

SCULPTURAL

FLOWER

PENDANTS



*Text and Demonstration
by Amanda Millard
of Millard Glassworks*

GG Glass Rods

5–8 mm Light Green Opaque Veiled Cane
5–8 mm Gold Ruby Opaque Veiled Cane
Black Stringer/Rod of 96 COE glass
Clear Rod of 96 COE glass

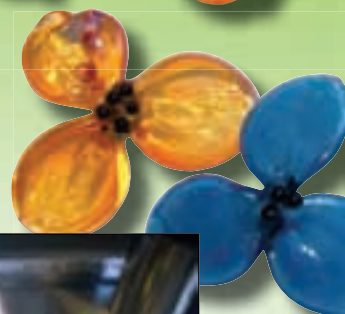
Tools and Materials

Mini Mashers Tweezers Reamer
Marver or Paddle (either brass or graphite)



How does my garden grow? Out of glass of course! With a little practice I think you'll find that making sculptural flower pendants can be fun and easy. The variations are endless. You can make them with three petals, a single stamen, or by adding a leaf. One simple variation that I often enjoy is to heat the tip of the petals and pull them to a point! If you are more comfortable working on a mandrel, simply make a barrel bead in step four and attach your petals to that.

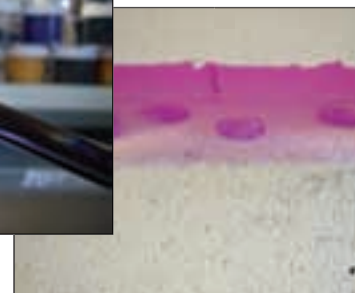
I have made these pendants using several types of glass. I have found, however, that using veiled Gaffer cane or Duos cane from GG Glass (ggglass.com) works best for me. I really like the way the colors can be both vibrant and wispy at the same time. The petals can take on a variegated appearance due to the way the cane is pulled. The color palette is vast. You have to treat veiled cane differently than solid core cane. The most important tip I can offer is to work this glass in a cool flame. Don't rush! As with any soft glass, it's critically important to keep the entire piece warm to avoid thermal stress fracture. To be safe, you should warm the entire piece between each step and warm any tools that come into contact with the piece. If you follow these few precautions, you will enjoy the benefits of using this premium 96 COE glass.



Form a gather for your petal. With the kiln preheated, begin to rotate the tip of your petal-color rod in the flame until a gather forms. The size of the gather will determine the size of the petal.



Mash it! Flatten the gather with your mashers.



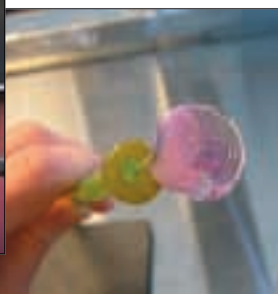
Remove the petal from the rod. Heat the rod just below the flattened petal. Preheat your tweezers by waving them through the flame and pull the petal from the rod. Place your petal in the kiln. Repeat steps 1–3 until you've made a total of 5 petals.



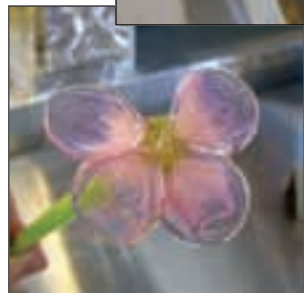
Make a maria to attach your petals onto. Introduce your green rod into the flame. Melt a small gather and press it flat to form a maria.



While keeping your maria warm, preheat the tweezers and retrieve a petal from the kiln.



Attach the petal. Introduce the tip of the petal into the flame until it is glowing. Attach the petal to the maria.



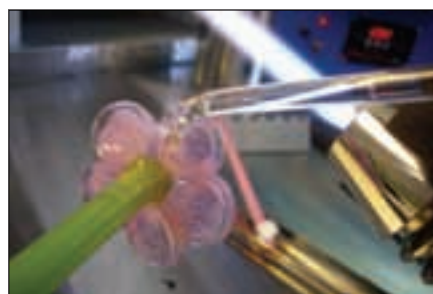
Be sure to keep it warm and repeat. Slowly introduce the entire petal into the flame. Repeat steps 5 and 6 until you have attached all five petals. Be sure to keep rotating it in the flame so it doesn't get too cool.



Add the stamen. With all of the petals in place, take your black stringer and place three dots near the center of the flower. These will act as the stamen. Again, *heat, heat, heat!*

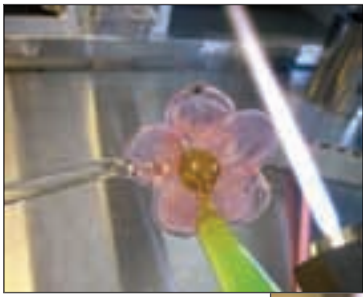


Add the loop. Take a moment to orient the flower so that it is "right side" up. Heat the clear rod until the tip is glowing. Attach this to the rear of your top petal, about halfway down. Slowly pull the rod out and bend it in to meet the top of your petal. Spot-heat at the second attachment point to burn off the rod. Use your pick or reamer to aid in forming the loop. Be sure to not overheat your loop or it will collapse onto the petal.



Warm it up! Evenly heat the entire flower, as it will have cooled during the last step. Punty up to your loop. Make a cold connection with your clear rod to your loop.





Remove the green rod. Heat your green rod, below the maria, and remove it from your flower. I find that I get more glass off of the flower if I use a twisting motion while pulling the rod away. Flatten the remaining glass that is left on the back of your flower. Flash the entire piece in the flame but try not to get your loop too hot.

Remove the punty, flame-polish, and admire your work! Evenly heat your flower and preheat your tweezers. Grab the center front and back of your flower with the tweezers. While grasping the clear rod in one hand and the tweezers in the other, strike the marver (or torch) to the clear rod in one quick motion to release the cold connect. Flame-polish the connection spot. Evenly heat your flower one last time and place it directly into the kiln for annealing.



Growing up in an Army family, and having lived abroad, Amanda Millard believes that the one constant in her life has been the inspiration she draws from nature and animals. She began working with glass in 1999, and since then has worked to capture their beauty in the pieces she creates. Amanda now resides in New Hampshire, where she currently lives, works, and creates glass art in her Bedford home. Having lived in the Southeast her entire adult life, she is a recent transplant to New England and feels lucky to live in such a beautiful part of the country—especially when spring rolls around!



www.millardglassworks.com

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