

# FREE PDF TUTORIAL

The Basic Technique &  
Creating a Swirl Lampwork Topper



*Jewelry and Lampwork Tools  
with 2.5mm threadings*



## Changeable Lampwork Toppers Tutorial

How to embed threaded inserts into your lampwork beads

Artist: Sandra Arduwie, Belgium

This is a free tutorial from [beadhoppers.com](http://beadhoppers.com)  
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### WHAT YOU NEED TO GET STARTED

- a Ringtop Mandrel with 2.5mm threading
- a matching Cabochon Disc Base in the size of your choice
- Stainless Steel Hex Nuts
- Bead Release and some glass...



### IMPORTANT - BEFORE YOU START

When you use a new cabochon disc base for the first time, you need to heat the disc with the flame of your burner.

This is necessary to ensure a good hold of the bead release.

Screw the disc on the mandrel and put it in the flame until it's glowing. Then after dipping it into a glass of water, dry your disc.

### PREPARE YOUR MANDREL

After screwing the disc to the mandrel, dip it into your bead release and let it dry.

Next screw on the hex nut being careful not to damage the bead release on the disc.

Close off the hole of the nut with bead release to ensure that the hot glass does not stick to the tip of the mandrel.

Make sure not to spread any bead release onto any other part of the nut. Only a clean and uncoated nut guarantees a secure hold of your bead.



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Heat the hex nut to a glow while keeping the disc warm. Then drip some melted glass in the colour of your choice onto the hex nut like a little ball and let gravity do it's job.

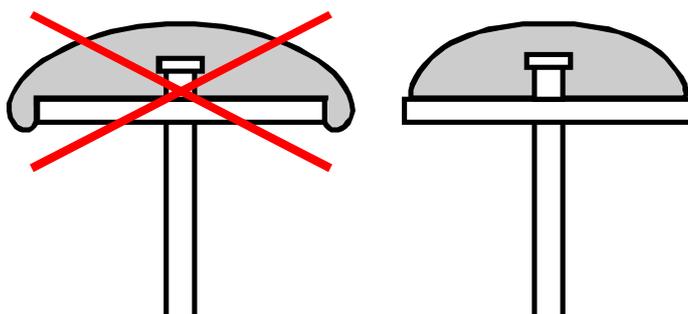
Don't melt any glass directly on the disc. When holding the disc vertically the glass will flow automatically onto the hex nut by force of gravity.

Following this technique you will avoid the creation of air bubbles around the nut. Avoiding air bubbles is very important because it keeps your topper from cracking when screwing it on.

Put enough glass onto your disc, but do not oversize. Don't allow the glass to run over the edges of your disc otherwise your disc may get stuck inside your topper.

Now reheat the topper and start to adorn it with design elements like stringers, dots, murinis, frits or silver foil for example.

Finally put it into the kiln for annealing in the same way you would anneal your beads.



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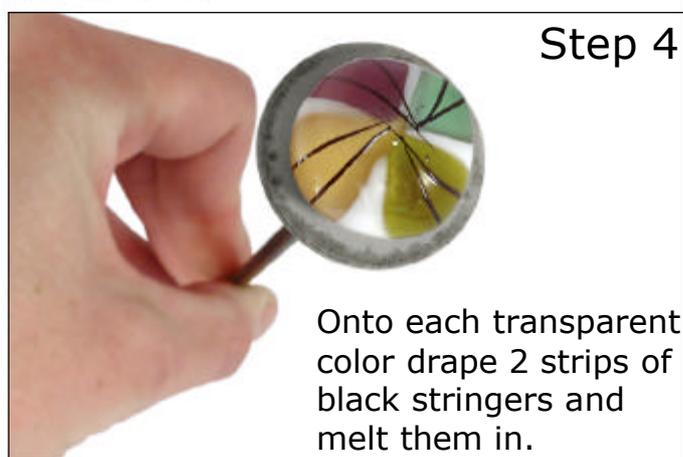
### Creating a Swirl Lampwork Topper

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#### WHAT YOU NEED:

The Ringtop Mandrel with Disc and Hexnut, prepared with Bead Release  
Black Stringers • Transparent • Opaque White • Transparent colors of your choice

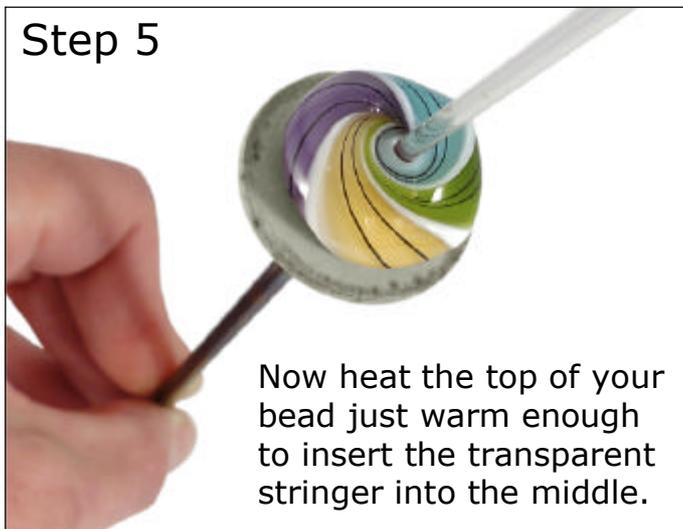


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### Step 5



Now heat the top of your bead just warm enough to insert the transparent stringer into the middle.

Then slowly turn the bottom part while keeping the transparent stringer still. This is how you will achieve the swirled effect as shown.

### Step 6



Break off the transparent stringer and heat the top to a round bead.

### Step 7



After warming all of the glass turn your top and let gravity do it's work. When you're ready put your topper into the kiln for annealing.



*Screw On*  
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