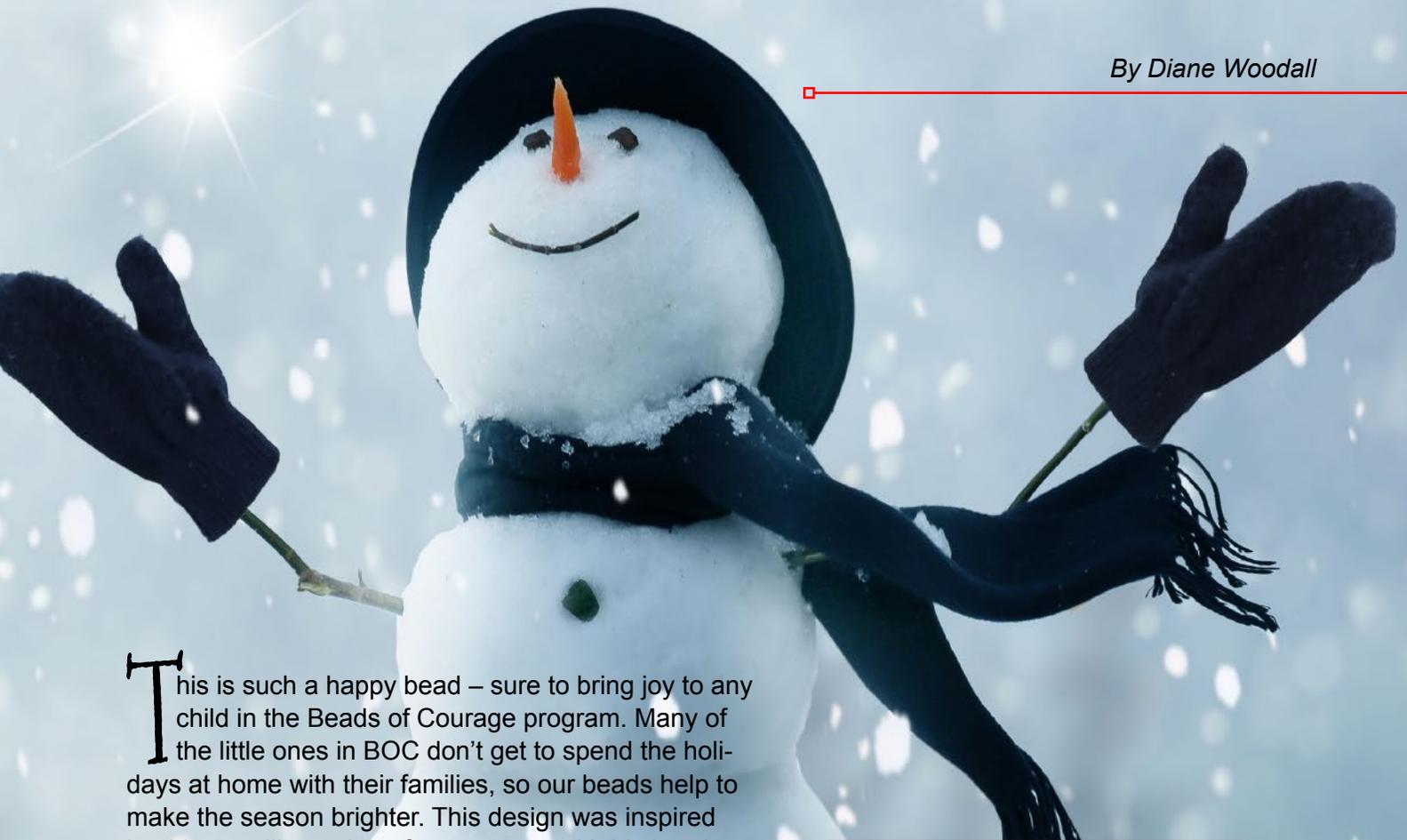


# HAPPY SNOWMAN

By Diane Woodall

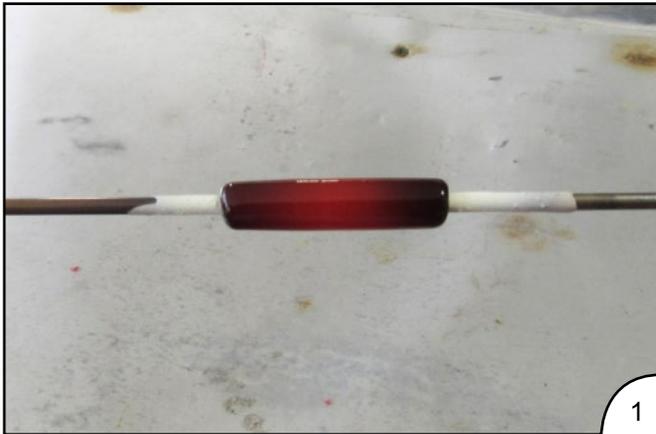


This is such a happy bead – sure to bring joy to any child in the Beads of Courage program. Many of the little ones in BOC don't get to spend the holidays at home with their families, so our beads help to make the season brighter. This design was inspired by this cute illustration of a snowman with his hands raised in thanksgiving. Knowing how difficult it can be to make arms using hair-thin stringer, I opted to give my snowman "snow" arms and hands instead. So much easier, and just as cute.

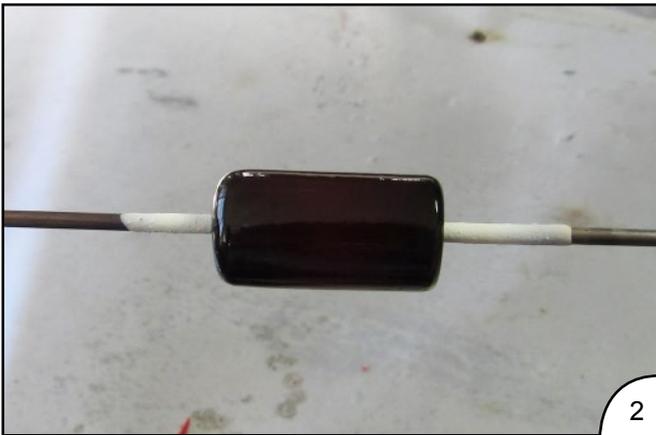
You can make snowman beads on any color background, but red and blue are particularly pretty for the holidays, and the lime green scarf really makes the colors pop. For my bead, I used a Corina Squeeze press, but you can mash the bead with parallel mashers and make it a rectangular tab instead.

Let's play in the snow!





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### TOOLS AND SUPPLIES:

- ❑ Marver (torch-mounted or hand-held)
- ❑ Corina Squeeze press or parallel mashers
- ❑ Razor tool
- ❑ Knife or other shaping tool
- ❑ Tweezers for pulling stringer
- ❑ Effetre Light Red (428)
- ❑ Effetre White (204)
- ❑ Effetre Intense Black (066) or Reichenbach Deep Black
- ❑ Effetre Orange Special (422)
- ❑ Twisties for the scarf (about 1.5mm thick)

### PULL STRINGERS:

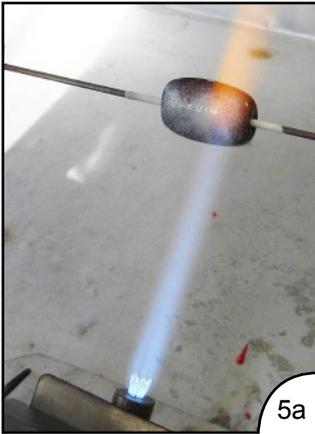
- White - 1.5mm to 2mm
- Orange - 1mm to 1.5mm
- Intense Black - 2mm and hair-fine

**Step 1:** Wind on a footprint of red the length of your final bead and marver into a thin cylinder. It is much easier to marver the final shape if you do so after each layer of glass you add. My initial footprint is about 1.25 inches long.

**Step 2:** Add two more layers of red glass, marvering into a cylinder after each layer. You are now ready to press the bead.

**Step 3:** Heat the bead evenly and press in a Corina Squeeze press or with parallel mashers. If you use the press, the faces of the bead will have a slight curve to them. If you use mashers, you will get flat face and a true rectangle. After pressing, heat the bead to remove the chill marks and reduce the risk of shocking as you decorate it.

**Step 4:** Holding the bead over a dish or piece of paper, gently sprinkle white enamel powder over the front side of the bead. You can put enamel on both sides, but I typically just decorate one side with enamel. Remember to practice good safety when working with enamels; always wear a mask.



5a



5b

**Steps 5a and 5b:** Return the bead to the flame and gently melt in the enamel. It bubbles and boils easily, so do this step carefully.

**Step 6:** Now it's time to add our snowman. First draw a circle with a white stringer, trying to center it and making it a nice circle. You can see mine is very wonky. Such is life. I'll get over it.



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**Step 7:** Fill in the circle with white stringer, either using a series of short lines, or just dot it on. It really doesn't matter what method you use. When you have it filled in, melt the white gently, and smooth it with a knife or marver, correcting the shape as you go.

**Step 8:** Draw the head as you did the body, making it smaller; marver as before.



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**Step 9:** Using a 2mm stringer of intense black, add three dots for buttons, and melt slightly. You will go back later and flatten them so they look more like buttons, but doing it now is a waste of time as they will just round back up.

**Steps 10a and 10b:** At this point you can either add the arms or the scarf. I usually add the arms first, but this time I made the scarf first. Create the scarf using the twistie by first drawing a line across the snowman's throat, then from the center outward on both side. Using a razor tool, shape the ends so they are squared off.



10a



10b

**Step 11:** Our snowman needs arms. If you are good at using thin stringers, you can add branches for arms, but we are going to make ours out of snow. Just use a white stringer to draw a line upward from the body to the edge of the bead.



11



12a



12b

**Steps 12a and 12b:** To give the impression of hands, just add a little near the end of the arm to represent a thumb. There! You made hands! How easy was that?

**Step 13:** OK, now for the nose! Just apply a couple of swipes of orange as shown, using a razor tool to make it narrower at the top than the bottom. Leave it slightly raised.



13



14

**Step 14:** Add tiny intense black dots for the mouth and melt them in slightly. They will melt in more as you finish the nose in the next step.

**Step 15:** The last step for the snowman is to create some ridges on the nose like on a real carrot. The front of the bead is done!

**Step 16:** Now let's do something on the back. You can put anything here you like, but I'm adding a couple of simple hearts. Just place two dots of white close together and melt them in about halfway.



15



16

**Step 17:** While they are soft, use a cold stringer of white to pull the dots into a heart shape. Add a second heart and some random dots, and your bead is finished! Give it some insurance heat and pop it in the kiln to anneal. Then clean it and send it to Beads of Courage so that it brightens the day of a child in need.

Happy Holidays!



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