

Plop the Penguin Tutorial

By Emma Green



You will need :-

1 rod of black plus *Stringers in white,black,transparent(this is for his eyes,so the choice is up to you), orange,yellow.

*I often use full sized rods instead of stringers. Why? I hear you ask. Because I find it easier to control the heat in a larger rod and actually find it easier to lay even sized dots down. Give it a go yourself, you may find it suits you too.

Tools:- Marver or stump shaper and Tungsten pick.

Ok lets get started!

We start by making a black cone shape.



Next we need to add the belly in white. I use white stringer to paint the rough outline I want and then fill in this section by heating small blobs of white stringer and 'sweeping' inside the section.

Heat control is all important here. You want to keep the bead warm, but not so hot that the white section melts in before you have 'coloured' it in. Once all the white is filled in then you can *melt this flat.



*Don't be afraid to use your tools here. I use my marver or shaper to flatten the warm white glass. This makes it melt in quicker (hey I haven't got all day you know!).



Top Tip for beginners: if you are afraid of stringer (I always was and often forgot to breathe whilst using them), just use a full sized rod of white.....blob it on, smush it flat with marver and then use your poker to 'push' the warm glass where you want it, then melt in.

Now for the head. You will need to heat up a blob of black glass for this, while keeping the bead warm and then heat the mandrel at the thin end of your cone and wind your gather of glass. Use a marver to gently roll the head into shape.



*oops took the picture of the wrong side of the bead, but trust me, the white belly is on the other side:D.

Next we add the dots for the eyes, melt these in a little but not completely flat.

Then add transparent glass onto the white ones and melt in(not completely flat).



The eyes have it! - this is the personality part.

Add one large pupil and one small and he will look like he is staring at something or maybe he is thinking about that fish that got away?



Place the black dots towards the top of his eyes.....Is he rolling his

eyes in despair or looking to see what the weathers doing?

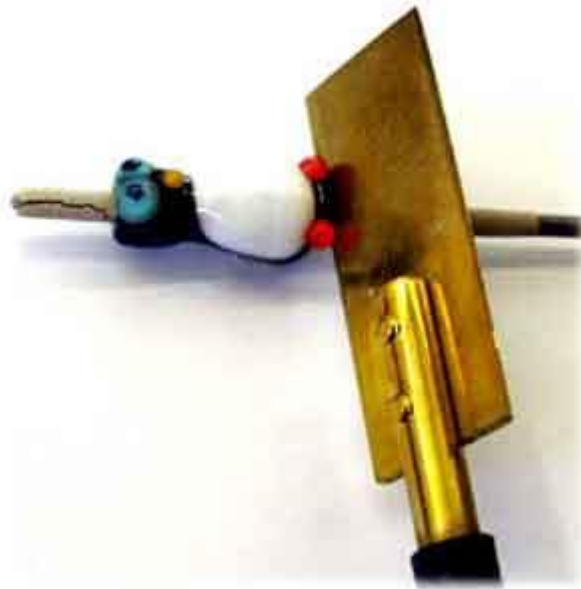
Place both pupils inwards towards where his beak will be and he looks as though he has a fly on his nose or is he just a few sandwiches short of a picnic?

Next we gently heat the spot just below his eyes and add a small blob of yellow for his beak.

Best foot forward - now for the feet. Spot heat the bottom of his belly and add dots of orange. Make them point downwards like in the picture below, so he looks as though he's standing on his tip toes.



Gently heat his feet and use your marver or shaper to push the dots up and forward. I just place my shaper under the dots and tilt it towards my penguin. This makes his feet rounded at the top and flat on the bottom.



You can leave it there if you like or you can add wings.

Using a black stringer, heat a tiny ball on the end. spot heat the side of your penguin and sweep the black stringer down his body.



I add a tiny little black dot to to the ends of his wings - This makes him look like he has hands which adds to his personality.



The eyes have it!



Which one broke wind? Take a look at their eyes and all will become clear.



How long do you think he has been waiting for that fish to defrost? His eyes say a long, long, long time!

I hope you have enjoyed my tutorial.

I love my critter beads. I smile while I make them and sometimes I even laugh out loud! They are supposed to be fun! So don't forget, play about with your penguin, change his style, maybe yours will have a thing for bow ties or high heels? Choose different colours for his body or his eyes, but most important of all smile and have fun!

Love Emma xx