook.com/Glitteringprize

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