

# Painted Fish Bead



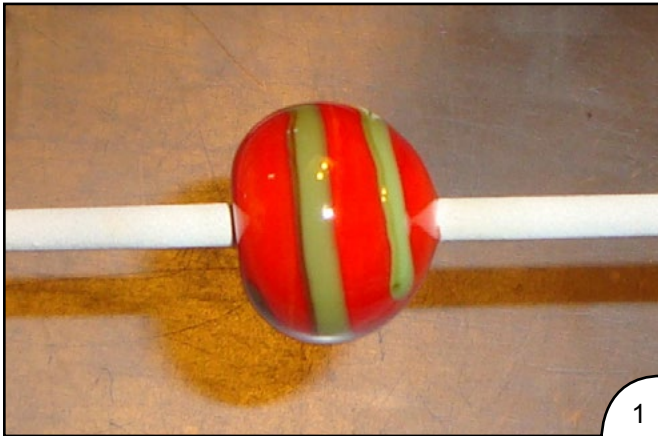
By Elizabeth Bunn

**M**y painted fish beads were inspired by artist-painted fish on stones. I wondered if I could do that in glass. A hundred fish later, the answer is yes! They are easy, fun, and addictive. Colorful fish beads are great for Beads of Courage because they appeal to kids of all ages.

## TOOLS AND SUPPLIES

- ▣ Graphite Paddle
- ▣ Press to flatten fish – I use a wide crunch
- ▣ Magic Wand or razor tool
- ▣ Two contrasting colors for tail and body. I used yellow and orange
- ▣ Stringers in black, white, pink, and a variety of colors of your choice
- ▣ Clear (optional)





### MAKING THE TAIL

**Step 1:** Make a bead about a half-inch long with your tail color (yellow). I like to decorate my fish tails at this stage, so I applied green stripes to the yellow tail.



### ADDING THE BODY

**Step 2:** Add a one-inch long barrel for the body. Add more glass to the face end and marver into a slight cone shape. I have also raked the green stripes on the tail to give the tail more interest.

**Step 3:** Press the fish to flatten slightly. Heat your fish gently to polish out the chill marks.

### ADDING THE FACE AND DETAILS

**Step 4:** Time to decorate its face. (I decorate both sides.) To begin the face, apply a stringer line from side to side.

**Step 5:** Place black dots for the eyes and white dots for cheeks. Melt in. Warm the fish all over.

**Step 6:** Add five dots to the sides, as pictured.





**Step 7:** Melt in the dots and rake. Warm the fish all over.

### FINISHING TOUCHES

**Steps 8a and 8b:** Fill in spaces with white dots. Don't forget the top and bottom. Melt in.

**Step 9:** Cover the white dots with colored dots, as desired. I use a different color dot for the mouth. Melt in. Warm the fish all over.

**Step 10:** Put white dots on the black eye dots and a pink dot on the cheek dots. Then put tiny black dots on the white eye dots. Add decorative dots, if desired. Melt in, as desired. I leave mine slightly raised. Warm the bead all over.

**Step 11:** I like to put clear dots on top of my colored dots.





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**Step 12:** With your magic wand or knife, cut a cute mouth.

Warm the fish all over and pop it in the kiln. Done!

Use your imagination for variations. Below are some more examples.



### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Elizabeth Bunn has been making beads since early 2008. From the first time she melted glass, she has been mesmerized by the craft of lampwork. She loves the challenges and opportunities for creativity that working with hot glass offers. In addition to making beads, Elizabeth developed her own line of premium frit blends.

Liz donates many of her beads to Beads of Courage and is a member of the Beads of Courage Hall of Fame. Visit her website [www.elizabethbeads.com](http://www.elizabethbeads.com) for more information and links to her work for sale online.