

Glass Post Stands For Photographing Or Displaying Beads



You will need:

1 rod of 8-9mm clear, 104 coe– put this on a hotplate to preheat

1 rod of 4-5mm clear, 104 coe (for use as a punty)

1 pair holding pliers or tweezers

1 graphite marver or paddle



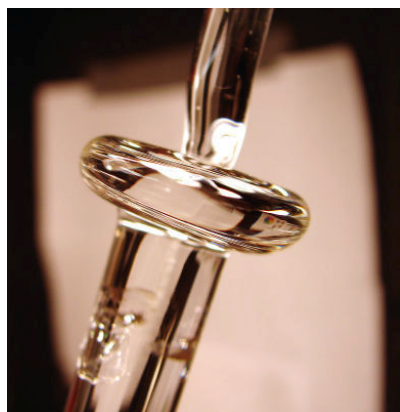
Heat the very end of your 8-9mm rod of clear to molten in the flame and use your tweezers to pull away any scum, impurities or bubbles.

Form a grape-sized gather at the end of the cleaned rod.

You can see at left where my rod cracked...this will not matter because we won't be using that part of this rod.



While the gather is still soft, press it flat against your graphite paddle or marver to form a maria.



Heat the tip of your 4-5mm rod of clear until it is glowing.

Roll it on your marver or paddle to give it a tapered point.

Reheat this point to glowing and attach it to the flat bottom of your maria.

This will be your new handle after you burn off the large rod.



Melt away the large diameter rod of clear, leaving a large raised bump on the surface of the disk of clear.



Melt this dot partially into the base disk to smooth out where the two come together.

It should look like the picture at left when done. A dome.



Heat the small dome of glass to glowing.

Do not heat the base disk, only the dome of glass in the center that was formed when you burned off the large rod of clear.

Grasp the center of the heated dome of glass with tweezers and pull away, much like you were going to pull a stringer from a gather of glass at the end of a rod.



Flame cut the 'stringer' you just pulled from the dome.

This results in a slightly bent, or balled up gather at the end of the post. Since this will prevent you from fitting the post through some smaller holed beads, I cut this off with a pair of rod nippers.



Here is what the tip of the post looks like after I have cut off the tip.

It is sharp and ragged. Not only could you cut yourself on it, it doesn't look good if it shows up in your pictures or on display. You will need to fire polish this.



You can barely tell in this picture, but I have fire polished the tip of the post to remove the sharp edges.

To do the fire polish:

Far out in the flame, wave the tip of the post back and forth through the flame just until it barely glows around the edges.

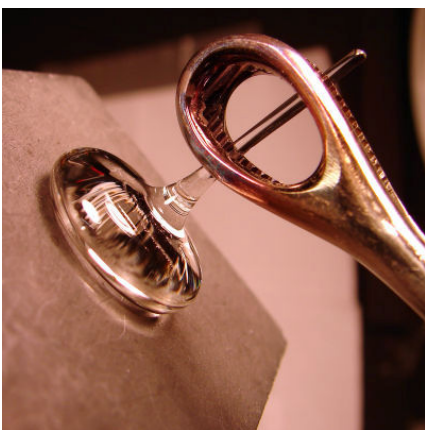
Repeat until the tip of the post is smooth.



Flash the ends of a pair of pliers, tweezers or your favorite holding tool in the flame to preheat them. This serves to keep the tool from thermal shocking the glass when you grip it.

Grab hold of the post with the tool and melt off, burn away the punty.

Generally, with a cold seal, you could snap off the punty, but the post on these is so delicate, I don't like to risk breaking it off.



Still holding the post with the tool, flash the whole stand in and out of the far reaches of the flame to help stabilize the heat and keep it from thermal shocking.

Heat the bottom, flat face of the stand where you burned off the punty until the dot of glass left from the punty is glowing brightly.

Press this against the marver to smooth it out. Repeat until the bottom face of the stand is smooth. Fire polish the bottom at the end to remove chill marks.



Here is a picture of the finished stand.

If you use larger diameter clear rods, it will give you an even larger stand that is good for large or sculptural beads that need a nice counter balance for display or photography purposes.

These also look really nice in black or white or gray, depending on your photo backdrop.

I've even made a couple of these out of twisties. They were fun, but competed with the bead too much to serve well as photography stands. However, they were a good idea if you wanted a display stand to match a particular bead.

You could also make them to look like branches or vines, or leave them plain on the post, but decorate the bottom with raised flowers or dots. Have fun with it!

Thanks again for checking out my free tutorials! They are one of my favorite things to put together!!
~~Mary