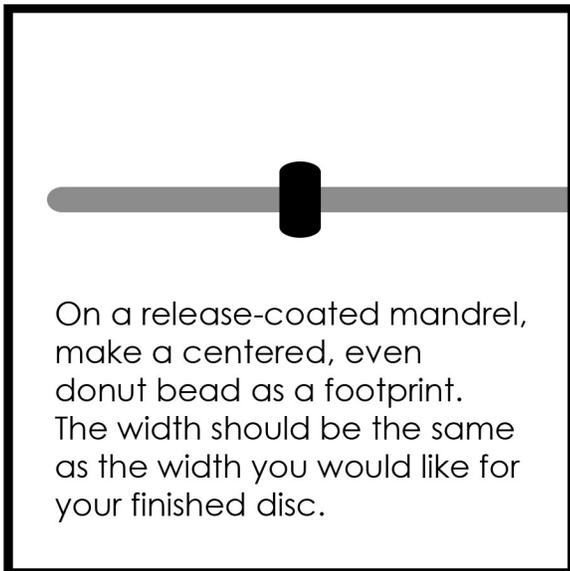


Using Grace's Disc Shaper to Create Lampwork Glass Discs

A mini-tutorial by Kristi Sawin
(www.greywillow.com / www.kristisawin.com)

To purchase one of these tools, or any of Graceful Customs' quality tools, please visit www.gracefulcustoms.com or www.etsy.com/shop/GracefulCustoms

This mini-tutorial is meant as a basic guide to using Grace's Disc Shaper, a tool created by Graceful Customs. I am not affiliated with Graceful Customs, other than I really like their tools! It is assumed that the user has basic lampworking skills and has taken all necessary precautions to work safely. Use common sense, and remember that your safety is your responsibility.



Make a footprint/donut bead on your release-coated mandrel the width you would like your disc. It is important to start with a nice footprint with neat ends prior to building your disc. This is the foundation of your disc.

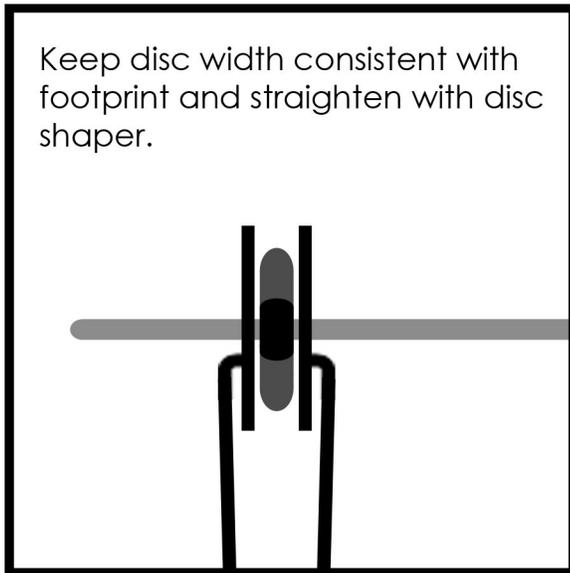


Once your donut is shaped nicely, start adding new wraps of glass to build up your disc vertically (perpendicular to your mandrel). You may use the same color as your footprint bead, or you may alternate colors for more interest. If you are using soft glass, take care to keep the entire disc warm to prevent cracking, but don't allow your footprint to get back to molten and lose its shape. Focus your heat on the outer layers to melt them into the disc, but take care not to collapse it.

Updated 11/01/2011

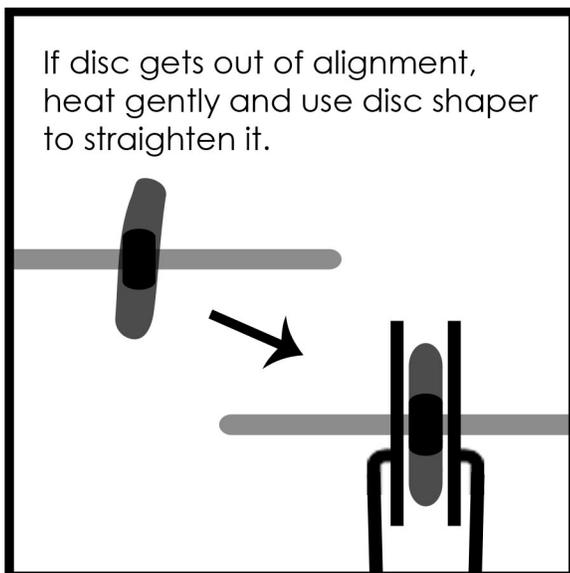
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As you add wraps of glass, use your disc shaper to guide your disc into alignment. Gently heat the disc, remove from the flame, align the mandrel in the mandrel groove and gently press your disc into alignment using the tool. It is less about mashing, and more a technique of guiding the disc into standing up straight. I heat, press gently, rotate, press, rotate, press...and give the disc a good warming before proceeding. (Repeat steps as necessary.) With a little practice, you will rapidly get the feel for just the right amount of pressure to use.

*Just a reminder -- don't put your disc shaper tool into the flame!



If the disc gets out of alignment, use the masher to guide it back prior to adding a new wrap. Take care not to break your bead release. Don't forget to keep the disc warm through the entire process if you are using soft glass.

Don't be afraid to experiment with adding frits, enamels, twisties, shards, etc., to your discs. There are infinite possibilities!

When you are satisfied with the size and design of your disc, give it an even heating in the far end of your flame, wait for the glow to subside, and place it into a hot kiln for annealing.

Have fun!

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