

The Simple Colored Bracelet

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Materials: paddle, carbon plate, bracelet mandrel, pliers, two ten millimeter clear rods about 1.5 feet long, one 5/8" clear rod about 6" long, 3 or more color rods of your choice pulled to one millimeter stringers.

Difficulty range: intermediate to advanced.

Bracelets are great pieces to make because they showcase your coloring and shaping skills. There are many different techniques used to make bracelets as well. Just remember this, almost anything that you can do with a marble can also be done in a bracelet. Furthermore, the techniques described here can also be adapted for bridges, wings, and just about any other solid glass application.

The simple colored bracelet displays the color pattern that you create under a clear glass lens that



increases the brilliance of the colors used. Choose at least three colors that stand in good contrast with each other so your pattern will have great color definition. Be sure to choose colors that are not prone to boiling for the best results. For this project I chose five colors: Millennium Moss from Northstar, and Indigo Luster, Amazon Bronze, Ruby strike 4 and cobalt 4 from Glass Alchemy. The first four colors are pulled into 1 millimeter stringers and the cobalt 4 is used as a backing color.

I chose to demonstrate this bracelet because it is a beautiful piece of glass. There are other ways to make a bracelet, but I use the following steps to ensure that I create a dynamically colored piece with a fluid organic shape every time. The most important thing to remember throughout this project is to maintain an even heat base throughout the piece to prevent cracking. So, let's get started.

Step by Step



1 Pre-heat the 5/8" plug and punty up to one of the 10 mill rods. Then flatten one side no wider than the original diameter of the plug.



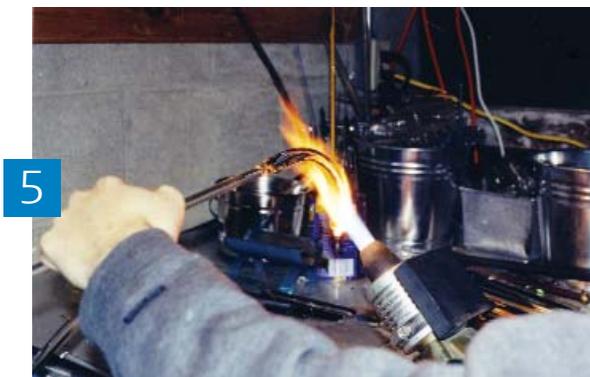
2 Next, apply the colors in straight lines on the flattened side. For this step I place the colors in contrasting order, side by side not touching, and can fit 5 lines on a 5/8" plug.



Now use the fourth color stringer to stir the colors in a pattern of your choice. I used a fluid zig-zag pattern on this piece because it folds the colors together nicely. Once stirred from top to bottom, flatten the colored area and apply the cobalt 4 backing color and then flatten again.



Next punty up with the other ten mill rod and begin to heat the piece from the center out to the ends. Once the piece is red hot, remove it from the flame and form the basic "C" shape of the bracelet.



Pull one punty off and set it aside, you will need it again soon. Heat the end of the piece so that the heat tapers from white hot at the end to red towards the center of the bracelet.



Once you have reached the desired heat, bring the piece to the mandrel. Grab the tip with the pliers, and pull with an even steady motion around the side of the mandrel. Then remove the excess glass. If the end is too thick, reheat the end and do it again.



Punty up to the side you just pulled, remove the clear rod from the other end. Repeat steps 5 and 6 to the other side to complete the bracelet. Break off the last punty, heal the punty scar and clean up your ends.

You should end up with a beautiful bracelet with bold colors that shine through the clear glass and an even shape from tip to tip. If one side pulls thin in the middle it is because you did not have a smooth heat taper from tip to middle. Also, if your colors do not look completely melted in, then you need to work hotter when stirring the colors. Follow these steps and you will produce beautiful work with reliable results every time. Most importantly, have fun and use your imagination. ■