

Fairy Lights

A BEADS OF COURAGE TUTORIAL

By Trudi Doherty



Christmas is a magical time of year, and one of my favorite things to do is to snuggle on the sofa watching a holiday film with the fairy lights gently twinkling on the tree. I have made many of these fairy lights for [Beads of Courage](#) to help bring a magical part of Christmas to children who find themselves in hospital over the festive period, in the hope of putting a smile on their face. These beads are treasured keepsakes and help them tell their story. So please, make as many as you can and light up a child's face this Christmas!

TOOLS AND SUPPLIES:

- ▣ Marver
- ▣ Thick mandrel (at least 3/32-inch)
- ▣ Effetre Dark Lavender (or transparent glass of your choice)
- ▣ CiM Peace thick stringer
- ▣ Reichenbach Deep Black – thick and thinner stringers
- ▣ Fine silver mica ([Glam Glitter from Pegasus Lampwork](#) or [Mica flakes from Dragonfire Glass](#))

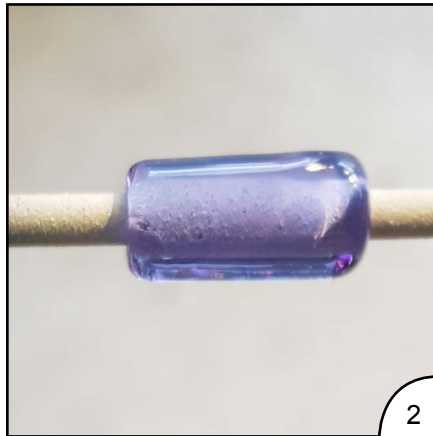
TIP: Reichenbach Deep Black is important for the eyes. It is more saturated than regular black which can show up purple when used over white. Deep Black is more saturated, you can also use Effetre Intense Black or CiM Hades.

TIP: Be sure to use a mica that is suitable for lampwork. Some fuse-grade micas cannot take the heat of the torch. If you don't have any mica, you can still have fun making these in solid colors (like the red one on the previous page). The kids will still adore them.





1

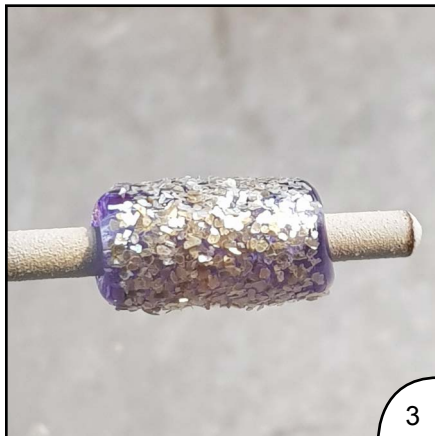


2

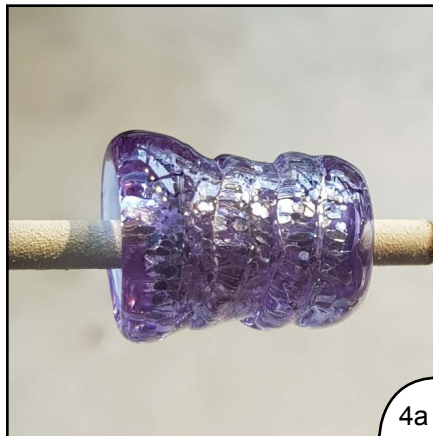
Step 1: Sprinkle the mica thickly over a marver. It shows up better on a dark marver!

Step 2: Make a thin transparent barrel just a little shorter than the final bulb shape.

Step 3: Heat the surface, and quickly roll in the mica in one go to get a good coverage.



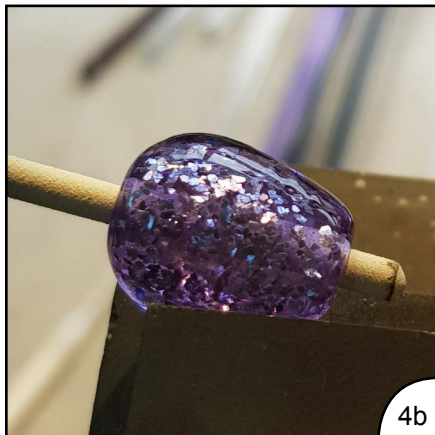
3



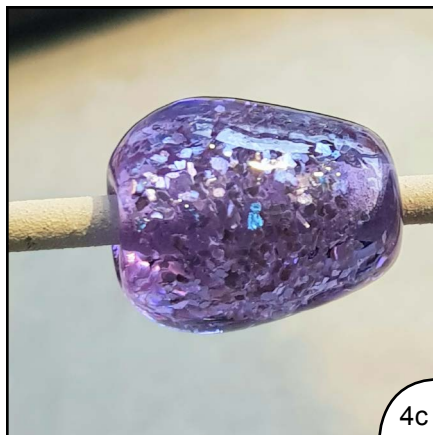
4a

Steps 4a - 4c: Keeping the bead out of the flame, encase with the transparent glass. It's important to ensure that you cover all the mica, so be sure to pay close attention to the ends! Add more glass to one side, and marver into a stubby cone shape.

Step 5: Near the thick end of the bead, add a few wraps of deep black using the thicker stringer.



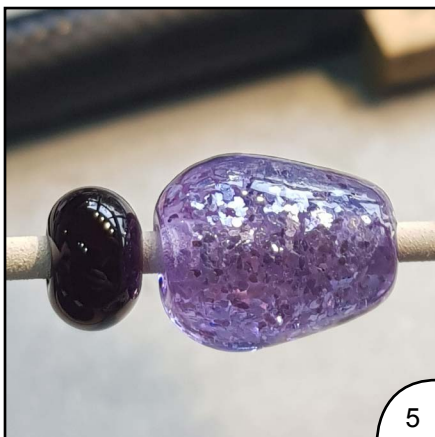
4b



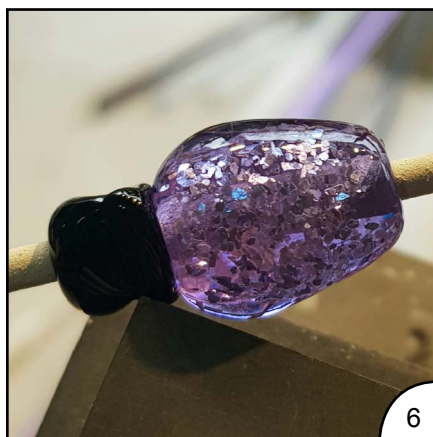
4c

Step 6: Gently heat it, and use a marver to nudge the two parts together until they meet. Important – once they meet, be sure to heat the join thoroughly in the flame to ensure that they are securely attached to each other!

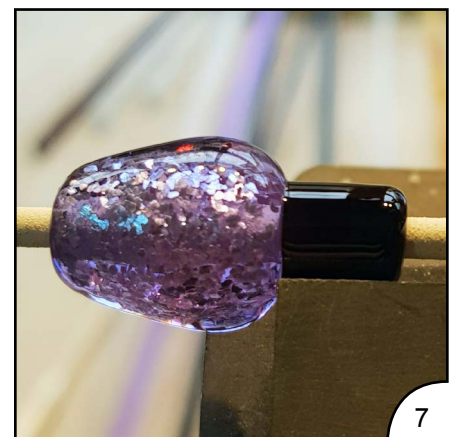
Step 7: Heat the black and marver smooth. Be sure not to disturb the bulb part aside from keeping it warm so it doesn't crack.



5



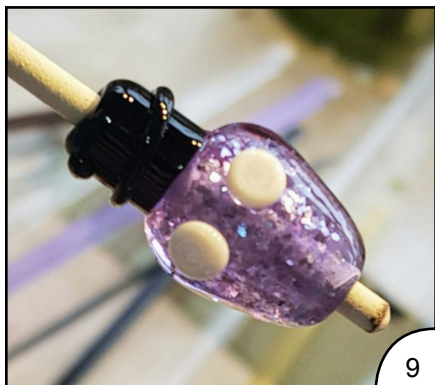
6



7



Step 8: Take the thinner black stringer, and, working higher in the flame, wind it around the black part. Gently heat and marver to ensure it is attached.



Step 9: Let's make this Kawaii style and give it some eyes – the kids love it! Take your thick white stringer and add two white dots for the eyes. To ensure that they are well attached, give them a gentle heat and a gentle pat with a marver, then if you give them another gentle heat, it will allow them to round up a bit.



Step 10: Take your black stringer and add dots on top of each white dot – you can give your fairy light a lot of character just by the dot placement! Now pop the little bead in the kiln, choose a different color, and make another!

The photo below shows some other color variations. There are so many possibilities with this technique.



ABOUT THE ARTIST:



Trudi Doherty is a U.K. lampworker based in Corby, Northamptonshire. She is a full-time lampworker and, in addition to selling her beads on Etsy and Facebook, she also blends and sells her own unique frit blends.

Trudi has written many tutorials published in *Beads & Beyond*, *Bead*, *Soda Lime Times*, and the Beads of Courage collection *Hot Glass for Cool Kids 2*, available as a PDF at <https://www.sodalimetimes.com/bocbook.html>!

Website - www.glitteringprize.co.uk

Etsy - <https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/GlitteringprizeGlass>

Facebook - www.facebook.com/Glitteringprize/

Pinterest - www.pinterest.com/GlitteringTrudi/lampwork-beads/