

# Jellyfish Seascapes

## Lampwork Glass Beadmaking Tutorial

By Mary Lockwood

Thank you for your interest in my Seascape Bead Tutorial. My goal in writing this is not only to give you the knowledge you need to make three dimensional jellyfish focals, but to teach you techniques that will broaden your lampworking abilities as a whole.

The key to these large, complex focals is preparation. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes before you can start making an actual bead. The first part of this tutorial is a cane-building bonanza. The second part focuses on color theory, composition, and perspective. The third part pulls it all together.

### Necessities and Materials

#### GLASS & MATERIAL

5mm rods of 104coe glass:

5 clear

2 white

1 ivory

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

1- 3 inch strip of dichroic glass

1- 1" x 2" piece fine silver foil

Approximately 1 tsp pixie dust or Thompson enamel formulated for 104coe glass

Approximately 1 tsp of a dark transparent or opaque frit. Size 2 is ideal but not crucial.

#### EQUIPMENT & SAFETY

Respirator mask if you are working with enamels.

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

Tools and equipment:

Color Wheel

Mashers

Tweezers

Hot Plate or Warmer

Mandrels-dipped and 2 clean for punties

Bent Steel rake or poker

Any of your favorites that help you

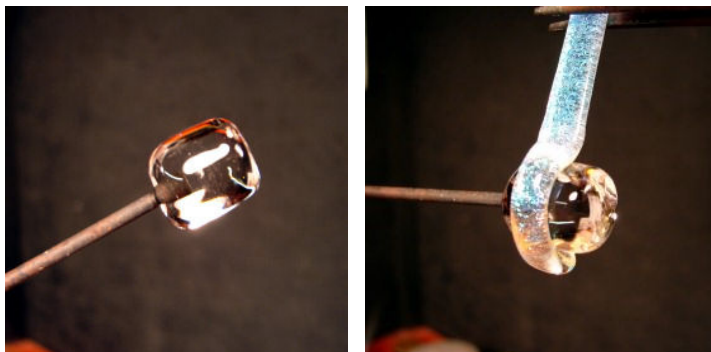


## Part One- Canes- 80-90 minutes to complete

Making canes is not my favorite part of beadmaking and it probably isn't yours either. However, the prep work pays off and when you are done pulling canes, you end up with enough to make lots of beads. (beginner and intermediate skills to complete)

### Cane #1- Dichroic Stringer – 8 minutes

A lampworking staple I use constantly in many different beads. It is much more stable than the commercially prepared dichroic stringer. (intermediate)



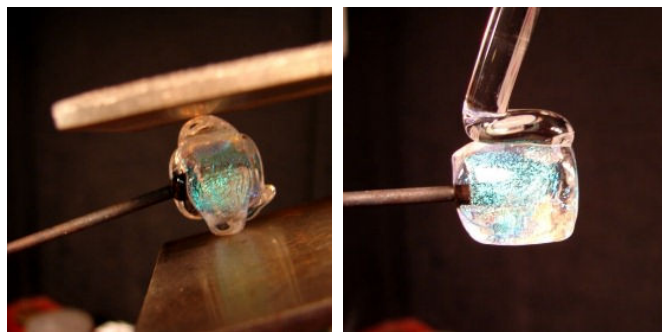
1- Place a 3" long strip of dichroic on a hot plate or in kiln to preheat.

2- Make a one inch gather of clear on the end of a clean steel mandrel.

3- Pick up hot dichro w/ pliers. Introduce into flame with coated side facing away from flame. Move dichro up and down in the flame to soften the first two inches. Do not overheat.

4- Wrap the strip of dichro around the clear gather from underneath and burn- or snip-off the leftover dichroic strip.

TIP: Any terms or phrases **highlighted with yellow** can be found in the glossary at the end of this tutorial.



5- Spot heat an area of dichroic and mash to flatten onto the surface of the clear. Continue all the way around the gather until the surface is smooth.

6- **Linear encase** this 'gather' and pull it down into a 2mm stringer. Set aside.

### Cane #2- Kelp Cane- 5 minutes

This is basically just an encased stringer, very simple and used for many types of work. (beginner)



1- Heat one inch of the end of a 5mm rod of any color opaque green. Lighter greens work better because they seem to bleed less. Pea Green, Nile Green or Copper Green are good first choices.

2- Encase the preheated end of this rod with a transparent green, clear, or other interesting color combination.

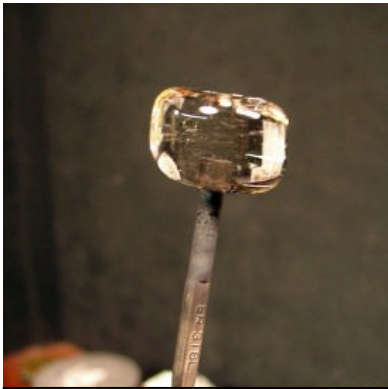
3- Condense into a molten gather and pull down into a 2mm stringer. Set aside.

## Cane #7- Tentacle Cane- 16 minutes

Well, we are almost ready to make a real bead! Let's get this tricky tentacle cane squared away! This is enough cane for 40 jellyfish. (intermediate)

**Check on the white tentacle component you made earlier. It should be cool enough to handle. Cut it into one and a half inch lengths and place on a hot plate or torch marver to preheat.**

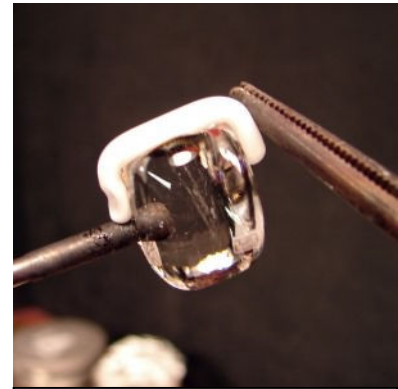
**You will need at least 5 segments of this cane.**



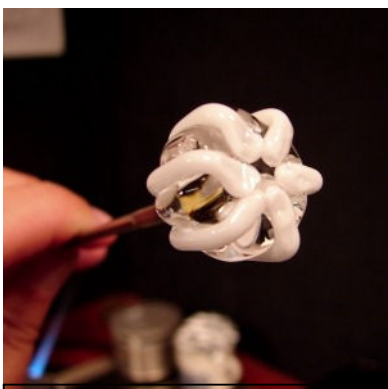
1- At the end of a clean steel mandrel, make a large, fat round gather. Flatten the end and marver the outer diameter so it is the shape of a 1.5" drum. This is a larger version of the 'tire' gather you used for the urchin cane.



2- Preheat a spot on one side of this clear gather, pick up one of your white cane pieces and attach it along the length of the clear gather. Use the side of your tweezers to push this piece of cane down into the clear gather so it is well attached.



3- You should have a bit of white cane extending past both ends of the clear gather. At this point, heat the white cane just enough to bend it and wrap it around to the front and back face of the gather. This will help make your pull uniform later.

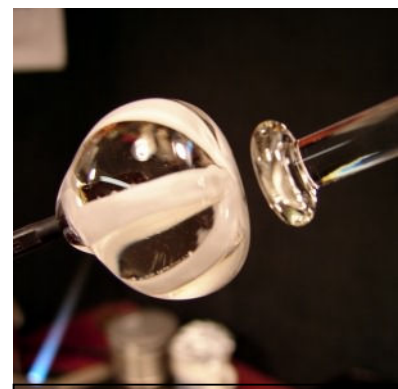


4- Leave a space and repeat adding the pieces of white cane around the gather. You could get between 5-10 pieces of cane attached to this gather. It has been my experience that you need at least 5. Less looks skimpy.



5- Melt the white canes into the gather smoothly.

6- Using linear encasing, encase this bundle completely with clear.



7- Melt it smooth and pull it down into a fat stringer approximately 3mm in diameter. Set aside to cool.

This will later be cut into 6-7" lengths for greater control in application so try to get a foot of cane from this pull.