

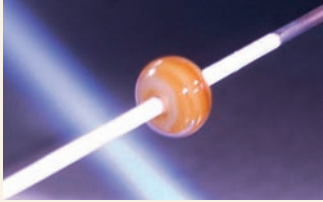
Double Helix Striking Silver Glass

Luna 2

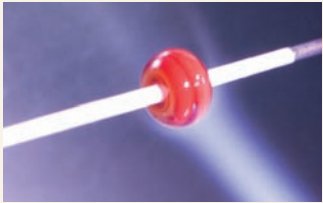
Text and Demonstration
by Stephanie Bonniwell
and Hayley Tsang

The Striking Sequence

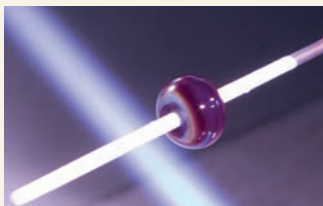
Heat the glass until translucent. The glass is almost droopy at this point.



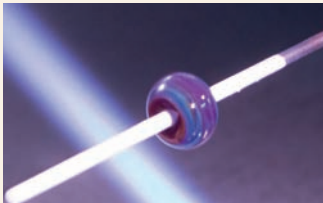
Cool until the glow is gone and the amber tones bloom.



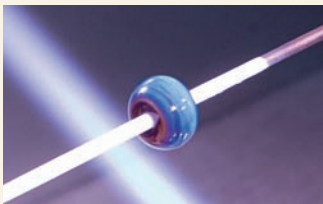
Reheat at the tip of the flame until it glows orange.



Observe the first strike as the dark brown/dark purple tones bloom.



Repeat cooling and heating to yield purples and blues.

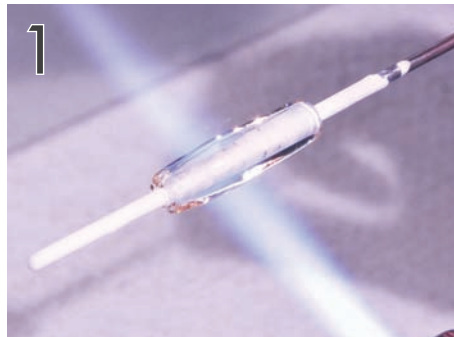


Repeat cooling and heating to yield lighter purples and blues.

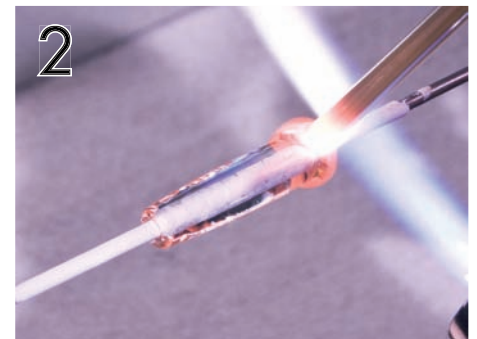
Stephanie Bonniwell and Hayley Tsang's friendship began with their love for silver glass. Their very different backgrounds—Steph's in science and Hayley's in the fine arts—provide complementary platforms as glass testers for Double Helix Glassworks. Stephanie currently resides in Quinby, Virginia, and works professionally as an oyster hatchery manager. Hayley is a full-time graphic designer in San Francisco, California.

There are essentially two types of silver soft glass—striking and reducing. Reducing silver glass produces a beautiful iridescence, while striking silver glass yields most of the color spectrum. Striking colors may be new to soft-glass lampworkers, so Double Helix asked Steph and Hayley to share their technique in this tutorial.

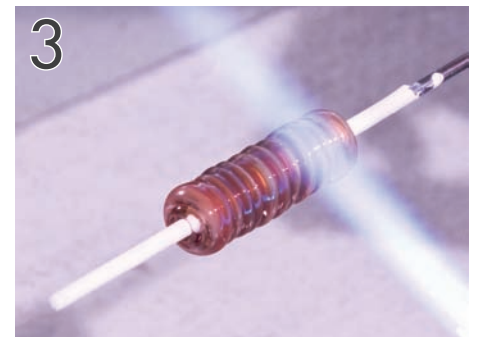
The Striking Sequence on the left is a quick-reference guide to help you recognize what you should be looking for in each striking step. The first step of heating the glass until it's translucent is the most critical. If you don't get the dark brown/dark purple at the first strike, it's a clear indication that you didn't heat your glass enough. Also, most striking glass can be overworked and lose the vibrancy of colors if struck too many times.



Start by winding Clear onto the mandrel in a barrel shape with a footprint of about 1.25"/32 mm.



Wind Luna 2 on top of the Clear, taking care to cover the Clear ends with Luna 2.

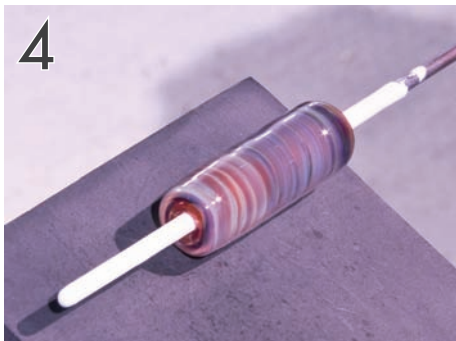


Completely encase the Clear with Luna 2.

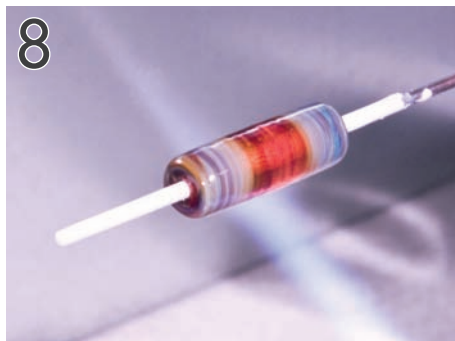


Materials

Double Helix Luna 2
Clear
Clear Stringer



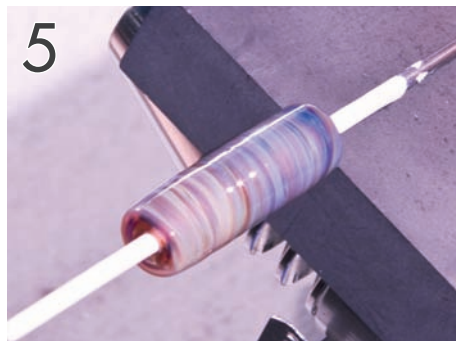
4 Heat enough to marver the glass into a smooth barrel shape.



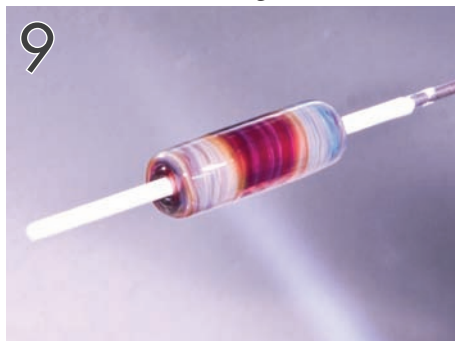
8 Reintroduce the bead at the top of the flame and slowly reheat until it starts to glow orange. Take it out of the flame. Brown tones should bloom at this stage.



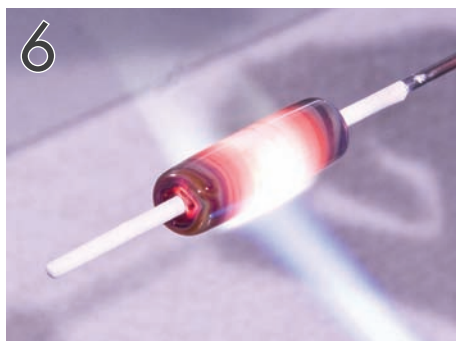
12 Reheat the entire bead. Place the bead in a preheated kiln to anneal.



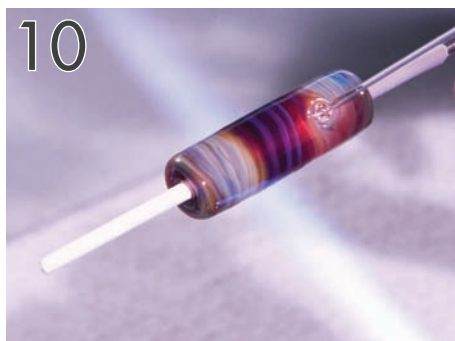
5 Reheat and shape both ends. The glass will bloom as you are working, and you should see brown tones, as well as purples and blues.



9 Additional heating and cooling will yield more colors, from dark purples/blues to light purples/blues. Do *not* heat till translucent again.



6 While rotating the mandrel, reheat the middle of the bead until it's translucent and you see this section begin to droop.



10 Spot-heat when the dark purple meets the light tones, twist with a clear stringer, then snap or burn off the stringer.



7 Take it out of the flame and gently marver the middle as it is cooling. Allow the glass to cool until the glow is gone. Carefully place the bead under the table to verify.



11 Repeat, spot-heating and twisting a total of three times on each side of the central dark purple band.

Important Note

Depending on how much you reheat the glass at each strike yields different colors. If the glass is overstruck, start all over by heating the glass translucent <Step 6> again.

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We, at Double Helix Glassworks, have been creating innovative colors for soft glass artists since 2005. We are thrilled to work with such talented lampworkers as Steph and Hayley. It is through these partnerships that experiments transform into new colors and colors become art.

Double Helix Glassworks is currently offering three striking silver glasses—Luna 2, Khaos, and Terranova 2—and seven reducing silver glasses—Triton, Psyche, Nyx, Gaia, Elektra 2, Kronos 2, and Aion 2.

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