
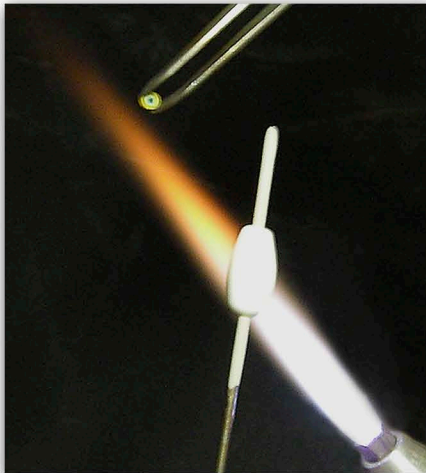


Using these handmade murrini chips is simple and fun. The techniques below are just guidelines to ensure success with them. The great thing about these elements is that there are many options to working them; it's only a matter of your personal taste and exploration. Different effects are achieved by different approaches, so have fun, experiment, and learn what works best for you.

*Murrinis are used to adorn the bead in several ways. They can be applied to the bead over the base and then encased in clear for depth and interest within the bead, or can be applied the surface of the bead as one of the last elements of the bead's design. In this tutorial, I will be focusing on the later. Let's jump right in!*

 After the basic bead shape has been made and you are ready to use the murrini (I apply my surface murrini after I have pressed and shaped my bead), spot heat the area where you wish to apply the chip. In the other hand, pick up your murrini chip with tweezers, and gently warm it high in the flame.




Spot heating the middle part of the bead while warming the chip in the upper part of the flame.

If the murrini chip does not adhere to the base, either the murrini or base may still be too cool. Gently heat both base *and* murrini, and try again. For the base, the usual color to look for is a medium orange glow in the concentrated spot. Work quickly! Again, gently touch the chip to the bead base. Strive to seat the chip evenly and flat. If it sticks, great! You're halfway there. (If it 'sorta' sticks, or is crooked, that's still ok, we'll get it to really stick in the next step).

### Hot Tip!

Make sure you don't ignore the rest of your bead! I always work in stages to ensure the bead is always uniformly warm at all times to reduce the possibility of thermal cracking. There is no need to rush melting in the murrini, once it's stuck to the surface, it's not going anywhere!

 Set the murrini, then flip or rotate the bead and give it an overall good heating. Don't forget the ends of the bead! Do this everytime you set a chip.

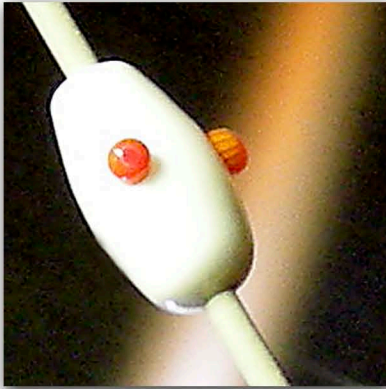
You must heat the chip high in the flame to avoid shocking the glass, but do not allow the chip to become too hot, or else it will distort when you apply it.

These little guys are small, so it takes no time at all to get them "primed" for the bead base. A tip here is to not let the bead base get so hot that the cooler chip sinks into the base (the result is much like setting stamen cane which prevents the chip from melting and spreading out properly on the bead's surface). You want the base to be warm enough for the murrini to stick, but not sink in.



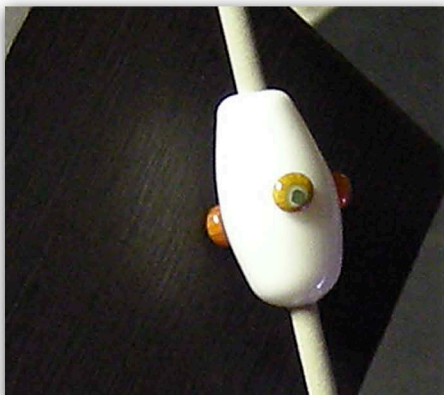


At this point, you're ready to melt in the chip. I prefer not to melt in the chip all at once, though this option offers its own unique effect. Simply focus your flame to the tip of the murrini, and let the heat ball it up slightly.



Two views of the now gently rounded or 'balled' murrini. Use gentle heat, but remember to keep everything warm!

Now, gently press the chip down a little with your marver. Do not press the chip in all the way. Let the chip cool slightly while rotating the rest of the bead in the flame to get things warmed up and avoid thermal cracking. Repeat the process of focusing your flame on the chip, pressing then cooling. The gradual pressing and cooling of the murrini does a few things: it helps to keep the center of the design from imploding and obscuring the inner colors, it keeps the murrini from getting too hot and spreading or 'creeping', potentially ruining the delicate pattern and it also helps the chip melt in faster to make it flush to the base.



Gently press each murrini. Front facing murrini shows the initial press. Notice how it is starting to spread out, while retaining the center color.

## Hot Tip!

Some floral murrini chips require you to poke or 'plunge' in the center when the chip is soft by using a pick. This creates a 'starburst' effect. I use this technique a lot, but for the murrini with colors in their centers, I never poke them. *Pressing*, rather than *poking* these types of murrini keeps the center color from completely imploding and disappearing!

Another technique is to place a dot of clear on top of the murrini chip. It's not necessary for these chips, and the tutorial doesn't go into this, but if you like that look, go for it!

*You can skip the next step if you wish to keep the murrini raised.*



Gently heat the half flattened chip again, and press. Continue heating and pressing until the chip is fully melted in. If you decide to keep the half pressed murrini raised, simply heat polish off the chill marks, and continue adorning as desired. Repeat the process for as many murrini you wish to add to your creation!

Example of the fully melted in murrini on a wonky bead. Notice the spread of the outer color, while the center color is intact. The murrini is now about double in size! Finish it off by fire polishing out the chill marks.



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Murrini!

JetAge Studio

jetage\_studio@yahoo.com

## Hot Tips!



Practice your hand/eye coordination using chips of thick plain stringer. Cut the stringer in chips the size of the murrini in this packet. Chips are easiest to handle when they are approximately 1/8" in length. You'll get the hang of using gentle heat to melt and press in the chip in no time! Once you feel comfortable enough with the stringer chips, you're ready to work the murrini.



Remember; don't forget to heat **THE REST OF YOUR BEAD**. It's easy to get caught up concentrating on melting in the murrini. Just remember to take the melting and pressing in stages. Get in a groove of melt, press, heat overall....melt, press, heat overall....melt, press....you get the picture.



Be gentle with your heat when working these little guys. It's easy to over work them in the flame. This is one reason why I like to use them as the finishing touches on my beads. The less time they spend in the heat, the less chance they have of spreading out, distorting their intricate designs (think dense black stringer!) Sometimes a murrini will look really cool if it's 'pushed' with a little extra heat, so don't be afraid to

experiment. Sometimes the same murrini color combos can look very different depending on HOW they are worked. This can translate into some very interesting effects on your bead using the same murrini. Also, certain glass colors spread more readily; experimentation is the key!



**ADORN YOUR MURRINI**  
Place them on top of melted in dots of color. Put dots of color over them. Put them over stringers, twisted cane, gold or silver leaf etc. Create interesting effects by encasing them. The sky's the limit when it comes to your creativity, and personal expression....

## Have Fun!

Renee Wiggins



Murrini!

JetAge Studio

jetage\_studio@yahoo.com