

Beaddock

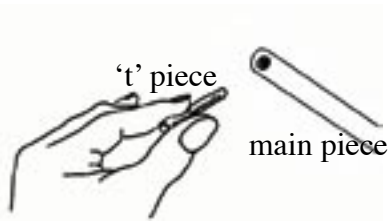
Thank you for purchasing the **LF3 Mandrel**.

These directions are designed for lampworkers with some experience on the torch, and as such do not cover the basic techniques.

Steps to designing with the LF3 Mandrel

1. Assembly

Center the tiny 't' piece into the main piece. It will not be a tight fit, allowing it to come off easier later, so some care is needed to keep it from slipping out.



2. Preparation

Gently dip the 't' mandrel in your bead release. Once dry, the help from the bead release will be adequate to keep the 't' piece in place. If using a flame dry release just introduce it slow enough that it won't crack or pull away at the joints.

3. Footprint

The footprint is always the trickiest part; the 't' piece tends to get extra hot so avoid placing glass directly on it to start.



1. Begin as you would any bead, by wrapping glass all the way around the mandrel, but do so just below the 't' piece and avoid touching the sides of the 't' piece.

2. With a ring formed below the 't' piece, work over the tip of the mandrel. Starting on one side of the mandrel connect the ring with a hot tip of glass, move the mandrel around at the same time as you move the glass rod so they meet again at the ring on the other side. Cut the glass in the flame.



4. Shaping

With a good footprint, add as much glass as you want to form your bead. To take the glass out along the 't' pieces, build up on the bead and push the glass out as you would when encasing. Push and build to the shape you want.

You can use some of the popular molds with this mandrel, but the results will be somewhat different because of the thicker than usual mandrel and the 't' piece sticking out the sides.

5. Decorating

Once you have the shape you want, it's like any bead; avoid getting the bead so hot you loose the shape.

6. Releasing

Start with the 't' piece. You can dip it in water and get a little help with a pair of pliers if necessary.

Once the 't' is removed there is nothing obstructing the bead; it's like removing any bead from a mandrel, twist and pull.