

Inside Out Bead

By Shannon Hill

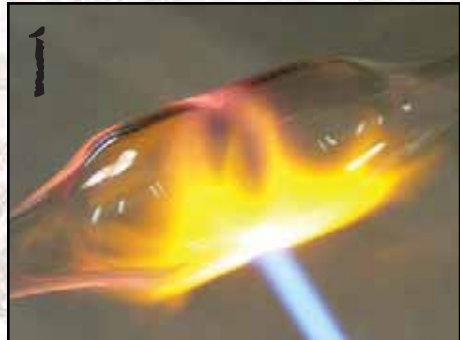
Photos by Christina Zawadecki



Materials

pliers	claw-grabber (not pictured)
graphite paddle	silvering rod
scoring tool	prepared stringers & laticino
medium graphite reamer	3mm clear rod
reverse tweezers	31mm medium wall point

This technique can be varied by applying more or less lines, dichro lines instead of color or laticino, gold fume instead of or with silver fume, or even flattening the bead on one side for a bracelet. Use your imagination and have fun. Remember to always hold your hand angled away from the path of your torch!



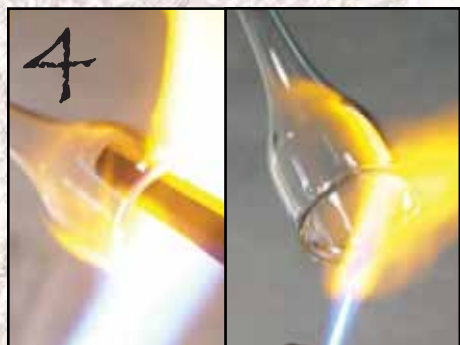
1 Cut the point in half using a hot, pinpoint flame, concentrating heat on the center of the point. Make sure you stretch the material very thin.



2 Using the same pinpoint flame, open each of the points at the thin shoulder area. Set one aside and seal the tapered end of the other point closed.



3 Using a rod or scrap, clean off any excess glass from the lip area.



4 Heat the lip of the point and slightly flare open using your reamer. Preheat the inside of your point to prepare for decorating.



5 Using your prepared laticino, begin applying lines. Draw a total of 3 that are evenly spaced inside the point.



6 Draw in lines of color with stringers, applying them in the spaces between the lines of laticino. Heat and condense slightly to melt in decoration.



Pick up your silvering rod and using a neutral to slightly oxidizing flame, fume the inside of the point.



Add decoration using clear rods to encase fume between the previously drawn lines.



Clean up the edges of the lip and give your point a quick reheat.



Pick up the point section that was set aside in step #2. The tapered end of the point should be open. Heat both lips of your opened points and attach.



Focus heat on either side of the decoration. Allow the glass to constrict & draw down on each shoulder separately. Look for even wall thickness & diameter.



Heat and blow to desired shape. Repeat the process to work the design in and to apply any pattern twist.



Using a pinpoint flame, remove one of the handles. Use a rod to "pick off" any excess glass.



Either using clippers or tungsten pick, open the end of your bead. Ream opening to desired shape.



With pre-heated claw- grabbers secure the bead and pull off the remaining handle. Clean off any excess glass. Open the hole as in previous step.



To adjust the size of the holes on either end of your bead, marver to make smaller, or use a tungsten pick or reverse tweezers to enlarge the hole.

To learn more about the artist Shannon Hill and his art please visit his website: www.needabead.com or contact him at 561-347-9869 or info@needabead.com.

Don't miss Shannon's 'Making Inside-Out Beads' instructional video featured in our product reviews (Pg. 33).

