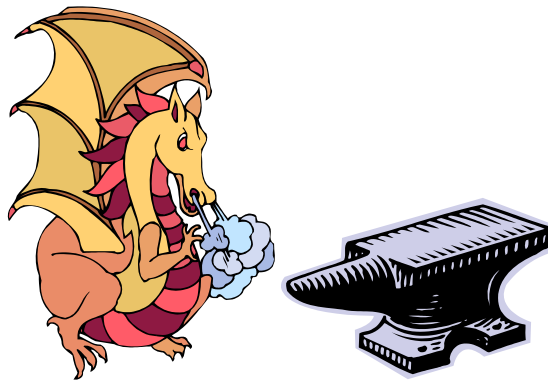


The Forge

Spring 2013



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Greeting!

As the editor of the Forge I would like to invite anyone who is interested to please submit to me any stories, pictures, artwork, and articles that you would like to have published in the Shire of Smythkepe "Forge".

Death of the Volunteer

So Gulf wars has come and gone and were looking forward to the next war. But let's look at what happened at this war. Volunteerism was down 2/3 from the past. Services were manned by skeleton crews or the same folks most war. I'm not going to say you should volunteer for anything or not volunteer for anything. All I might ask is that when you see someone working and or doing service, take a moment to thank them. Without volunteers this society will die. People get burned out, they feel unappreciated, they stop playing. We are trying to recreate the best of the Medieval ages not the serfs or the totalitarian concept. We should love and embrace or volunteers and praise them. Just a moment of thought could mean the world to those folks.

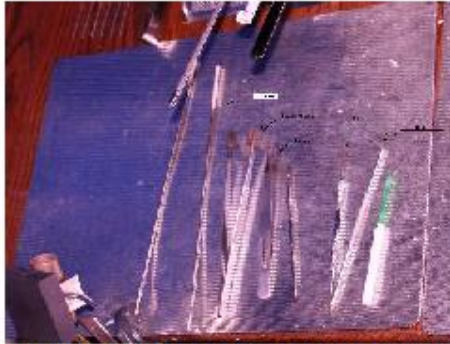
In service,

Dante

Glass Sheep Beads
by: Ld Cinaéd de Eden OSR

The intent of this is to be more of a tutorial than a research paper. There are historical examples of animal shaped beads, but this is more about how I make a bead in the shape of a sheep.

Pictured below are the tools I have been using to work these beads. A Mandrel of 1/8th inch diameter,



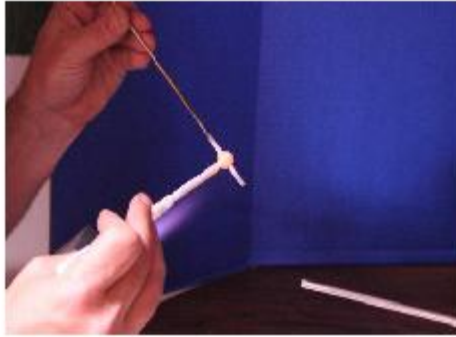
a small set of square mashers, tweezers, a pick and a rake. All glass rods used in this are a 104 C.O.E (Coefficient of Thermal Expansion), similar to Soda Glass used in period. The mandrel has already been coated with a bead release and allowed to dry.

After warming a rod of white glass, put the rod into the flame until the end is almost molten, kinda like the consistency of pudding, called a gather. Removing the rod from the flame, wait a moment, then take the tweezers and grasp the a small portion of the gather to stretch the glass. This is making what is called a stringer. Make 4-5 Stringers out of the white glass rod.



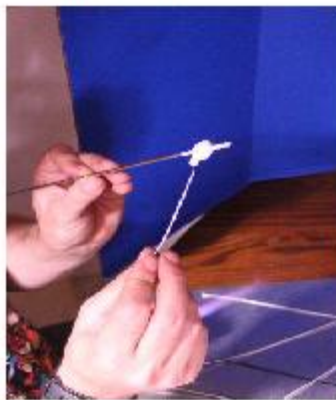
Repeat this process with a rod of black glass, but only 1-2 stringers of black are needed

After making the needed stringers, warm the white rod of glass. At the same time warm the prepared mandrel. This is where being ambidextrous is very helpful. Once the rod of glass has begun to glow and form a gather, begin to wrap the glass around the preheated mandrel.



Once there is enough glass on the mandrel for the size of sheep you want the body, stop applying glass and keep the forming bead in the fire. Rotate the mandrel to get even heating all over the bead. When the glass becomes soft, take the small square smashers, and squish the bead until there is a flat disk slightly thicker than the mandrel. At this point you don't want to smash the bead too flat as the finished product will be super fragile. As if glass isn't fragile enough even when cured properly.

Take one of the white stringers, and place a large dot of glass on one side of the disk. This is the start of the neck and head of the sheep.



Using the tweezers, grab the large dot and gently stretch. If the shape isn't what is desired, reheat the dot and use the tweezers to reshape.

Next, heat the end of a white stringer and attach it to the lower side of the bead, this will begin to start a leg of the sheep. Once attached, let cool for a few seconds, then move down the stringer with the flame and flame cut the leg at the desired length. (A note here: during the rest of the process, the legs will shrink up, so make the legs a little longer than the desired complete length).



Repeat this step until you have 4 legs on the bead. Take a black stringer and place a small dot of black glass on the end of each leg. Rotate the legs in the flame to straighten them out and adjust the legs as needed. As seen in this next picture, I am using the tweezers to even out the legs.



Using the same black stringer, place a dot of black on either side of the head. Let this cool slightly, then place a smaller dot of white on top of the black dots. These are the base of the eyes. Once the white has cooled slightly, top the white dot with the desired eye color. If you want red eyes, place an even smaller dot of red on top of the previous white dot.



Once the eyes are completed, place a white dot on each side of the head and then smash with the tweezers, this forms the ears. Heat a white stringer and begin to place white dots all over the body of the sheep. I try to keep the dots off of the head and legs and try to keep from placing them too close together. When there are enough dots on the body, allow the sheep to slightly cool and then flame polish in the tip of the flame.

If all has gone well the end result will be a sheep bead, place in annealer and allow to slowly cool.