

21 Day Bead Boot Camp

Refine your skills and learn to create 21 Viking Age Beads



By Baroness Maricka Sigrunsdotter,OL An Tir ~MKA Dena Cowlshaw
www.sunnaglassworks.com www.myancientmusings.com



An Introduction:

My name in the SCA is Baroness Maricka Sigrunsdotter. I am a member of the companion of the order of the Laurel in the Society for Creative Anachronism. My main focus is historical bead-making. I live in the Kingdom of An Tir in the Barony of Blatha an Oir.

I started making beads in 2011 and fell in love with historical beads from all time periods. They are such a rich part of our history and have been prized and loved objects of adoration for thousands of years.

I am the co-founder of The Northwest Viking Alliance, Inc. A living history organization in the Northwest of America and B.C. Canada, founded in 2013. I am also an Elder in The Glamfolk Inc.

Modernly I am a bead artist and create both new and historical beads. My studio is www.sunnaglassworks.com and is located in Tacoma WA USA

I created this bead boot camp for the following reasons;

1) To provide documented beads, with full color examples, to use as a visual for making accurate historical beads. Sometimes it is difficult to look at a drawing of an old bead, or a photo of an old bead, and be able to tell precisely how it was made or even what color it was originally. These sheets will help create historical beads much more accurately. I included tips and tricks on how to make the beads, which will help bead makers new or experienced, become more versatile and knowledgeable in their bead making technique.

2) Being a bead making teacher, I realized that a lot of people may not have access to an instructor in their local area. I wanted to be able to provide an interactive daily study on making beads. It starts with the most basic shape and will work into more challenging designs that can assist beadmakers in becoming consistent with lampworking in general. The sheets can be worked on alone or in a group environment.

3) Having gone on a short break from bead making in the past, I realized that for experienced lamp workers, that have been off the torch for a while, this boot camp could assist in helping get back into the full swing of bead making in a relatively short period of time.

4) I am a firm believer that repetition and practice of one type of bead, during the same bead making session, will allow a bead maker the ability to create much more consistent beads. Over time, this will allow each bead type to become easier to create.

My personal tip:

Whenever I start my day on the torch, I always make the first bead on this boot camp sheet. I will make 3-6 of them. This puts my mind and hands into bead making mode and enables muscle memory to make beads. It also kick starts your ability to become consistent. After I have made my first beads, I go forward and start more complex patterns.

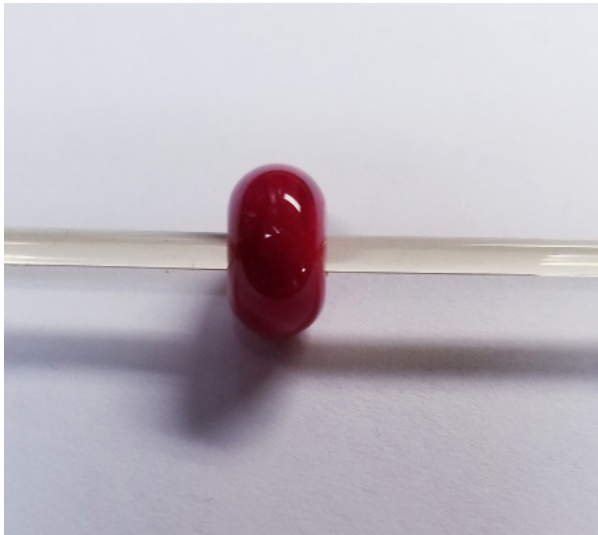
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The objective of this boot camp is to make 3-6 beads the same size and shape as each other. The first challenge in the bead boot camp is a monochrome (one color) bead in the shape of a rounded bead with flat sides.

They look like this. This bead is shape 124 from the book Callmers Trade Beads.



The sizes of this bead can be from 6-11mm however they are found up to 26mm and as small as 3mm

For ease of reading, opaque colors will have an (O) next to them. Transparent (T) Semi transparent (ST)

Some of the colors used historically for this type of bead are: Clear (T), White (O), Yellow(O) (T), Malve (O)
Dark blue (O) Red (O)(T) (ST) Blue green (T) (ST) Light turquoise (ST)(O) Greygreen (T) Black (O)

This bead shape is the foundation of many many beads. Notice the size. This bead example is tiny and the image is an example of the largest in its type. 11 mm is .43 inches.



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The 2nd challenge is a monochrome (one color) bead in the shape of a round bead without flat sides. They look like a disc. This bead is shape 122 from the book Callmer Trade Beads.

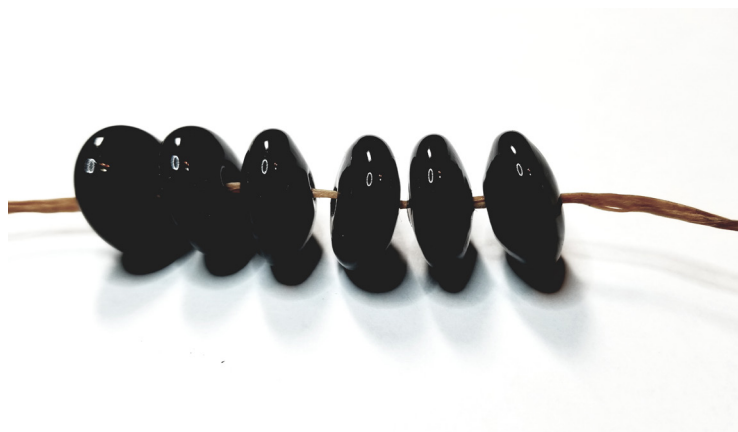


The sizes of this bead can be from 6-14mm however they are found as small as 3mm

For ease of reading, opaque colors will have an (O) next to them. Transparent (T) Semi transparent (ST)

Some of the colors used historically for this type of bead are: Clear (T), White (O), Greyish white (O) Brownish Red (O) Blue green (T) (ST) Blueish grey (O) (ST) Greygreen (T) Black (O)

14mm is .551 inches. **Tips to create:** After you build your bead, use a marver to shape the bead edges so the center of the bead is wider than the top. Carefully heat bead from the sides one side at a time trying to not heat the center ridge of the bead. Bead will form a slight rounded edge and keep its tall disc shape.



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The 3rd challenge is a monochrome (one color) bead in the shape of a barrel with flat sides.

This is found in the book Callmers Trade Beads. Also Callmer charts by Peterson.

<http://www.darkcompany.ca/>

It is shape number 127



The sizes of this bead can be from 6-14mm however they are found as small as 3mm

For ease of reading, opaque colors will have an (O) next to them. Transparent (T) Semi transparent (ST)

Some of the colors used historically for this type of bead are: Clear (T) White (O), Greyish white (O) Yellow (O) Med blue (ST) Light Turquoise (ST) (O) Brownish Red (O) Blue green (T) (ST) Dark Blue (T) Malva (purple) (T)

14mm is .551 inches. **Tips to create:** After you build your bead, Roll the bead on a hard surface such as a marver to achieve barrel shape. Marver the edges flat.



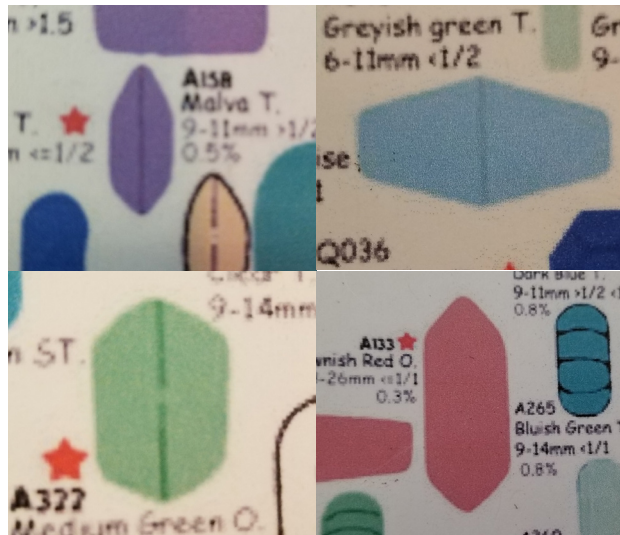
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The 4th challenge is a monochrome (one color) truncated bicone. This is found in the book Callmers Trade beads. It is shape 132 Also Callmer charts by Peterson
<http://www.darkcompany.ca/>



The sizes of this bead average 6-14mm however they are found at 3-5mm as well and up to 26mm

For ease of reading, opaque colors will have an (O) next to them. Transparent (T) Semi transparent (ST)

Some of the colors used historically for this type of bead are: Clear (T), Dark Blue (T) Malva(purple) (T) Grey green (T) Med Green (O) Yellow (O) Blue Green (O) Light turquoise (O) Red Brown (O)

14mm is .551 inches. **Tips to create:** a longer bicone. Build a barrel shaped bead (shape 127) then add more glass around the center of the bead. Visually divide the long part of the barrel in half. Use a marver on one half of the long surface of the barrel Marver the angle shape of the bead so that the edges are smaller than the center. Repeat on opposite side. Marver the edges of the bead flat if needed.



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The objective of this boot camp is to make 3-6 beads the same size and shape as each other.

The 5th challenge is an eye bead in the colors of Black base with white and red eyes or Black with white and blue eyes. The dots are layered on top of each other.

These beads are in the Callmer charts by Peterson. <http://www.darkcompany.ca/>
They are number B080



The sizes of this bead are from 12-17mm

For ease of reading, opaque colors will have an (O) next to them. Transparent (T) Semi transparent (ST)

The colors for this bead are Black (O) White (O) with red or dark blue dots over the white.



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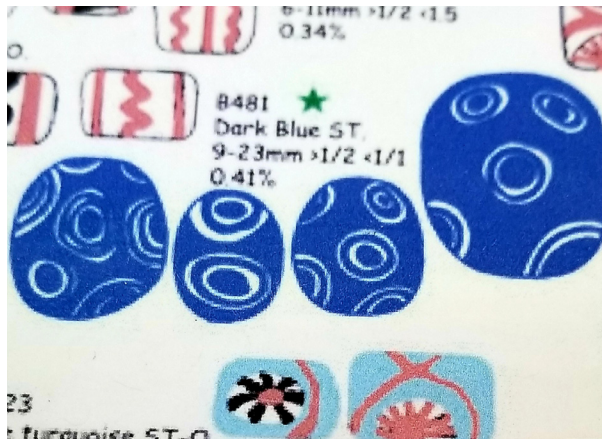
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The objective of this boot camp is to make 3-6 beads the same size and shape as each other.

The 6th challenge is a more complicated eye bead. These beads are in the Callmer charts by Peterson.

<http://www.darkcompany.ca/>

Number B481



These beads are from 9-23mm You can choose which one you want to do.

For ease of reading, opaque colors will have an (O) next to them. Transparent (T) Semi transparent (ST)

The colors for this bead are Dark Blue (ST) (T) and White (O)



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The objective of this boot camp is to make 3-6 beads the same size and shape as each other.

The 7th challenge starts the use of stringers on beads. I call them Charlie Brown beads as they have squiggled lines. These beads are in the Callmer charts by Peterson. They are number B300 There are several other beads that are in this style as well with different colors.

<http://www.darkcompany.ca/>



The sizes of these beads are from 9-20mm

For ease of reading, opaque colors will have an (O) next to them. Transparent (T) Semi transparent (ST)

The colors for these beads are Red-brown (O) Yellow (O) White (O)



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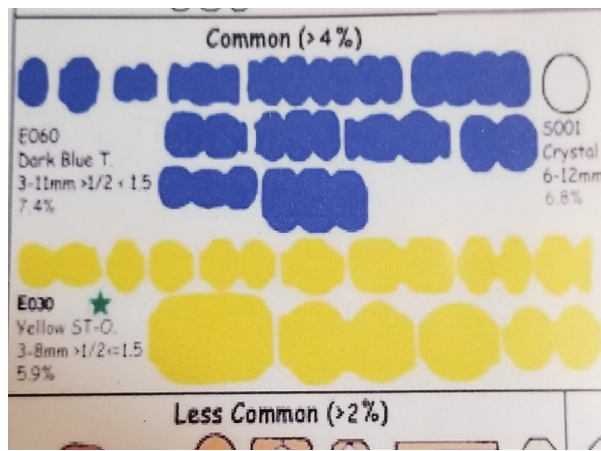
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The objective of this boot camp is to make 3-6 beads the same size and shape as each other.

The 8th challenge is segmented beads! These beads are in the Callmer charts by Peterson.

Number E060 and E030 and are a common bead.

<http://www.darkcompany.ca/>



These beads are from 3-11mm in height. You can choose which color you want to do.

For ease of reading, opaque colors will have an (O) next to them. Transparent (T) Semi transparent (ST)

The colors for this bead are Dark Blue (T) and Yellow (ST)(O)

Tips to create: Make a barrel bead (shape 127) and then use a pick and place on the bead. roll the bead away from you and let the pick create a segment. Keeping the spacing as equal as you can. #2 Create the bead shape 124. Right next to it add another bead and let them melt slightly together. Continue to add bead shapes until you have as many segments as you wish. Touch up the segmented parts by gently rolling a pick between the segments.



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The 9th challenge continues the use of stringers on beads. This challenge uses straight lines made with stringers. This bead can be found in the Callmer charts by Peterson. <http://www.darkcompany.ca/> Number B531 For this bead we are going to create it in three phases. Phase one will be to make a bead with a singular line. Second bead will have two lines and lastly the final bead will have three lines and be like the historical example. Option B is to do them with the three lines.



The size of this bead is from 12-20mm

For ease of reading, opaque colors will have an (O) next to them. Transparent (T) Semi transparent (ST)

If you do not have these colors you can use what you have.

The colors for this bead: Blue green (AQUA) (T) and White (O)

Tips to create: Make a bead (shape 124.) Turn down heat on the torch and apply stringers by rolling the bead away from you and keeping the stringer as still as you can. If you do not have an arm rest. Tucking your elbow into your side helps keep your hand from moving. When you get the stringer all the way around the bead, join it with your stringer work before melting the stringer off. For making straight lines I have found that melting and rolling the bead a bit faster than the wavy lines helps get a straighter line.



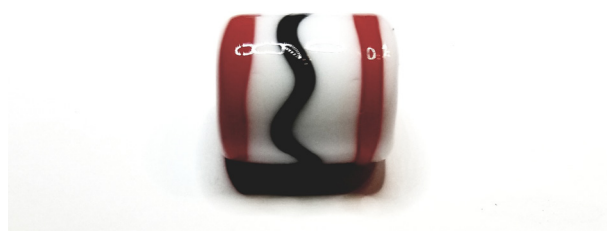
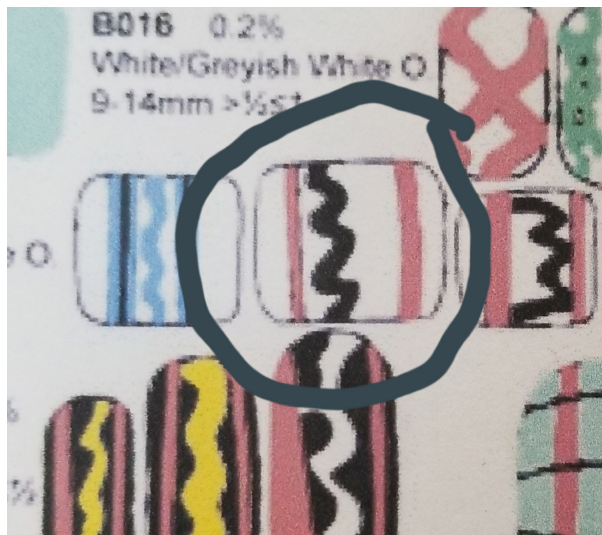
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The 10th challenge is more stringer work. This bead has both straight and wavy lines. These beads are in the Callmer charts by Peterson. <http://www.darkcompany.ca/>
Number B021



These beads are from 6-11 mm tall

For ease of reading, opaque colors will have an (O) next to them. Transparent (T) Semi transparent (ST)

The colors for this bead are White/ Greyish white (O) Black (O) Red Brown(O)

Tips to create: Make your barrel bead. Bead shape 127. Add the straight stringers turning your bead away from you. and then the wavy stringer. Carefully heat stringer work and gently marver by rolling (or tapping) the bead on a flat surface. Marver edges of bead if needed with a flat shaping tool if your barrel sides melt unevenly. That will bring back the flat crisp edge of the bead.



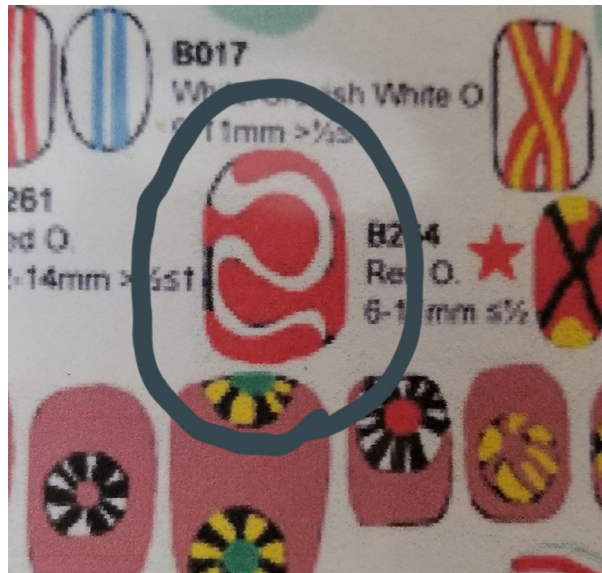
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The 11th challenge is making round wavy stringer lines. These beads are in the Callmer charts by Peterson.
<http://www.darkcompany.ca/> Number B261



The sizes of these beads are from 12-14mm

For ease of reading, opaque colors will have an (O) next to them. Transparent (T) Semi transparent (ST)

The colors for these beads are Red (O) and White (O)

Tips to Create: Make bead shape 124. Turn down heat on torch and slowly apply stringer in a wide and rounded pattern. Carefully melt in Stringer. Lightly marver the bead by gently rolling or tapping on a flat surface. That will help get this slightly wider and flatter bead shape. Use a marver to flatten sides out if needed.



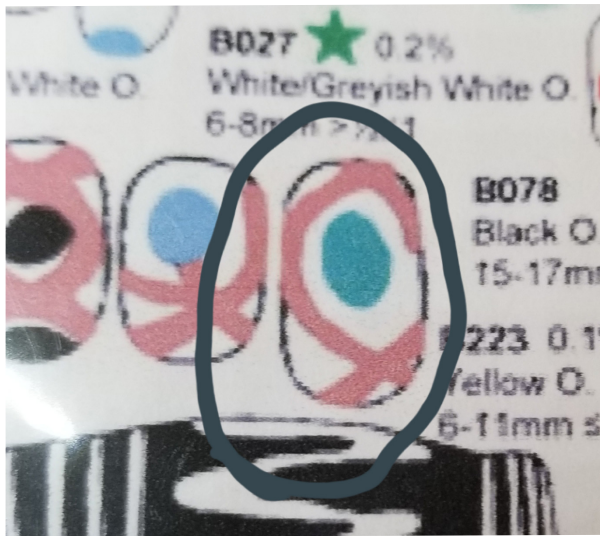
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The 12th challenge is an eye bead with cross over stringer work. These beads are in the Callmer charts by Peterson. <http://www.darkcompany.ca/>
Number B035



These beads are from 9-14mm

For ease of reading, opaque colors will have an (O) next to them. Transparent (T) Semi transparent (ST)

The colors for these beads are a base of White/Greyish White (O) Black (O) Light blue (O) Turquoise (O) Dots and Red Brown (O) Stringer work

tips to create: Make bead shape 124. Turn down torch. Apply dots. Leave them sticking up. Slowly apply the stringers around the dots in a big swoopy wave. When you get all the way around the bead. Apply the stringers in a big swoopy wave the opposite direction. Heat and gently tap and marver any stringer work that looks like it is not adhered to the bead. Tap down dots so they stay in a circle as much as possible. melt until stringer is almost flush with the bead. If you over melt the bead. the stringer work can mush out.



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The 13th challenge is a bicone bead with straight and wavy stringer work. These beads are in the Callmer charts by Peterson. <http://www.darkcompany.ca/> Number B071



These beads are from 9-11mm and length more than 1.5 times diameter

For ease of reading, opaque colors will have an (O) next to them. Transparent (T) Semi transparent (ST)

The colors for these beads are a base of Black (O) Stringer work white (O)

Tips to create: Make bead shape 132, with length at least 1.5 times diameter. Apply straight lines on both ends of the bead, leaving plenty of room in the center. Finish by putting in a big swooping wavy stringer. Heat and gently tap and marver any stringer work that looks like it is not adhered to the bead. If you over melt the bead. the stringer work can mush out. You MAY be able to marver the bead a bit once stringer is applied to get the bicone shape a bit clearer, but it may mush out the lines more than you like.



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The 14th challenge is a triquetra of spirals! These beads are in the Callmer charts by Peterson.
<http://www.darkcompany.ca/> Number B486



These beads are from 9-11 mm

For ease of reading, opaque colors will have an (O) next to them. Transparent (T) Semi transparent (ST)

The colors for these beads are a base of Dark Blue (ST) White (O) Stringer Yellow (O) Dots

Tips to create: Make bead shape 124. Turn down torch. Two of the spirals are made with ONE application of stringer. Start with the double spiral. Start your spiral from the center. Curve the stringer around creating a spiral and then continue the stringer line about 1/2 of the way down the bead. Without stopping, start the second spiral pattern in the opposite direction working from the outside in. When you get to the center of the spiral gently twist off the stringer. The third stringer is applied separately than the double. Start in the center of the spiral and work your way outwards creating the spiral. Connect the end of the spiral to the double spiral. Dots on all three centers of the spirals as well as at the end where you connected the third spiral to the double spiral. Gently melt down and marver if needed.



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Day 15 starts a new technique to the challenge. Making raked (chevron) beads! This bead can be found in the Callmer charts by Peterson <http://www.darkcompany.ca/> Number B392



These beads are from 12-14mm in height and is a little over twice the length as in height.

For ease of reading, opaque colors will have an (O) next to them. Transparent (T) Semi transparent (ST)

The colors for these beads are a base of Dark Blue (T) with White (O) and Red (O) Chevrons

Tips to create: Make bead shape 127. Turn down torch and start to add the red colored stringers in a straight line around the bead. Roll the bead away from you as you add stringer. Apply the inside red stringers first and then the outside red stringers. (refrain from melting them down.) Now add the white stringers next to the red stringers. Gently heat the entire bead surface. Too melty the pattern will moosh. Gently marver the bead in a light rolling motion on a flat surface. You want to just "tack" the stringers down. Heat and repeat. When you have tiny ridges left on your bead of stringers, heat one long side of bead but only heat the surface. Use a pick or a stringer as a tool. Place tool on one end of bead and pull longways through the stringers all the way down to the other end of the bead in one straight motion. This will "Rake" through the top surface of the stringers and bead. Turn bead over and repeat process. Heat the ends of bead and marver flat if needed. Heat entire bead surface and gently roll on marver. Repeat until smooth.



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The 16th challenge is a bead that utilizes glass manipulation by using a fairly hot bead surface. These beads are in the Callmer charts by Peterson. <http://www.darkcompany.ca/> Number B531

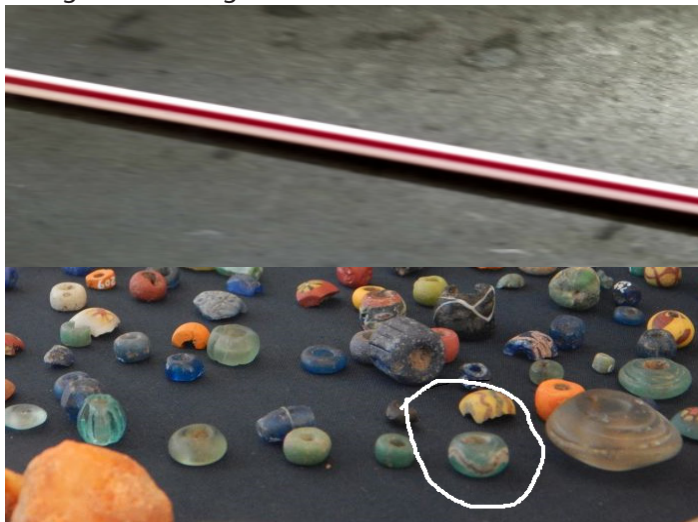


These beads are from 12-20mm

For ease of reading, opaque colors will have an (O) Transparent (T) Semi Transparent (ST)

The colors for these beads are a base of Light Green Grey (Pale Aqua) (T) with White (O) and Red Brown (O) Stringer.

Tips to create: Create a red and white ribbon stringer. Apply in a wavy pattern around the surface of the bead connecting the ends together to make a continuous wave design.



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For the 17th challenge we doing a pulled stringer pattern called chevrons.

You pull the glass in opposite directions.

This bead is in the Callmers charts by Peterson. <http://www.darkcompany.ca/> It is number B063



These beads are from 6-11 mm in height

For ease of reading, opaque colors will have an (O) next to them. Transparent (T) Semi transparent (ST)

The colors for these beads are a base of Black (O) with yellow (O) and Light green (O) stringers.

Tips to create: Make bead shape 127, with length of about 1/3 more than the height. Apply 5 straight stringer lines of yellow around the bead. Heat and with a stringer or pick, pull the stringers ALL the way across the length of the bead.

This bead has alternating directions on which the stringers are pulled creating a herringbone look. If you overheat the bead and marver, the pattern will mush. When you have finished your herringbone pattern and have your bead smoothed back out, apply the light green stringers to the end caps of the bead. These are slightly raised so they are not completely melted in.



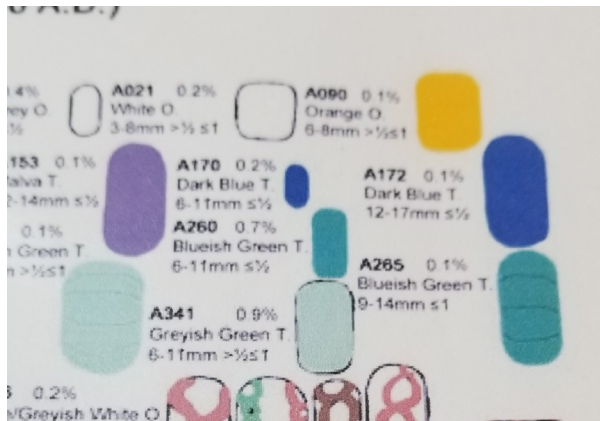
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The 18th challenge is a bead that required shaping and sculpting. It is the lovely and most beautiful melon bead. There are many examples of these beads in Callmer charts by Peterson One is A172 <http://www.darkcompany.ca/>



These beads are from 6-20mm

For ease of reading, opaque colors will have an (O) Transparent (T) Semi Transparent (ST)

Some of the colors for melon beads are Light Green Grey (Pale Aqua) (T) Dark blue (T) Malva (T) Blue Green (T)

Tips to create: Make bead shape 124. Create your bead a bit taller than what you want the melon bead to be and not as wide as you want your melon to be when it is complete. Heat bead and using a long skinny flat pick or a razor blade place the tool on the top/side of your bead. With the same pressure through the whole move, point your pick down in and angle towards your mandrel. You are going to cut in a half circle motion across the bead. Cut into the glass across starting on one side and continue across the bead and over to the top/opposite side of the bead. Your bead will mush a little. Its ok! Make sure that when you cut into your bead that you are cutting fairly deep and directly down towards the mandrel. Rotate bead away from you to prepare for the next cut. Follow first procedure. Keep cutting the shapes until you get all the way around the bead. By the time you get all the way around your bead if you are using consistent cutting pressure it will be in a shape of a rounded melon. Use marver to clean up ends if needed. At this point you can focus heat parts of your bead if you want to make your cuts deeper or more rounded etc.



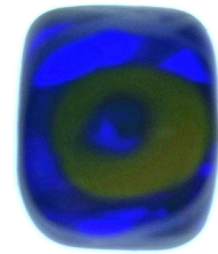
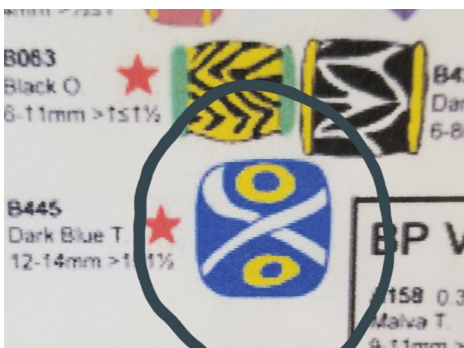
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For the 19th challenge we have eye beads with crossover stringer work. I am going to give you three ways to make the bead. The first will be to make it in the "likeness of the bead" by stacking dots. #2 will be making and applying murrini, (Most likely the correct way) and the third is using a stiff stringer for the center of the eye and then drawing the yellow around the center of the eye and then flat marvering it down. This bead can be found in Callmers by Peterson. <http://www.darkcompany.ca/>



These beads are from 12-14mm in height
For ease of reading, opaque colors will have an (O) next to them. Transparent (T) Semi transparent (ST)

The colors for these beads are a base of Dark blue (T) White (O) stringer, Yellow (O) Dark blue (T) eyes (If you are going to do dot on dot use dark blue (O) for the center of dot or you will have a green dot if you use transparent)

Tips to create: #1. Make bead shape 127. If you are using (T) blue and (O)yellow murrini, gently heat and apply the murrini but do not melt it in. Apply the white stringers using the murrini as a guideline. Heat and gently tap and marver murrini down flat. Marver your bead edges and gently roll or tap bead back to a barrel shape. **#2.** Make bead 127. Cut off transparent blue stringers about 2mm thick and about 1/8 inch long. With tweezers, stick each piece down into the bead like you are doing murrini and do not melt down. Carefully apply a circle of yellow stringer around the stick of blue glass touching the blue stringer. Slightly heat. Add white stringer work to the bead. Heat and flat marver the dots down the same way as you would the murrini. Finish bead the same way as technique number one. **#3.** Likeness of the bead but using the dot on dot technique. Make bead shape 127. Apply yellow dot of stringer. Do not melt down. Apply the white crossover stringer. Go back to dot. Slightly heat and barely flatten the top of the dot. Add opaque dark blue dot on top of the yellow. Melt down and finish the same way as number one.



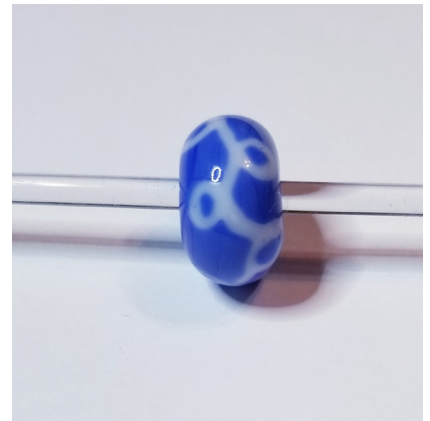
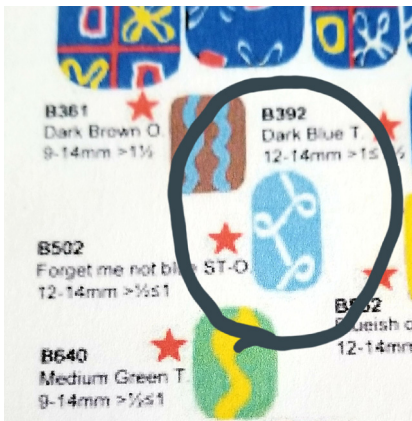
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The 20th challenge is a bead that has tiny connected open circles. You can find this bead in Callmers bead by Peterson. <http://www.darkcompany.ca/>
It is #B502



These beads are from 12-14mm

For ease of reading, opaque colors will have an (O) Transparent (T) Semi Transparent (ST)

The colors for this bead are a base of forget me not blue (ST) (O) with detail glass of White (O)

Tips to create: Create bead shape number 124. Apply with the same color as the base bead a total of 8 small round-but tall raised dots. (this will help you guide the stringers in a circle) The dots should be alternating each other from one side to the other. (there are four dots on one side and four on the other side of the bead surface) Turn your heat down down down. You will need a VERY thin line of white to make this bead. (mine was so thin I test melted it with a lighter) Starting at the inside of the dot and on the right side of the bead, apply stringer in a counter clockwise direction around the dot staying as close to the dot as possible.. (Remember to turn your bead away from you) continue the white stringer straight down to the inside of the left dot. Apply around the dot in a clockwise motion... continue this sequence until you have connected all of the dots with the stringer. Gently heat and melt down. Marver sides if needed. Extra *Challenge*. Try creating without using the dots as guidelines.



21 Day Bead Boot Camp

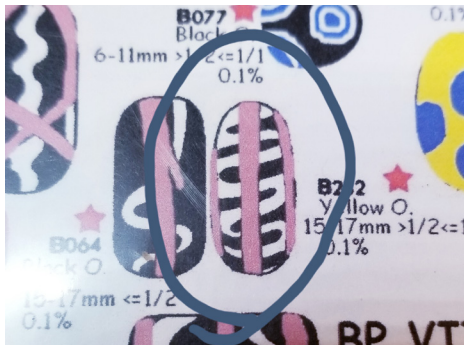
Refine your skills and learn to create 21 Viking Age Beads

By Baroness Maricka Sigrunsdotter, OL An Tir ~MKA Dena Cowlshaw

The objective of this boot camp is to make 3-6 beads the same size and shape as each other.

The 21st challenge is bead number B064.

This was the very first historical bead that I ever saw anyone make and it is very fun to make. It can be found in the Callmer's Charts by Peterson <http://www.darkcompany.ca/>



These beads are from 15-17mm in height

For ease of reading, opaque colors will have an (O) next to them. Transparent (T) Semi transparent (ST)

The colors for these beads are a base of Black(O) White (O) Curvy zig zags and Red Brown (O) lines

Tips to create: To make this bead look like the original it is important to apply close together, as well as, wide curvy zig zags all the way across the bead. If you look at the drawing of the original, the white stringer ends go all the way to the red brown line on the edge and bleed under the red brown lines. (The red brown lines are applied over the edge of the white zig zags.)

Making the bead: Create bead shape number 124. Turn down heat. Apply white curvy zig zags making them fairly close together as well as wide all the way across the bead. Melt white stringers into bead.

After you have applied the zig zags and melted them down, apply the red brown lines using a melt and pull technique. Melt the top of your rod or stringer. Gently touch the bead with the tip of the stringer and turn the bead away from you to get a straight line. Also, you can turn your torch way down and slowly draw the lines on. (TIP) If your white zig zags are not melted in you will get separation in your red brown stringer lines when you go to melt them down. Start with your middle red brown line and then the outer lines. The outer lines will go over the edge of the white zig zags. When you have applied all three lines. Marver edges of bead flat if needed and finish bead.

