



By Diane Woodall

We never know what will inspire a new design or how that design will evolve as we try out our ideas. This cute folk art chicken bead came about as a result of me watching Peppa Pig with my grandson. It is his favorite show, and in my opinion, the sweetest and most entertaining cartoon ever! During the show, out came these adorable little dancing chickens, and the design was so simple I grabbed my notebook and made a quick sketch. I knew I could put the chickens on a background bead, changing out the color of the background, body, feathers, etc. to my heart's content. It wasn't until I actually attempted to make the first bead that I discovered creating the tiny little feet was going to require hair thin stringer, and many people (including me) would find that too challenging. So I opted for plan B – stick the chicken on a nest and pretend that was my plan all along.

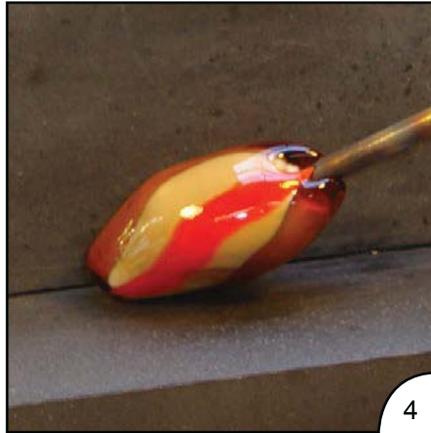
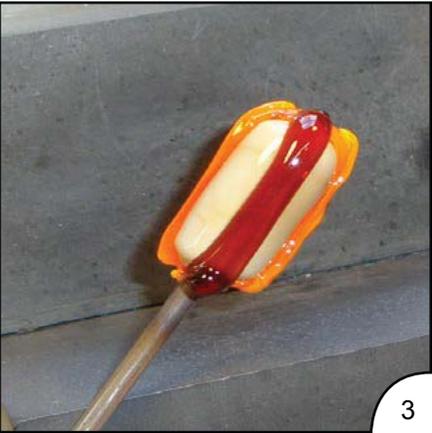
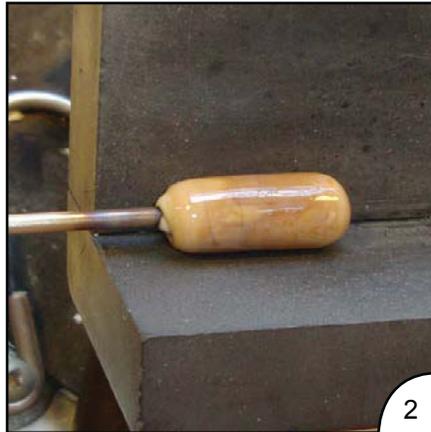
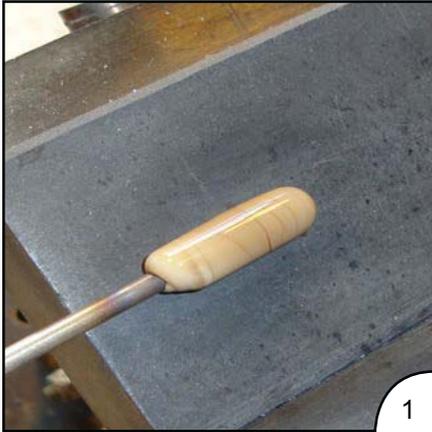
You can make this bead any size, but I find a 1.25-inch lentil gives me enough room for all of the details without everything being too crowded on the base bead. My nesting chicken is made using the most basic techniques, including raking to make the feathers and other details on the bird. I think you are going to enjoy making these as much as I do because if I can find an easy way to make a great looking bead, that is always my goal.

# Nesting Chicken

## TOOLS AND SUPPLIES:

- ▣ Bead press (I am using a Zoozii's Large+ Straight-Sided Lentil press) optional
- ▣ Shaping knife or handheld marver
- ▣ Razor tool
- ▣ Tweezers for making the twistie
- ▣ Old mandrel to use as a punty for the twistie
- ▣ 1 rod of the base bead color (CiM Fremen)
- ▣ 3mm stringer for the body (White)
- ▣ 3mm stringer for the feathers (Intense Black)
- ▣ Thin stringer for the spots (Intense Black)
- ▣ 2mm stringer for the wattle and comb (Red)
- ▣ 2mm stringer for the beak (CiM Alley Cat)
- ▣ Rod of Effetre Sand (259) for the nest twistie
- ▣ Rod of Dark Amber for the nest twistie
- ▣ Thick stringer of Yellow for the nest twistie





## THE NEST TWISTIE

Before you can create the bead, you must make a twistie to use for the nest. I wanted the colors to resemble straw, and a twistie seemed a good way to give the nest the look I wanted.

**Step 1:** On the end of an old mandrel (without bead release) apply Sand approximately 1-inch long, letting the glass extend beyond the mandrel slightly, but having most of the glass touching the mandrel.

**Step 2:** Build this up to a cylinder and marver to shape it.

**Step 3:** Add a stripe of dark amber on each side of the gather using a full-sized rod and a stripe of yellow stringer on each side between the amber stripes.

**Step 4:** Melt in the stripes and then marver so that you have a teardrop-shaped gather. Marver until the end is slightly pointed.

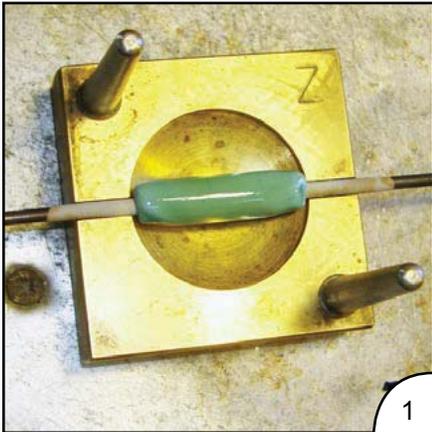
**Step 5:** Heat the end of the gather, grasp the tip with tweezers, and begin to pull and twist the twistie, reintroducing the gather into the flame when necessary to soften the glass enough so that you can pull more twistie. I don't try to heat and pull the entire gather in one pull, but will melt off a length of twistie after I've pulled about 12 inches, set it aside, and then start another pull.

**Step 6:** Pull twisties until you have used up all of the gather and plunge the mandrel into your quench pail so that the remaining glass breaks off and the mandrel is ready to use again.

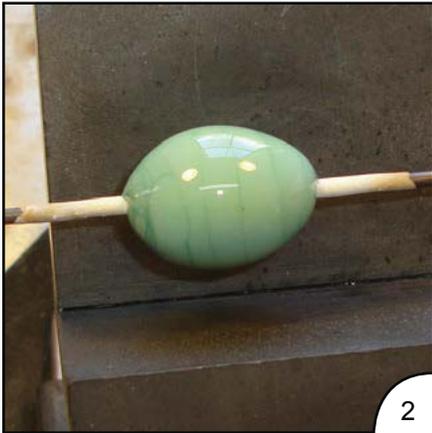
## THE CHICKEN BEAD

Before you begin, pull points on the end of an Intense Black and red rod or stringer, breaking them off so you have a point about ½-inch long. You'll use these to rake the feathers, comb, and wattle.

Now it's time to make the bead. You can use any color you like for the base bead, but for this tutorial I chose CiM Fremem because the color doesn't change much when it's hot so it is helpful for a tutorial. One of my other favorite colors for the base bead is yellow.

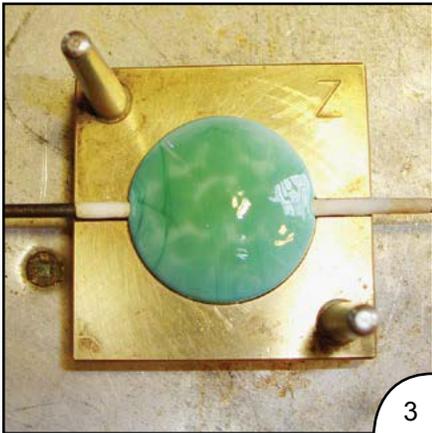


**Step 1:** Apply a thin footprint of the base bead color slightly narrower than the press you are using. Lay the mandrel in the press to check the width.



**Step 2:** Continue adding glass until you have an olive-shaped gather.

**Step 3:** Press the bead in the press and heat it to remove any chill marks. If you don't have a press, you can use parallel mashers for a more organic base bead. How you make your base bead is entirely up to you.

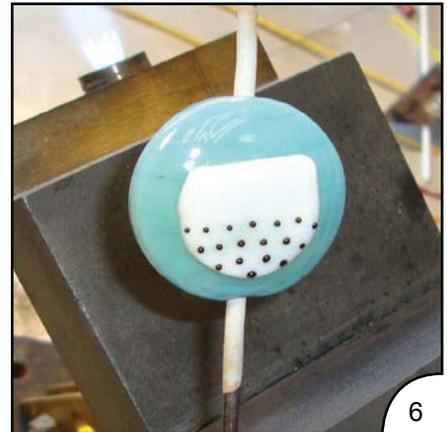
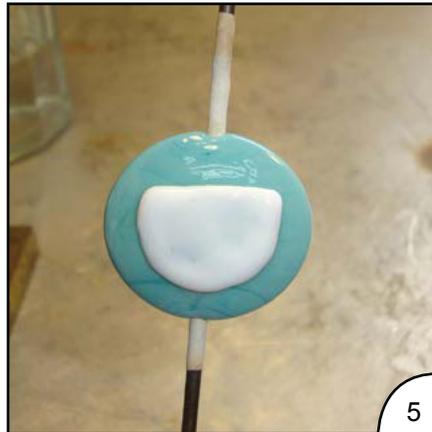


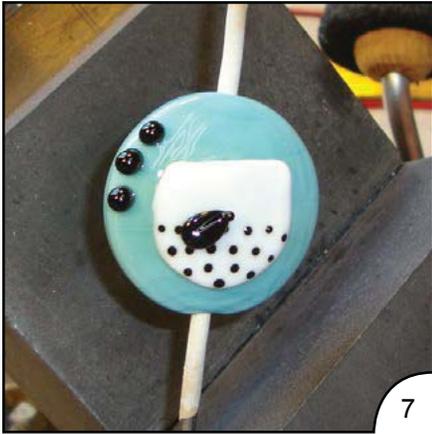
**Step 4:** To create the chicken's body using white stringer, draw an upside down letter "D" on the base bead, leaving just enough room for the tail feathers and beak.

**Step 5:** Fill in the outline with white by either laying down lines close together or applying dots that touch each other. How you fill in doesn't matter as long as you cover the base bead color.

Melt the white glass, pressing with your knife or marver until it is almost flat. It's okay if it's still raised a bit. It will sink in more as you work the bead.

**Step 6:** Now it's time to decorate the chicken. I like to start with some detail on the lower body. Using a thin stringer of intense black, apply small dots on the lower half of the body and melt them in.





**Step 7:** Next comes the tail feathers and wings. Using a 2mm stringer of intense black, apply three dots for the tail and a teardrop swipe for the wings. Do not melt in.

**Step 8:** Heat the dots, one at a time, and using the pointed stringer you made earlier, pull each dot toward the tail creating the tail feathers.

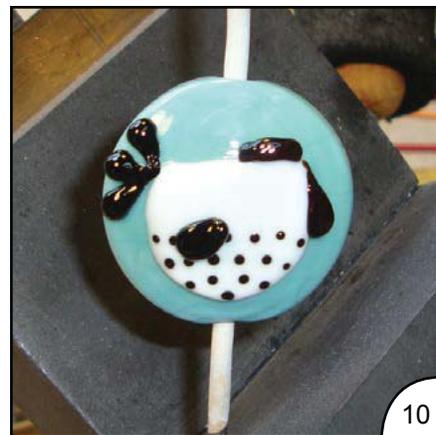
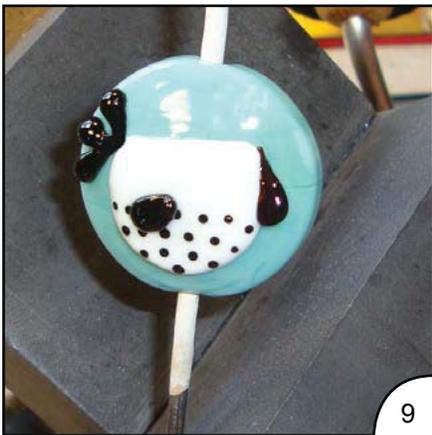
**Step 9:** To make the wattle, apply a dot of red and drag it up toward the top of the chicken's head. If necessary, use tweezers to remove any excess glass near the top.

**Step 10:** To make the comb apply a thick stripe of red right above the chicken's head.

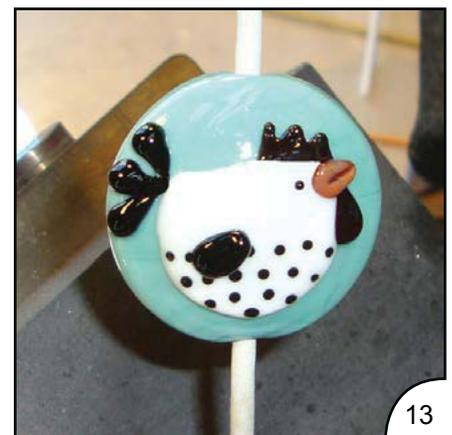


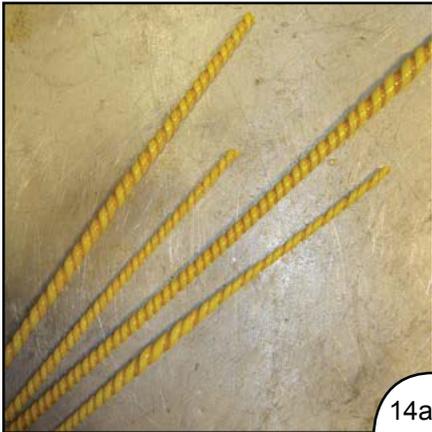
**Step 11:** Leave it raised, but melt it enough so that you can press with a razor tool creating three bumps. Press with your razor tool toward the top of the head to separate the bumps a bit.

**Step 12:** Heat each bump individually and, using the red pointed stringer you made earlier, pull each bump into a point, creating the comb.



**Step 13:** Add a dot of Alley Cat for the beak, press it flat, shape the end into a point, and press with a razor tool to finish the beak. Then add a tiny black dot for the eye.





**Step 14a and 14b:** Now all your chicken needs is a nest! To make the nest, use the nest twistie to draw a thin oval below the chicken, filling in where needed. Do not melt in!



**Step 15:** Apply some heat to soften the nest and make it adhere to the bead, and then use a razor tool to score it randomly to create texture on the nest.

**Step 16:** When you are satisfied with the bead, the last step is to heat each of the tail and wing feathers and crease them using a razor tool.

**Step 17:** You can leave the bead as is or apply a design on the back. I usually just add some hearts and dots, but you can add any design you like.



**Step 18:** Your chicken is now ready to be put in the oven! Time to make another one in a different color!

