

## Brass Frit Tutorial



### Supplies needed

- Fine Brass shavings
- Marver
- Opaque glass
- Clear glass
- Razor tool

*This tutorial and notes are compiled from the Lampworketc website in a post started by Dawn Ceccacci. I did not credit any other post author, but you can find the original posts and follow-up posts here: <http://www.lampworketc.com/forums/showthread.php?t=139952>*

*Thanks Dawn!*

Caution: Be careful when using brass frit. It is sharp and can cause injury. Use Brass Frit only under a ventilation system.



I used very little brass frit in these beads (a little goes a very long way). I take my small tweezers and pick up a small pinch of brass. Then I spread that pinch out on my marver with my razor tool. It is a very thin coat of brass. I only roll my heated tube bead ONCE through the brass. It will NOT pick up all the brass. I would say it only picks up 50% of it. So, you see I am only using a very small amount.

When I want to make a line of bubbles on a bead, I use my razor tool and make a row of brass frit to roll my heated tube bead in 1 time. Once again you could use this line of brass frit a few more times before it is used up.

Make a tube bead of opaque glass and marver it into the length you want to your final bead to be.

Heat the surface of the glass until glowing and roll it in the brass frit. Then, marver the frit into the base glass.



Next, keep the bead below the flame and encase it in clear covering all the brass frit. I like a heavy encasement of clear because it adds a lot of depth to the bead. Do not place frit directly into the flame. It will spark and burn off the bead.

Heat the encased bead until glowing. You will see the gold bubbles form. Don't heat your bead too long because it will bring bubbles to the surface of your bead. Once you start to see the bubbles form, pull the bead out of the flame. If you need more bubbles, reheat.

Finish decorating your bead and place it into the kiln.

I anneal at 960 with a standard ramp down.



#### Notes and Observations (from various people):

- The brass does not get soft when it hits the glass. How stiff it is before you put it on is how it feels going on. You must be careful not to hit the flame with the brass or it will spark and burn off. I bought a thin brass sheet from Hobby Lobby (I should look up the gauge) and did punch outs and it worked great. I also cut thin strips of brass from it and wrapped it around a 1/16th mandrel creating spirals and then layed that spiral down on the glass and encased it.



- I did use the brass mesh that I got from our local group meeting this past Saturday. It works great but in my honest opinion, it takes a little more heat to get the bubbles to form. I just cut a very skinny piece of brass and wound it around the bead. These beads did not crack.
- A lot of places where you might get metal shavings from are going to be dirty, oily workshops and the metal is likely going to need a soap bath to get the cutting oils off. I would follow that with a water rinse and even an alcohol rinse to get it really dry.
- If you get cracking, one needs to think about the volume of bubbles to the volume of glass, especially if you cannot get the bead into a kiln from the torch. Foamy glass is not going to cool with any kind of even consistency, so you have to really limit how much of the bead is bubbles and control how much glass is between the bubbles and the outside of the bead. Get it into a kiln right away.

## Variations:

- Mona Gollan created the bead below by encasing thin brass wire. The first picture is the side view and the next is the top view.



- Here is a copper chain bead.

In order to get the chain started I had to really heat up the spot where I started the chain and plunge the chain into that spot. Then I just wrapped it around the bead and pressed it in with my marver. I did not put the chain directly into the flame, then I encased it in clear. I can't wait to play with this idea next week. I think it has possibilities.



## Places to get Brass Shavings

Currently, you can buy brass shavings on the Devardi Glass Website They sell other metals too, and their websites gives some examples of those results: <https://www.devardiglass.com/Metalworking.htm>

Any place that makes brass tools, such as Leonardo Lampwork <https://leonardolampwork.com/products/brass-shavings-1-oz>

- Try local machine shops
- Try an internet search for fine brass shavings on Etsy, ebay, and Amazon.
- Hardware stores with key machines – though keys are not just brass anymore.