

1402-2

Mark Nelson demonstrates how to create your own beads with argentium.

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Guest:



Mark Nelson

Fusing Argentium® Silver Beads

Argentium® Silver is a unique silver alloy with superior tarnish resistance, firescale resistance and fusing properties. It contains just as much pure silver as regular sterling, making it a great choice for beading and metalforming projects.

steps:

1. Start with two Argentium® Silver discs. If you have not bought pre-fabricated discs, be sure to cut them precisely from your silver sheet since each piece you make must match perfectly with another to create a single bead.
2. Using a dapping block, punch, and deadblow mallet, form the discs into the concave shapes (half-beads) you desire.
3. Once the discs are formed into half-beads, drill a hole in the middle the size of the cord you plan on stringing through the bead.
4. Give each piece a smooth edge by rubbing it edge-down on a piece of sandpaper in a figure-eight motion several times.
5. Make sure the edges of both pieces match up perfectly and will form a tight, uniform joint. If the size of one half is off, continue forming it with the dapping block or sand the edges more with the sandpaper.
5. Fuse the two concave pieces together by placing them on a charcoal block and applying flux to the edge of one piece, then placing its matching half on top. Adjust an oxygen propane torch to a small, bushy flame and point the flame at an angle toward the bottom half of the bead. Rotate the block as you dance the flame across the bottom half of the bead, stopping when the bead is slightly red and shiny.
6. Let the bead cool on the charcoal block until the redness has subsided, then quench it in water.
7. Add to or embellish the bead and finish to your liking.



⚠ CAUTION! Always wear eye protection when performing these processes.

supplies:

Order #	Description
500-230	Blazer butane torch
500-181	Butane fuel
-OR-	
500-090	Little Torch™ propane/oxygen set
500-091/2	Disposable propane tank
500-092/2	Disposable oxygen tank
-AND-	
112-067	Durston 25-piece steel dapping set with block
112-246	European deadblow mallet
201-054	Safety glasses
504-025	Pump flux dispenser
115-146	Natural brush sticks
503-019	Titanium solder pick
502-004	Silquar™ high-heat block
502-025	Long-life hard charcoal block
503-048	Torch ignitor
500-018	Little Torch™ torch holder
502-066	Third Hand base with tweezers
115-051	Cross-lock tweezers
504-006	My-T-Flux™
501-017	Copper tongs
696-959	¾" 22 ga. Argentium discs
560-246	Fusing Argentium DVD set
117-003	Bur Life® stick
117-291	Swing Away™ flex shaft stand
117-534	Foredom® SR 30 flex shaft system
117-598	20-D flex shaft handpiece
337-321	Sandpaper, 320 grit
113-696	Apron
—	Pyrex® dish of water



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