

Canes

Lampwork Glass Tutorial

By Mary Lockwood

Thank you for your interest in my Canes Tutorial. This is the follow up to my Jellyfish Seascape Tutorial and includes all the more advanced canes I use in decorating those aquarium beads. Something came over me though, during the writing of this, and I just couldn't quit. In addition to the aquarium canes, I've included a beautiful zanfirico ballerino cane that I just love to make. I hope you do too. There is also a fun rainbow striped ribbon cane. Enjoy!

Emphasis in this tutorial is on building the canes themselves, but I do also show some options on how to apply them. **Please read the entire tutorial through once before beginning to work.**

Necessities and Materials

GLASS & MATERIAL

5mm rods of 104coe glass:
Clear

Commercially prepared filigrana rods

A small assortment of short glass rods in opaque and transparent colors for building canes and pulling stringers.

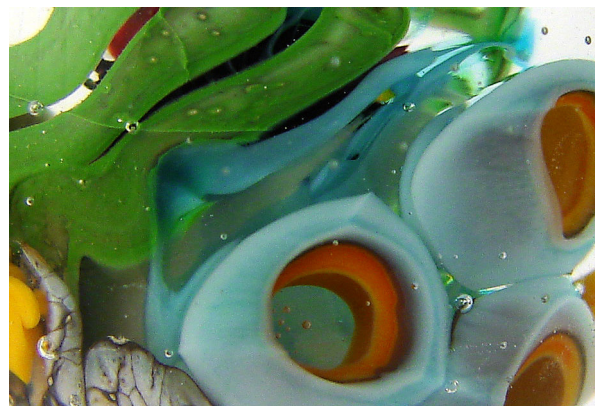
EQUIPMENT & SAFETY

Standard Safe Studio Requirements including but not limited to:

- Fire Extinguisher
- Good Ventilation
- Lampworking Safety Glasses
- Propane Outside
- Oxygen Tanks chained securely
- Bowl of water on work surface
- *You are responsible for your own safety!**

Tools and equipment:

- Color Wheel
- Mashers
- Graphite Marver or paddle
- Tweezers
- Hot Plate or Warmer
- 2 clean mandrels for use as punties
- Bent Steel rake or poker
- Any of your favorites that help you
- *Optic molds come in handy, but are not essential



Building the Canes

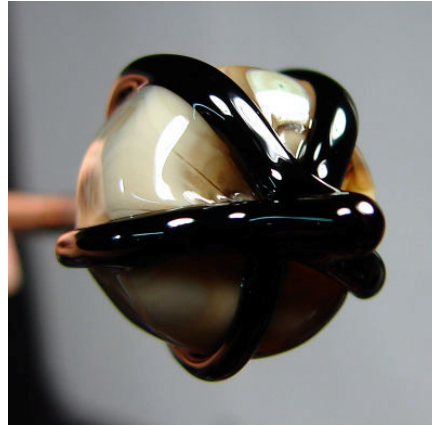
Building canes can sometimes seem like a real chore, but there are great benefits to this time investment. You will get many beads from each cane, you can build canes even when you aren't feeling creative, and it uses up lots of scrap glass. Win. Win.

Cane #1- Striped Vines – 8 minutes -beginner

A simple cane with lots of character. Depending on how you apply this to the finished bead, you can get lots of different effects. From flower vines, to seaweed to urchins and faux wig-wag...this is a lampworking staple in my glass pantry!



1- At the end of a clean, steel mandrel get a tire-shaped gather of opaque green. This gather should be about $\frac{3}{4}$ " around and $\frac{1}{2}$ " long. About the size of a large olive.



2- Using a fat stringer of black or intense black, add 5 stripes evenly spaced around the perimeter of the gather.



3- Melt these black stripes into the surface until they are smooth.



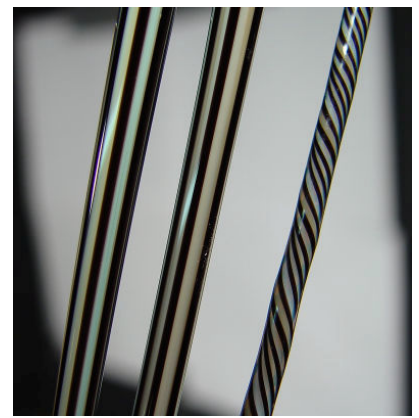
4- Encase this gather with clear and melt smooth.

5- Be sure to make the clear encasement touch the mandrel all the way around to ensure an even pull.



6- Reheat this gather, attach a maria to the face and pull down without twisting into a fat stringer.

If you find that you have glass left after the first pull, reheat what is left, punty up to it and pull again.



Here is the finished cane. I got two straight pulls from my gather and decided to twist as I pulled the last little bit of scrap.

Never know when you might want a simple twisty! Waste not want not.

Cane #5- Latticino – 15 minutes – light intermediate

To me, for a twisted cane to be called latticino it has to be white! You can do lots of variations on this simple latticino. Change up the number of white stripes or their placement and you get lots of different lace patterns. This is just a springboard!



1- Begin with a barrel shaped gather of clear at the end of a clean steel mandrel. It should be about $\frac{3}{4}$ " long and about a $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter.



2- Use a fat stringer of opaque white to swipe 3 stripes evenly spaced around the clear gather.

Be sure to touch the mandrel with all three stripes and bring the other ends of the white to meet at the face.



3- Melt smooth.

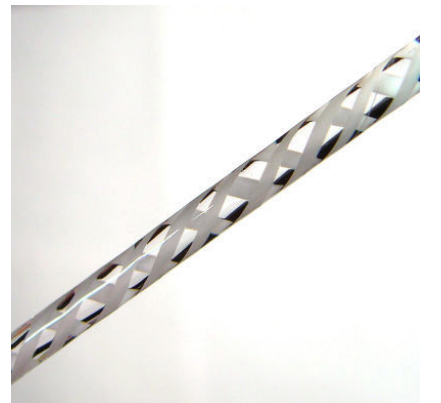
Keep balanced on the punty/mandrel.



4- Encase generously with clear and again be sure to allow the clear encasement to touch the mandrel all the way around the gather. This ensures an even pull because the punty can get a full, equal grip on all the layers of glass.



5- Melt the encasement smooth, punty up to the face of the gather with a maria and twist while you pull to create a cane approximately 3-4mm in diameter.



The finished cane.

The more stripes you put onto the gather when you start, the lacier your latticino will look.

A difference in how tight you twist as you pull also makes for interesting variations.

In everything from florals to jellyfish I love the classic look of swirling latticino. It is easy to make, pretty to look at and adds much-needed 'movement' to static designs.