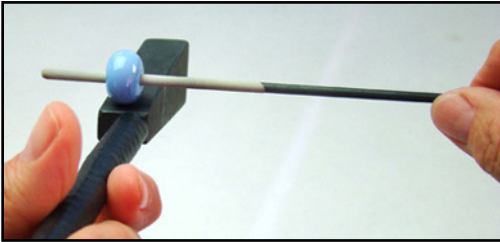


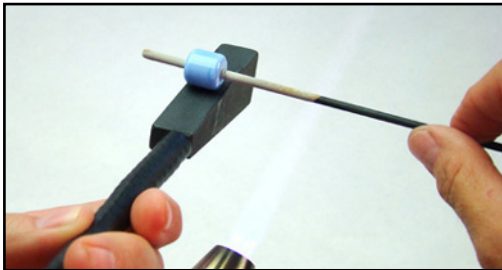
Here is how I use it...

1. Make a standard bagel bead.



2. Support your mold on a solid surface. I usually rest the mold on my torch.

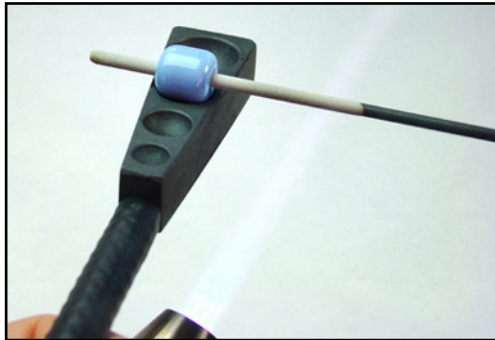
3. Marver the bead into a barrel approximately the width of the Round-up Tool hole you are going to use.



TIP:

As I place my bead in the mold, I want it to be centered in the indentation. If I am pushing to the right or the left, it will disturb the nice pucker on either end of my bead. Sometimes I will push a bit more firmly on the part of the mold that is closest to me when I am shaping. Most of your shaping will be done on the rim of the mold.

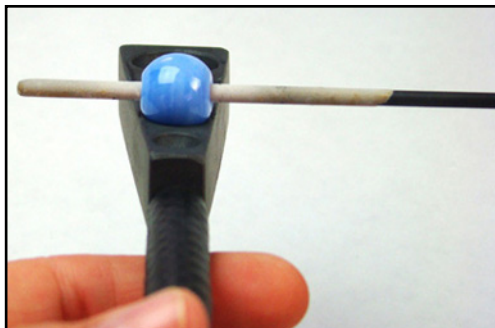
4. Warm up your bead then gently roll it in the mold to round out the corners of the barrel.



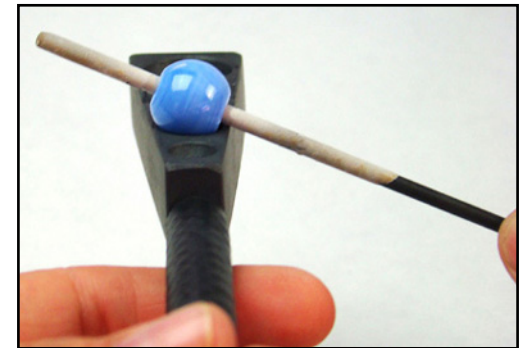
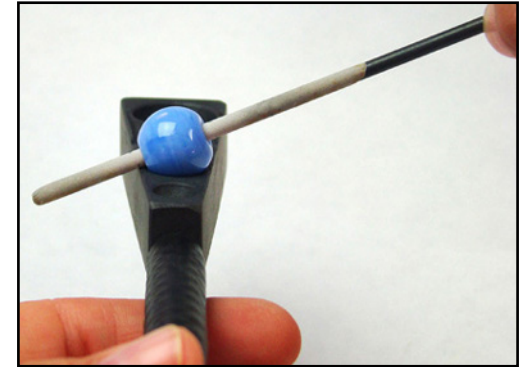
5. Your bead has probably cooled off and needs a bit of a re-heating at this point. Re-heat then go back into the mold.

Now you have choices, each with differing results:

- Go back into the hole you have been working in.
- Go into the next smaller hole down the line.



- Try tipping your mandrel up and down as you turn your bead in either size hole of the mold.



- All of the above.

TIP:

When I have a lovely surface design, I need to take great care when going into the mold. I want the core of my bead warm and the design relatively cool. Be careful because it is easy to distort the surface design by going into the mold too hot.

Footnote: My DOTS! tutorial has a great discussion about heat in the Q&A section. It is available on my web site - www.heathertrimlett.com

The Round-up Tool

Those of you who know my work know that I have always enjoyed making marbles with holes in them.

To create this style, I started using a marble mold for shaping and have continued using this method for a number of years.

This was a great use of a typical marble mold, but I wanted to be able to tip my bead at different angles while shaping it like I would a marble on a punty. This prompted the design of my Round-up Tool.

Think about making pancakes or cookies; often the first batch does not come out perfectly, but the more you cook the better your results. Shaping your beads in the mold can be like that. Often the first one is a bit wonky, but then you get a rhythm and your results improve. Most of my students experience rapid success—I'm sure you will too!

-- Heather

Contact Heather:

Have any questions or comments?

Contact Heather at:

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A little bit about Heather



In case you were wondering...

A Bit about Me

I have been working with glass for more than 30 years and for 18 of them I have been making beads. I am happy to say that I am still excited about working on the torch!

My Tools

I'm always looking for an easier way to do things as I work. I have designed a series of tools to help me do that. My Round-up Tool is the first one I am happy to share with you.

My Tutorials

Teaching others to make beads is a big part of what I do. I've had the opportunity to teach lots of students but I cannot possibly teach everyone who wants to learn - one of the reasons I have created my tutorials.



ROUND-UP TOOL

deSigned by

Heather Trimlett

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