

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

WE6676 MAKING GLASS BEADS – AN INTRODUCTION

Tutor: BARBARA MASON

Dates: WEEKEND FRIDAY 13 JANUARY – SUNDAY 15 JANUARY

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

This course offers an introduction to the art of glass bead making. You will receive a good grounding in practice at the torch both in relation to safety and technique and then build on the skills acquired during the course to make increasingly more complex beads.

You will be taught how to control hot glass in order to shape and decorate beads and will have the maximum time possible at the torch to hone your skills.

The teaching sessions are broken into short demonstrations followed by individual practice of each technique on one or two beads. Repetition of the demonstration/practice loop is often necessary, especially in the early part of the course, to ensure that everyone has a good grip of the basics. There will be periodic opportunities for longer individual practice to consolidate skills and pursue personal ideas. The materials used, in addition to glass rod and powder, include silver leaf and aventurine glass.

You will be given information to help you understand the more technical aspects so that your beads are well-made and durable.

During the course you will make between 20/30 beads, which will provide a record of the various shaping and decorative techniques learnt, and the confidence you gain in handling hot glass will enable you to set up a torch at home if you wish.

First evening: Introduction to the course
Health & safety issues
Getting used to the torch
Heating glass in the flame

Day 1: Brief reminder of health and safety
First beads
Decorating with frit, then dots
Raking
Expansion coefficients, stresses and annealing
Shaping the bead – cylinders, tablets and other shapes
Removing beads from mandrels and cleaning bead holes

Day 2: Bead release and coating mandrels
Making poor beads usable by grinding sharp holes
Using different parts of the flame and different flames
More decoration – stringers and twisted dots
The good bead and the bad
Practising good ends
Encasing
Glittery decorations – aventurine and metal leaf

LEVEL: BEGINNERS

The course is for those with little or no experience of bead making at the torch and would like a structured introduction to the subject. It is also excellent for those who have tried glass beadmaking on a short taster course and wish to learn more, or those who wish to polish up rusty skills!

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Barbara Mason has made lampwork glass beads since 1997, having studied with several American glass bead artists during this time. She sells her work at specialist shows.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Friday 13 January

From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students
6.45pm	Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner
7.00pm	Dinner
8.00pm – 9.00pm	First teaching session – attendance is an essential part of the course.

Other days: Saturday 14 January

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.30pm	Tea
4.00pm	Afternoon classes continue
5.00pm	Classes finish
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm	Evening working: the workshop is open until 10pm – students may work untutored in the evening until 9.30pm of the first full day of the course, provided there is at least one other student present at all times.

Departure day: Sunday 15 January

(Residential students to vacate rooms by 10am)

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.00pm	Classes finish
3.30pm	Tea then departure

MATERIALS FOR YOUR COURSE:

We have a generously stocked craft shop, which opens daily from 8.30am–2pm.

For any materials you need to purchase from the shop, we suggest you do so during the first morning of your course, after having discussed with your tutor.

Included in the course fee for this course: general materials and glass used by the group as a whole.

Available from the shop:

General art materials

Please bring any of the above, if you have them, and in addition:

A notepad and pen

1 glass jam jar

A hair tie if long hair is normally worn loose

Flame-worker's didymium or AUR-92 tinted glass safety glasses IF ALREADY OWNED – glasses supplied by West Dean are available to use.

Comfortable clothes made from natural fibres (safety reasons). You may also wish to bring an apron or old cotton shirt to protect against burning little holes!

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. Students may work unsupervised on agreed projects once they have satisfied the tutor as to their competence. There may be restrictions on the equipment available to students in the tutor's absence. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.

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