



Make a Father Christmas bead.

Glass needed

One rod of red – I have used Effetre Deep Red

One rod of pink – I have used Effetre Light Pink

One thick stringer in pink

One thick stringer in black – I have used Effetre Black

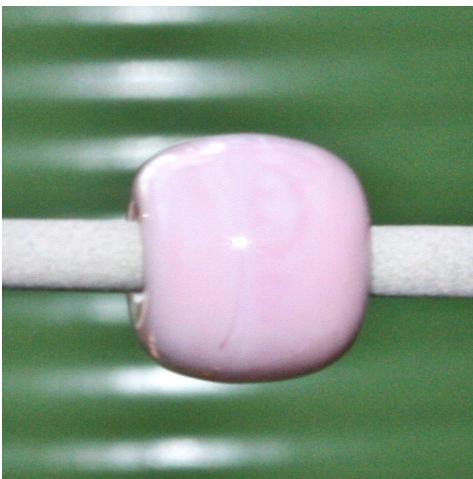
One stringer in clear

One stringer in white

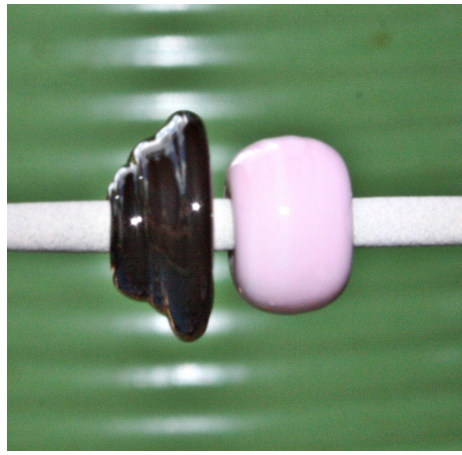
One Filigrana stringer in white and clear – I pull my own,. or you can buy them from your glass supplier

To make a filigrana stringer for this project, just wrap a small amount of white glass onto a mandrel, without bead release, marver into a small barrel shape, allow to harden slightly, encase in clear glass, melt in and pull into a stringer, you might need to pull several of these to make sure you have enough.

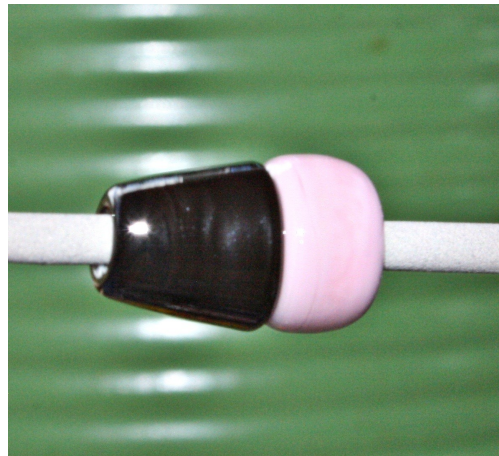
Remember that red glass goes very black during the heating process, so all these pictures show the red glass as being black.



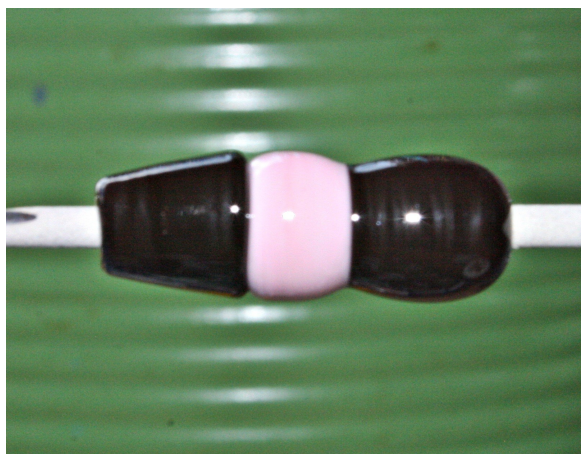
1. Step 1. Wrap a small base bead in pink. I make a nice sized spacer bead size. This is the head.



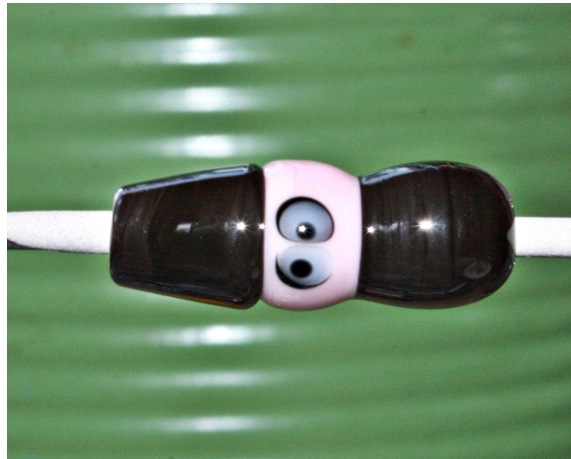
Step 2. Wind on the red glass above the pink head. This will be for the hat, which we will shape in a minute, look at my photo, I don't wind the red glass onto the pink head, but leave a small gap, this is so I get a neat cone shape adjoining the head.



Step 3. Heat up the red glass, try to keep the pink glass as stiff as possible, gently marver the red glass into a cone shape. This may take several heat and marver steps to get a nice join to the head, without squishing the pink glass.



Step 4. Add another wrap of glass to the other side of the pink bead. I add just a bit more of the red than the pink at this stage, this is for the body so you will want a slightly larger shape. Gently marver the red body glass, into a longer round shape, a cross between a round and a barrel, a Santa shape!



Step 5. Now you have your basic Father Christmas shape, its time to decorate! Add the eyes next. Using your black stringer melt in two dots, melt flat. Add white dots on top of the black, melt flat, add clear on top of the white and melt nearly flat, then add a small dot in the middle and melt flat.



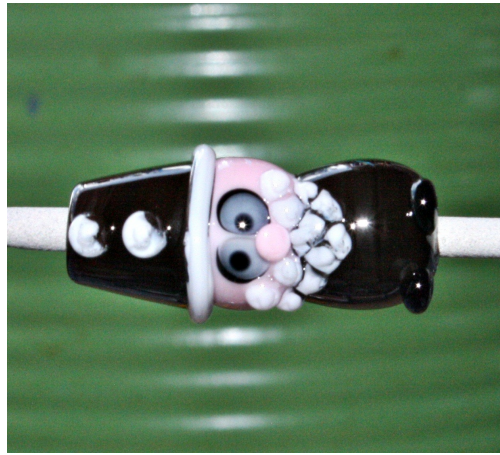
Step 6. Using your filigrana rod, start to give Father Christmas his beard, using simple dots, melt gently to stick them fast, but not enough to flatten them.



Step 7. He is looking Santa like now! Using the pink stringer, give Santa his nose. Melt to stick fast, but not to flatten.



Step 8. Finish the hat. Still using the filigrana rod, add two dots and a nice white brim. Again melt to stick, but not to flatten.



Step 9. Using the black stringer, add two nice sized dots to the bottom of the body, heat gently and press onto either a hand held marver or torch marver. He now has feet!



Step 10. Nearly done. Using the thick red stringer add two swipes, one either side of the body for his arms. Heat to stick. The last step I forgot to photograph! Using the thick pink stringer, add two dots, one on each arm end for his hands.

Heat thoroughly, check all joins are secure and pop into the kiln to anneal.



Father Christmas.

You could add a stringer line of black glass all around his middle with a dot of yellow/gold, for a belt. You could also add more white filigrana to his head for hair. You don't have to use filigrana, you could just use regular white, I like filigrana for this bead I think its looks more Christmassy.

Make little ones and use as earrings.

Laney
www.Izzybeads.Etsy.com