

How to make Purple Patina beads using Glass Alchemy Teal Sparkle

By Douglas J. Remschneider

Photos by Julie A. Reynolds

Materials needed:

Glass Alchemy Teal Sparkle rods

6mm clear borosilicate rods

Glass Alchemy Amazon Bronze frit

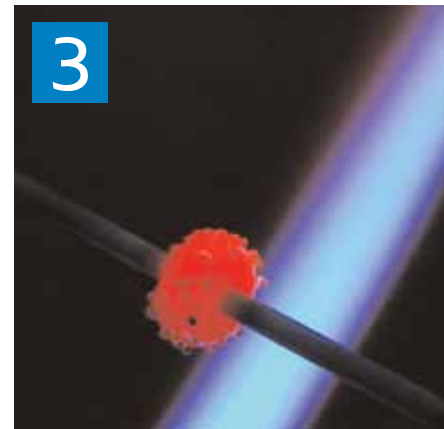
3/32 stainless steel mandrels dipped in bead release



While holding the mandrel just under the flame, heat the teal sparkle until it is molten. Wrap the teal sparkle twice around the mandrel. Continue turning the mandrel to heat the entire bead evenly.



Once the bead is smooth and evenly round, heat it until it glows red in the flame. Next, remove the bead from the flame and gently dip it into the Amazon Bronze frit. Rotate the bead a quarter turn and repeat until the entire bead is coated with frit.



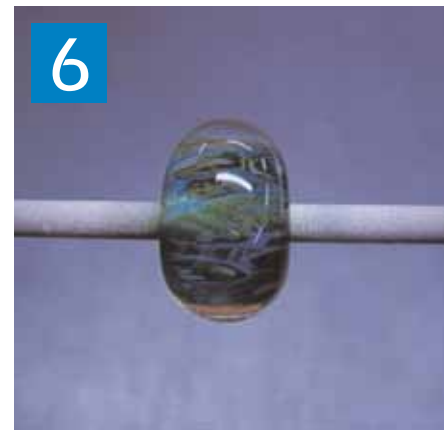
Return the bead to the flame and rotate the mandrel to heat the bead and melt the frit evenly into the surface of the glass.



Next, encase the bead in three layers of clear, being careful not to trap any air bubbles.



Then, place bead into the flame to melt until smooth. Continue turning the mandrel to heat the entire bead evenly. Allow the bead to cool until the entire orange glow is gone.



Then flash the bead in the outer flame until the color strikes. You will see the bead getting darker in color as it begins to strike. Place the mandrel with bead on it into the kiln to be annealed.

Tips for Beginners:

- ◆ Be sure that the bead is not too hot when placed in the frit or it may distort the shape of the bead.
- ◆ Keep your mandrel parallel to the torch at all times or the mandrel will burn off.
- ◆ Place bead under the table to view color and to make sure it is cool.

Douglas J. Remschneider is an official color tester for Glass Alchemy, Ltd. You can see more of his work at www.remschneiderglass.com.