

Coiled Dichro Tube

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Pictures by Grant Menzies

Materials:

1/16" to 1/8" thick dichroic sheet
cut into 3/8" to 1/2" wide strips 6" to 10" long
4mm to 7mm color rod
3/8" heavywall blowtube
6 to 8mm punty material

Tools:

graphite paddle
graphite marver pad
octagonal reamer or graphite rod
tweezers



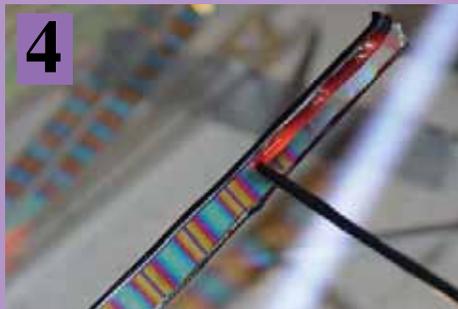
1 Preheat the end of a dichroic strip, glass side only. Attach a punty to the preheated side.



2 Pre-heat the entire dichro strip on the glass side. Heat until the strip begins to show dull red heat base.



3 Start by encasing both sides of the dichro with 4mm color stringer. This keeps the coating from "bleeding" to the top. I chose opaque colors to get more of the reflective spectrum of the dichroic.



4 Then encase the coated side, keeping the flame parallel to the sheet. Concentrate the flame on the color, keeping it away from the dichroic sheet. This is very important to ensure bright, vivid colors with no burn out.



5 Straighten punty attachment and attach punty to the other side of the dichroic strip.



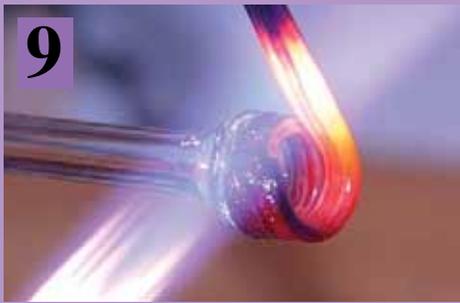
6 Build up a nice heat base throughout a 3" to 4" section and stretch to approximately 1/2 its original width. Repeat this process throughout the cane concentrating on consistency of width.



7 Flare the end of 9.5mm heavy wall tubing with graphite reamer or rod, allowing the flare to thicken a bit. This allows for more stability in the "shoulder" of the piece while coiling and blowing it out.

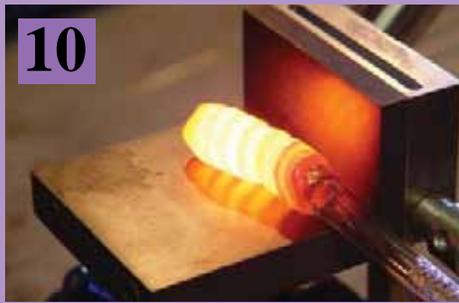


8 Attach dichro ribbon to the side of blowtube flare and begin coiling.



9

It's important to coil the ribbon side to side with no overlap to provide the cleanest execution of this design.



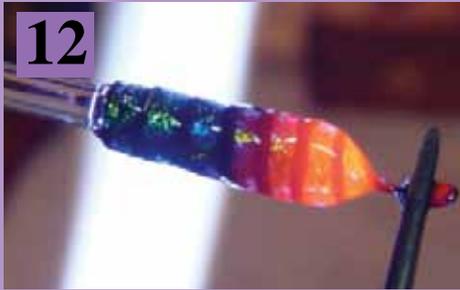
10

Build up a nice heat base throughout the coil build and marver any unevenness. An even heat base will allow finishing the piece with no nasty cracking.



11

Heat and marver the tip of the coil build and close the end off.



12

Tweezer the end of the coil build to clean any uneven patterning or color bleed.



13

Get a very hot, even heat base built up then marver the gather to cool the skin of the piece.



14

Blow the gather out. Repeat this step until you have an even wall thickness with no acute angles.



15

You now have a beautiful, full dichroic tube that can easily be incorporated into any piece from blown beads, ornaments, pipes or even goblet cups.



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