

Goody Goody Gumdrops



By Diane Woodall

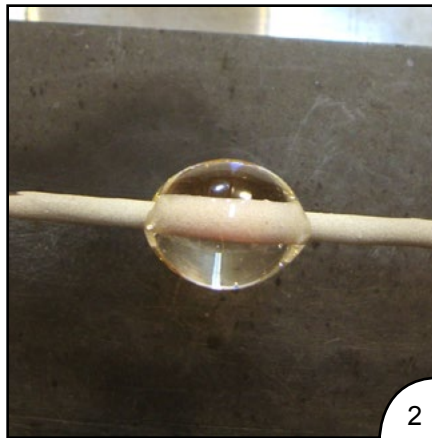
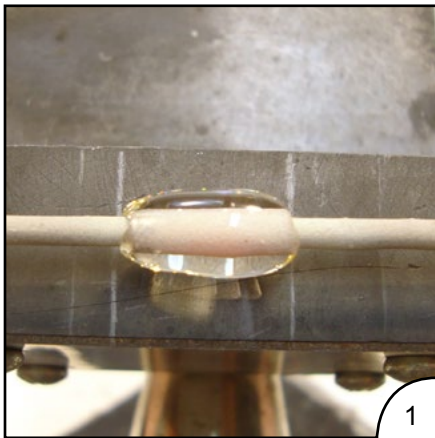
We've all had gumdrops, those wickedly chewy candies with a sugar coating. I have such fond memories of decorating gingerbread houses with them (while popping a few in my mouth as I went along). As beads, they are about the easiest we've ever featured in the *Soda Lime Times*. Anything this quick and easy to make (and so appealing to children) is perfect for Beads of Courage. Fear not that a child might mistake these for the real thing and try and eat

one; the children in BOC are well-supervised when handling their beads.

You can use just about any glass to make these beads. I used 104COE since it is more common, but I've made these with Uroboros 96COE and they were just as cute. You could even use Bullseye (90COE) as long as you also use Bullseye frit for the sugar coating. So let's make some goody, goody gumdrops!

TOOLS AND SUPPLIES:

- ❑ Marver
- ❑ Knife or shaping tool
- ❑ Frit tray
- ❑ Transparent glass (104 COE or 96 COE) in various colors
- ❑ CiM Marshmallow (for white gumdrops)
- ❑ Clear of your choice
- ❑ Clear frit (size 00 or 0)

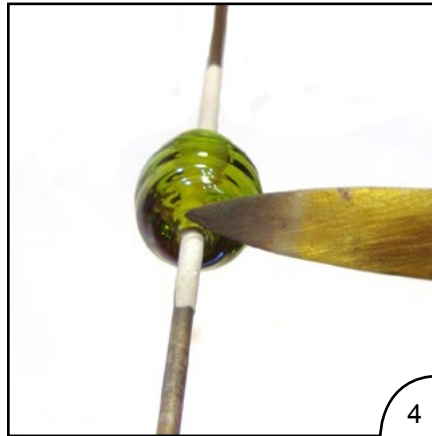
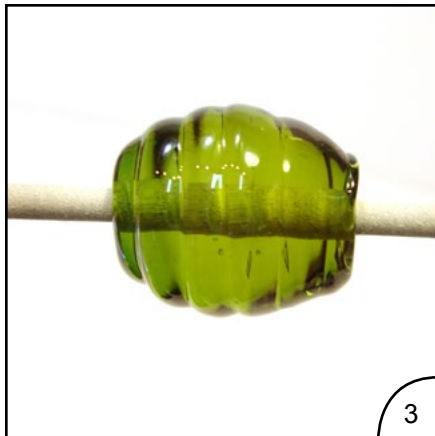


Step 1: Apply a clear gather approximately the length of the finished bead (about 5/8-inch). I have a mark on my torch marver so I know how big to make the footprint.

Step 2: Add more glass until you have a rounded football shape.

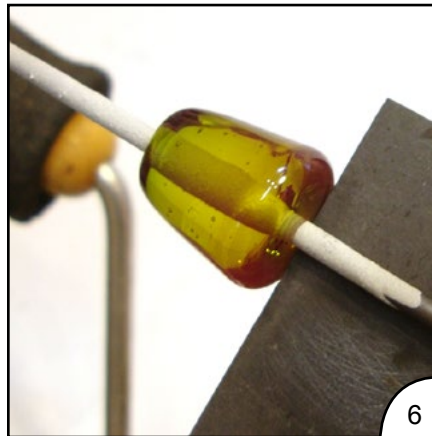
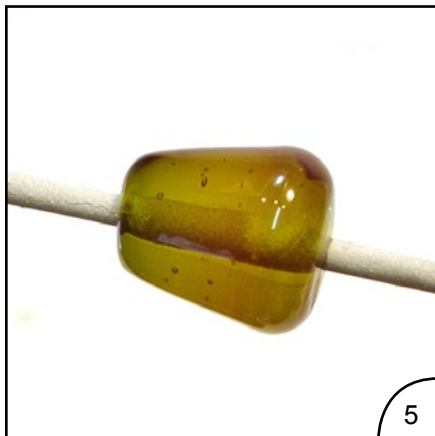
Step 3: Encase the clear core in a thin layer of transparent (or CiM Marshmallow for white gumdrops). I am using Effetre Light Emerald for this bead.

TIP: You want light to shine through. By making a clear core and encasing it in colored glass, more light can shine through.

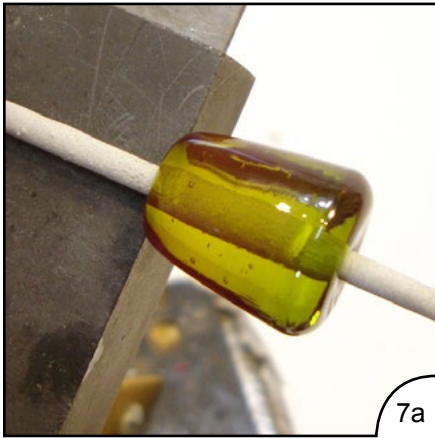


Step 4: Using a knife or a shaping tool, gently push the transparent glass toward, but not touching, the mandrel to cover the clear.

Step 5: Melt the encasing layer until it is smooth, and then marver the bead into a gumdrop shape, tapering it so that it is narrower at the top and slightly wider at the bottom.



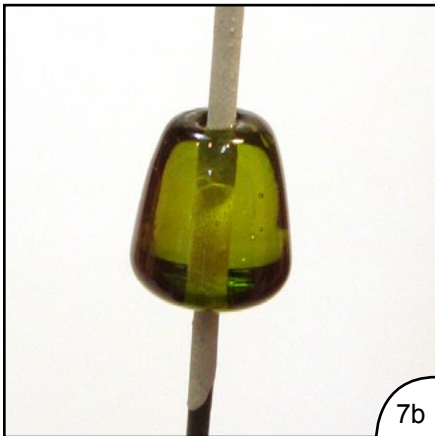
Step 6: Marver the ends so they are flat. The bead will round out a bit as you apply heat, so it is best to start with a nice, crisp shape.



Steps 7a and 7b: It is important to marver both ends, but not so much that you lose the puckers. Photo 7b shows the shape you are looking to achieve.

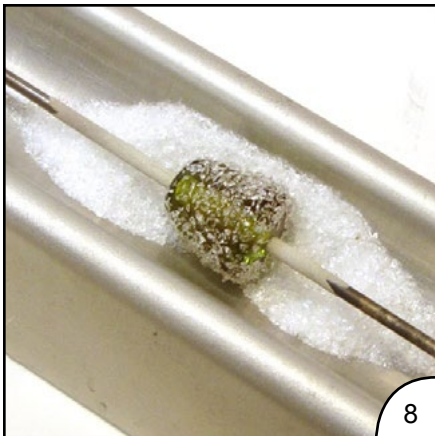
Step 8: Heat the bead well while still maintaining the gumdrop shape, and then quickly dip it in the clear frit, covering the entire bead. I used size 0 frit for this tutorial.

Step 9: From this point on you don't want to apply too much heat to the bead or the frit will melt flat. You want the frit to stay raised so that it looks like sugar. Just kiss the bead with the flame to round out the pointy bits of the frit granules, making sure you apply heat to all areas of the bead so that the frit will stick. Work quickly before the bead cools down too much.



Flash the bead quickly in the flame and then pop it in the kiln to anneal. Isn't this about the easiest bead you've ever made? Now go make some more in other colors and you'll have something that will delight children and adults alike.

Below is an assortment of gumdrops. To make the white ones, encase a clear core with CiM Marshmallow. Other colors include CiM Sangre (red), Effetre Striking Orange, Effetre Transparent Yellow, Effetre Light Emerald, Effetre Medium Grass Green, and Effetre Light Violet Premium.



SOURCES FOR THE FRIT:

Glass Diversions size 0 Crystal Clear frit: <http://www.glassdiversions.com/product-category/frit-blends/single-colors/>

Val Cox size 00 Crystal Clear frit
(this produces a more subtle dusting of sugar)
<https://valcoxfrit.com/collections/transparents/products/crystal-clear>



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