

# Magic Mushrooms

By Mary Lockwood

Thank you for your interest in my Magic Mushrooms Tutorial. These are fun, easy beads to make for autumn, spring or anytime and I hope you enjoy learning how to make them!

**Please read the entire tutorial through once before beginning to work.**

## Necessities and Materials

### GLASS & MATERIAL

5mm rods of 104coe glass:

**You can use whatever colors you like;**  
the following are shown in the tutorial:

Effetre Wine Red

Effetre Opal Yellow

CiM Peace White

Vetrofond Medium Fossil

1 rod of 8-10mm clear (you can use regular  
5mm, it is just easier to get a large gather  
with the larger diameter rods)

Misc:

Raku frit (not mandatory)

Fine silver foil or leaf

### 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

**Respirator Mask suitable for powdered  
glass protection**

**\*You are responsible for your own  
safety!**

Tools and equipment:

Mashers

Graphite Marver or paddle

Steel Mandrels, both dipped and not dipped



If you are new to sculptural pieces this is a great place to start. The most important aspects of any sculptural work are heat control and stable joins. Be aware of frequently reheating your bead to protect it from thermal shock. Be sure that anytime you are adding new glass to a structure that the spot where it joins is smooth and without ridges or undercuts where the two come together. Let's begin!



You will be using a steel mandrel that has not been dipped in bead release to first form the gather for your twisted cane.

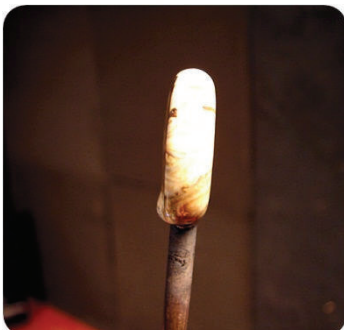


Form a large gather of Fossil at the end of your mandrel. It should be about the diameter of a quarter. Only about 1/8" of the mandrel should be covered with glass.



Use mashers to flatten this gather into a lollipop. Do not make it too thin.

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Here is a side view of the lollipop. I left it 1-2mm wider than the mandrel. If you make it too thin it will be shocky to work with.



Heat one side of the lollipop and apply a generous amount of fine silver foil. Only apply the silver to one side of the lollipop.



Reheat your lollipop of glass to partially melt in your silver foil. Let this stiffen for the next step, but don't let it get cold.



Repeat for the stem.

You could choose a different frit for the stem, or shards are fun, too!



Melt the frit in until it is smooth, but not completely flat.

You don't want it to feel rough like sandpaper, but you want it to have a visual impact and a tactile appeal.



Evenly reheat your finished mushroom and anneal.

These are fun to make in loads of different colors. I hope you enjoy them!

Here are a few finished mushrooms for inspiration!

