



„HYDRANGEA BEADS“-TUTORIAL

Here we will show you how to use frit to decorate your beads with the most amazing hydrangea blossoms!

BY BURGI SAUSENG & CHRISTA KLEPP

Painted hydrangeas

Hydrangeas are the flowers of my childhood. Already in my grandparents garden, I was fascinated by the lush of bloom and the many different pastel colors.

For a long time they were frowned upon as old-fashioned or even as „cemetery flowers“ before they were allowed to experience a new renaissance in recent years.

From a botanical point of view, the hydrangea's inflorescence consists of mostly small, fertile blossoms in the center, surrounded by large, sterile sham blossoms.

The cultivated forms of our „garden hydrangea“ almost exclusively have enlarged, sterile sham blossoms.

I would like to share my attempts of transferring the delicacy of hydrangea blossoms “into glass” with you!

Many thanks to Christa for all your support and the indispensable help with photography!

BURGI



More about glass frit, glass powders and tutorials

www.VETROMAGIC.AT ©

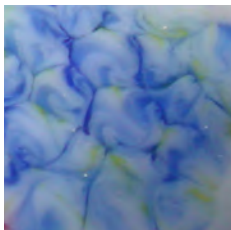


„HYDRANGEA BEADS“-TUTORIAL

The following color blends have proven themselves well for the blossoms, but can be varied infinitely:

COLORS for BLOSSOM STRINGERS:

dark blue:



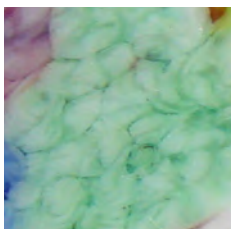
basic color: white glass rod
fritblend: 3x „Wild Water“ by Vetromagic
stringer: 2x cobalt blue, 1x yellow

light blue:



basic color: white glass rod
fritblend: 2-3x „Cloud Atlas“ by Vetromagic
Stringer: 2x cobalt blue, possibly
1x yellow

light green:



basic color: white glass rod
powder: 1x „Frog King“ by Vetromagic
stringer: 2x white

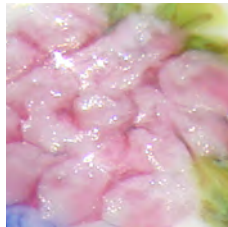


leaf stringer:

basic color: opaque green rod (e.g. Effetre Nile green, P211)
fritblend: 2x „Green Grass“ by Vetromagic
stringer: 2x transparent green (T030), 1x light brown (S444).

Note: Do not twist the leaf stringer when you pull it out!

light pink:



basic color: CIM Gellys Sty rod
frit: 1x „Rubino Oro“ by Vetromagic
stringer: 2x white

dark pink:



basic color: white glass rod
frit: 3x „Rubino Oro“ by Vetromagic
stringer: 2x Rubino Oro, 1x white

violet:



basic color: CIM Evil Queen rod
fritblend: 1x „Snow Flakes“ by
Vetromagic
stringer: 2x white

Note: Unfortunately, purple tends to turn brown, the most difficult color!



In preparation for the bead, I prepare several blossom stringers in the desired colors.



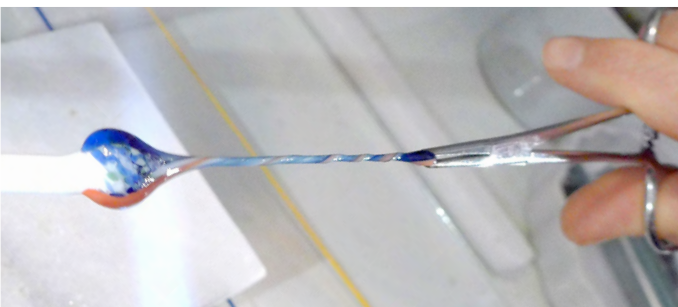
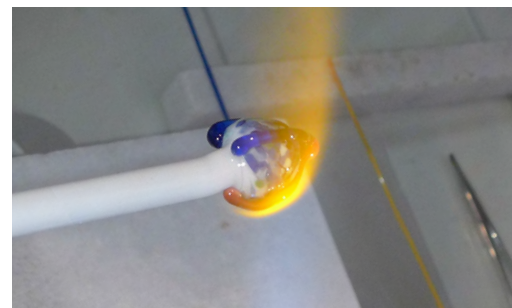
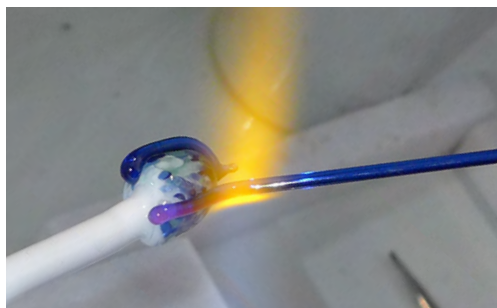
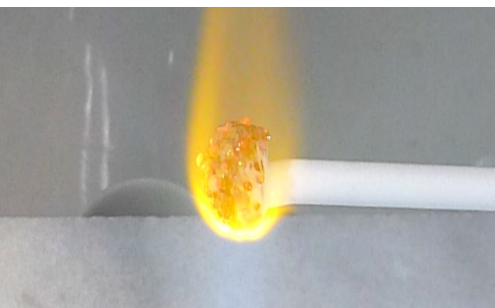
Here, as an example, a Blossom stringer for dark blue hydrangeas with a yellow blossom center:

We need:

1 rod Effetre white (P204)
1 thick stringer each in cobalt blue (T060) and yellow (S408)
and the Vetromagic fritblend „Wild Water“

I melt a large blob of white glass and dip it into the fritblend, melt the frit in and repeat this process two more times.

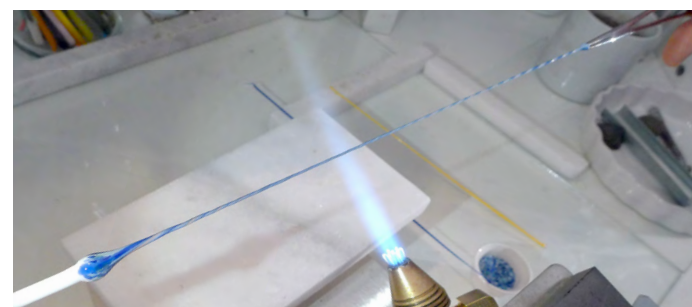
When all of the frit are melted smooth, I apply 2 blue stringers and one yellow stringer.



The stringers are melted down well. Then I pull an approx. 1 mm thin stringer out of the glass blob, which I twist while pulling out.

I use the same principle to make the other blossom colors and a stringer for the leaves.

The fritblends serve to get as many shades of color as possible into the individual blossoms, the stringers give the blossoms additional structure, intensify or weaken a color, but can also be used, for example, to indicate a different colored blossom center in each blossom.





MATERIAL LIST

1 dipped mandrel (use a good bead release, the bead is pressed a few times)

1 rod Effetre white (P204)

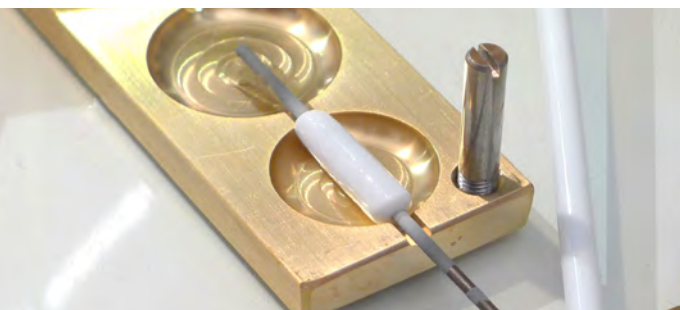
3 different colored blossom stringers

1 leaf stringer

Vetromagic fritblend „Raspberry Sorbet“

a bead press (lentil, pillow or pastille press - the bead should have a „painting surface“ that is as flat as possible)

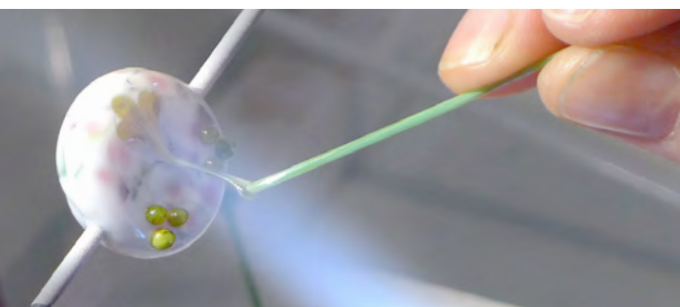
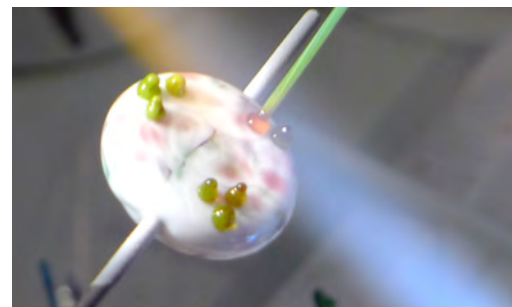
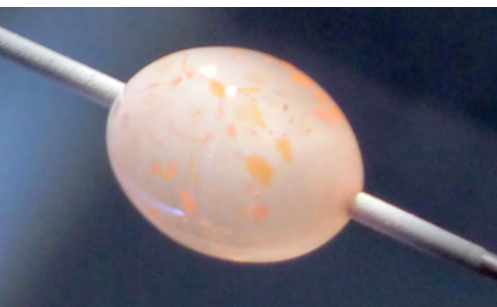
tool for pressing glass flat (small paddle, knife, etc.)



First, I use the white glass rod to wrap an exactly matching footprint for the press I want to use (in this case a pastille press).

Then I build an olive-shaped white basic bead and roll it in the fritblend „Raspberry Sorbet“.

The amount of glass should be measured so that the basic shape of the press is filled, but there is still enough space for the blossoms!



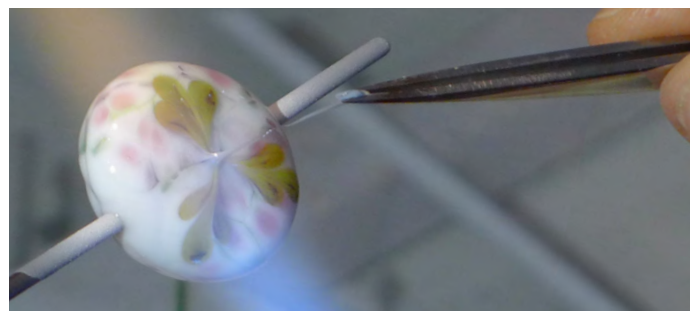
I melt the frit in and heat them until they spread out like a net on the bead. Simultaneously with the strong heating, I bring the bead into the most symmetrical shape possible.

Then I let the bead cool down a bit and press it the first time.

In the next step the leaves are „painted on“. To do this, I set three small dots with the green leaf stringer at 12 o'clock, 4 o'clock and 8 o'clock, which should not touch each other.

I melt each group of three individually and pull them with the leaf stringer from the outermost dot towards the middle of the bead.

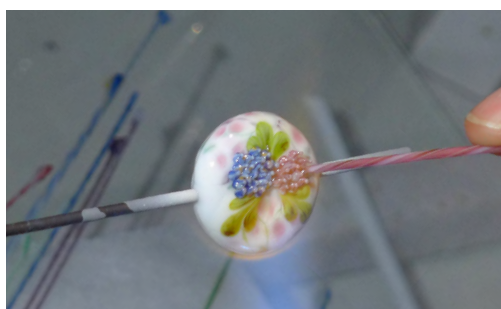
When all 3 leaves are ready, I remove the excess glass in the middle of the bead with tweezers, heat the whole bead and press it again.



Now the three flower umbels are „painted“:

To do this, I put as many dots as possible next to each other with the first prepared blossom stringer, without melting them first. I aim for a round shape for each umbel that should spread out between two leaves.

I paint the next umbel with the next blossom stringer color and the last umbel with the third color.



Then each individual umbel is carefully heated and pressed down several times. In this way I avoid that the flowers run too much into one another during the later soft melting.

Then I heat the whole bead well again and press it. I repeat this process until the flowers are smoothly merged with the surface.



The finished bead is carefully flame polished and then tempered in the oven.

Of course, it also works with vermiculite or in annealing bubbles - but don't forget to heat the bead again very carefully!

The raspberry sorbet fritblend works beautifully as background. But you can also paint the hydrangeas on both sides of the bead.

You can also e.g. decorate furniture knobs or ring tops. Have a look at the examples on the next page.

Now we are looking forward to your ideas!

Have fun trying!

Burgi und Christa



1000 AND ONE HYDRANGEA!

A few ideas of what to decorate with hydrangeas ...

Furniture knobs



Ring tops
and screwed
pendants



Earrings
and
necklaces



... and much more
Have lots of fun with
your decoration
ideas!

