

# Lampwork Ladybird Bead Tutorial by Helen Vanek

In this tutorial I will show you the steps to make a ladybird bead which make lovely

["Beads of Courage"](#) donations.

Please feel free to donate any beads which you make from this tutorial!

It is aimed at all levels of beadmakers, beginners included.



What you need:

A rod of opaque glass in a bright colour - I like CIM Sangre, Effetre Lemon Yellow, Effetre Lime Green & CIM Grumpy Bear

A rod of black glass

Black and white stringers - I prefer Reichenbach Deep Black

A razor tool or knife

A 2mm or 2.4mm mandrel dipped in bead release

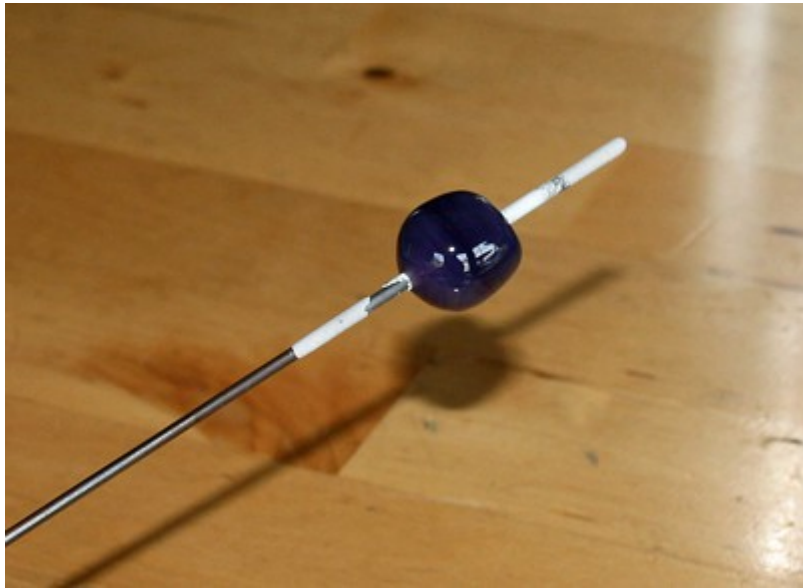
A marver

Mashers

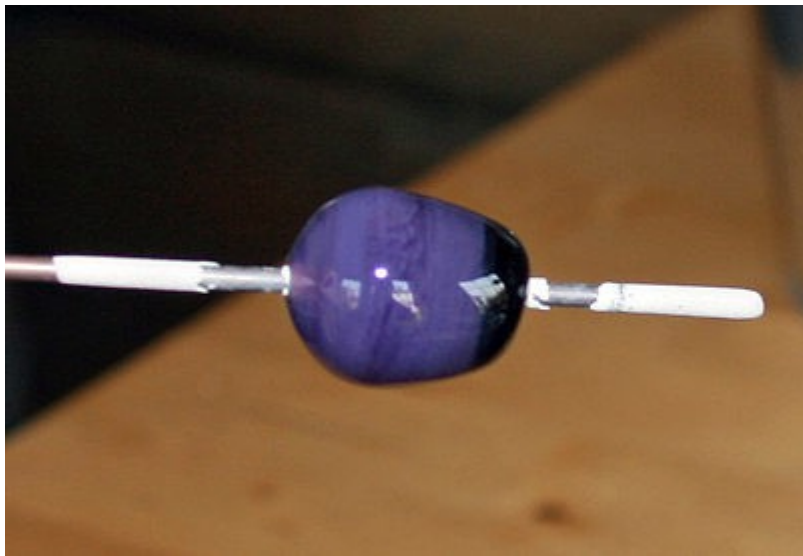
An egg shaped bead roller (this isn't totally necessary as you can shape the ladybird by hand) - I use the [Pegasus](#) "Chunky Focals" egg roller.



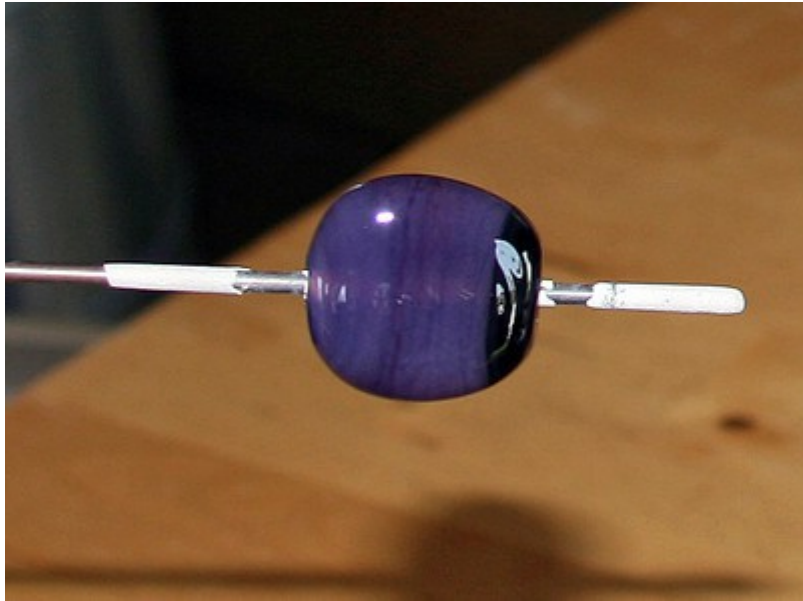
1) Start with your brightly coloured glass rod. Either using the bead roller, or by hand, shape a cone of glass.



2) At the smaller end of the cone, wind a few wraps of black glass and melt in



3) Heat all of the glass and gently mash into a flatter shape - ensure that the glass isn't too thin as the bead will be likely to crack.



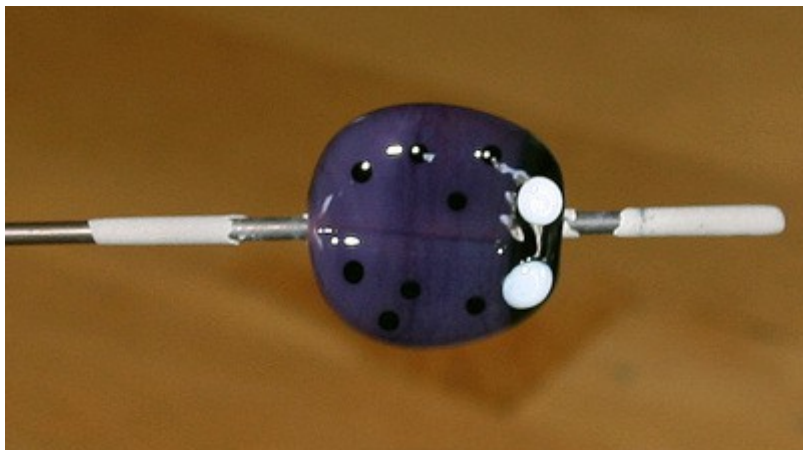
4) Take your black stringer and add 7 - 8 dots all over the "coloured" part of the ladybird. Try to visualise where the "crease" down the middle will go and avoid putting any black dots there.

5) Gently melt in all the black dots, and re-mash if necessary.

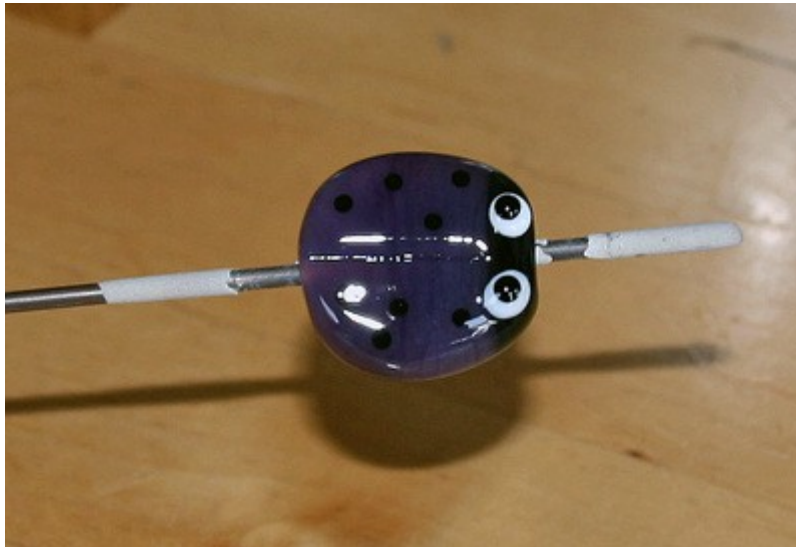
6) Spot heat the centre of the ladybird and using a knife or razor tool make a horizontal crease from the start of the black face, all the way to the bottom of the ladybird in line with the mandrel.



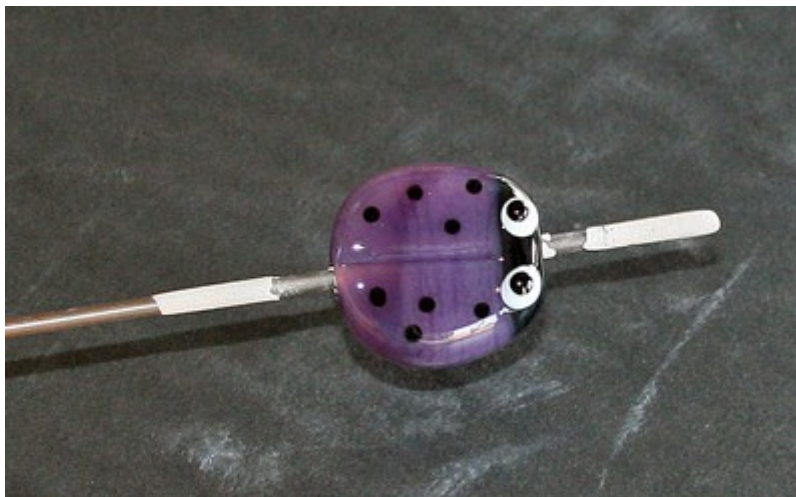
7) Next, take your white stringer and place 2 white dots on the black "face" of the ladybird. Gently squash them flat with your marver, leaving them slightly raised.



8) On top of the white dots, add a small black dot and again gently squish them but don't melt them flat.



9) Give the whole ladybird a final firepolish and place into the kiln to anneal.



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