

Miniature Vessel

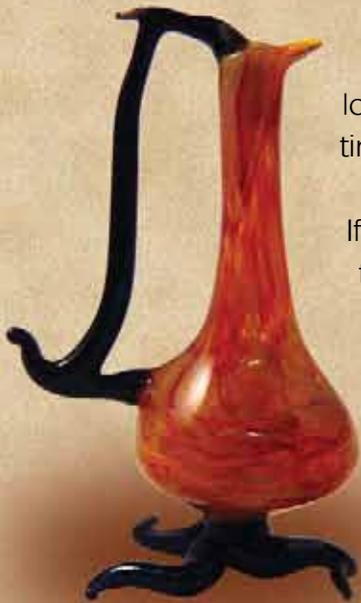
By Walt Menzies

Photos by Roderick Quaid

Materials:

9.5 mm heavy wall blowtube
 5-7mm compatible color
 6mm rod for punty
 tweezers

tungsten pick
 paddle and/or marver pad
 oh, and a torch



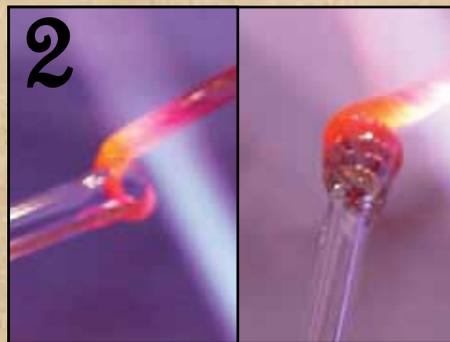
Feeling a little constrained by the mandrel? Perhaps you've always been interested in blowing glass but felt held back for lack of fire power. Myself, I was looking for a gallery item that had a lower price point but would allow me to continue to explore the many forms of hollow vessels.

If any of these reasons strikes a chord, then please join me for a short journey into the world of miniature vessels. Here a person can explore different forms and aesthetics without using a half a tank of oxy or renting furnace time. If you have a bit of color and 20 minutes, let's see what can happen!

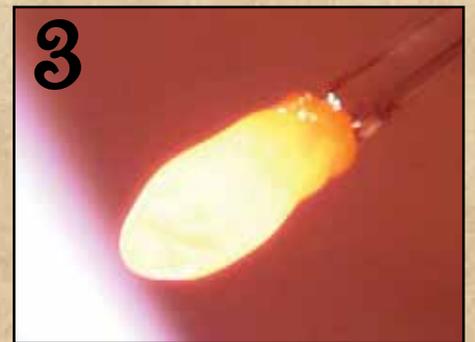
I would like to thank Emilio Santini who gave me the inspiration for this project. Emilio makes incredibly detailed Venetian hollow forms as small as a 1/2" high, with incredible accuracy. Emilio is rightly credited as one of forefathers who helped bring the goblet into the realm of fine art. As we ride upon the shoulders of giants...



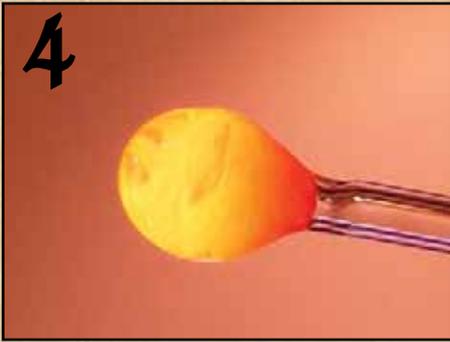
1
 Using your graphite reamer, slightly flare the end of a blowtube. I use 9.5mm heavy wall tubing.



2
 Starting with 5-7mm colored cane and your blowtube, build a coil pot approximately 2" long.



3
 Build an even, thorough heat base in your coil. Be careful not to condense and allow the walls to touch.



4
Carefully blow out the gather then condense it again, getting a thorough reheat. Repeat 2-3 times to gain even wall thickness with no acute angles.



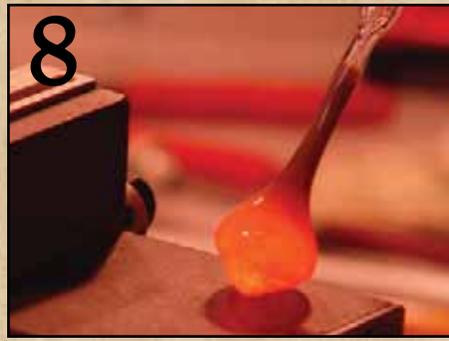
5
Attach a punty to the center of the gather, maintaining an even heat base, start to pull the gather out.



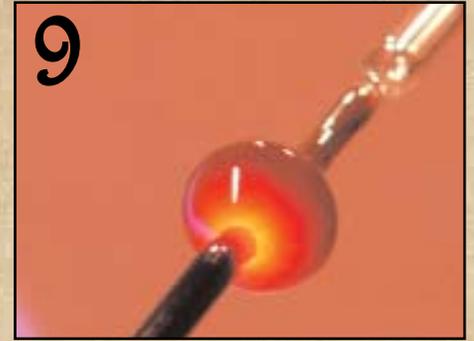
6
Using a small flame, concentrate heat on the first portion of the gather and pull out the neck of the vessel.



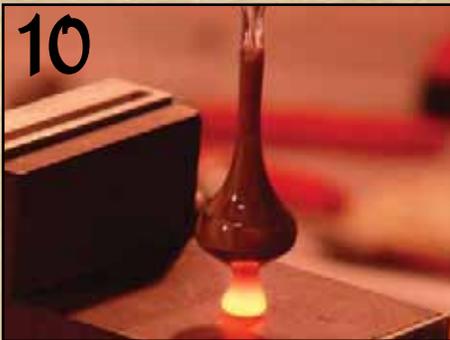
7
Remove the punty rod. Using a paddle or marver, begin shaping the bottom portion of the vessel.



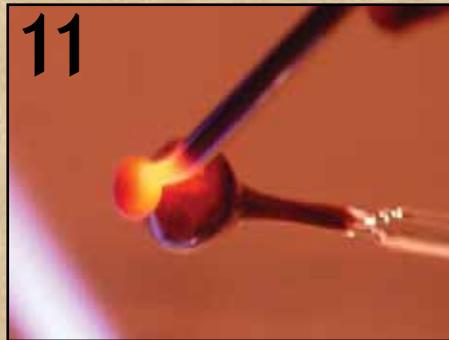
8
Remember to marver a center on the bottom of your vessel for avoglio's.



9
Using a color rod, attach a small bit to the bottom of your vessel.



10
Heat the bit and flatten slightly to allow more surface area for later attachments.



11
Heating the end of a 7mm color rod, attach another bit and pull to make the first of three "tendrils"



12
Using the established heat base, pull the bit while manipulating with small pushes and tugs to achieve a more fluid form.



13
Now repeat steps 11 and 12 twice more to achieve a stable tripod.



14
Build a low heat base in the tendrils. Just enough heat to flatten the tendrils without distortion of design.



15
Attach a punty to the flattened portion of your base. Be sure to use a "cold" punty so you can easily detach later.



16 Using a pinpoint flame, heat then stretch and separate the neck. Use clippers to open the vessel.



17 Use a tungsten pick to open the "mouth" of the vessel. Flare it slightly.



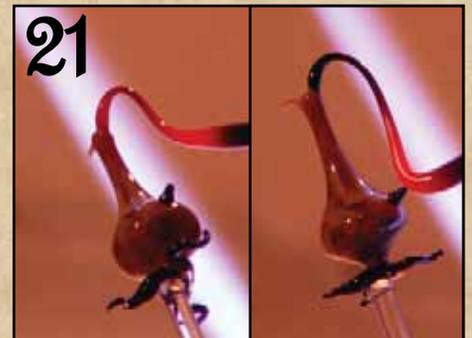
18 Heat and pull a portion of the flare to serve as the spout of the vessel.



19 Attach a small bit opposite the spout on the backside of the vessel. This is an attachment for the handle.



20 Using 7mm color rod, heat 1" of rod and tack lightly to the neck, opposite the spout and directly above the bit in step 19.



21 Wash heat into the bit, then pull it out away from the vessel, thinning it. While it still has heat, sweep down & push forward to attain graceful flow.



22 Using a pinpoint flame, weld the bit from step 19 and the handle. Tug and pull material to reach the desired flow.



23 Flame anneal the vessel. Then detach from punty and heal the punty mark. Get 'er in the oven, pronto!

Wil Menzies started his career in glass in Eugene, OR with Bob & Marie Snodgrass. He is ever passionate about flameworking and teaches workshops around the nation. Wil also teaches at his studio in rural east Texas, where Wil, Jennifer and their two beautiful children hang their hats. To contact Wil about his artwork or details on workshops please email sales@theflowmagazine.com or call 903-539-4806. Vessels below made by Wil range from 3/4" x 2" tall.

