



# Black Petal Motif

A comprehensive step by step lampwork tutorial, by Lydia Muell



## The Inspiration

When this series of beads was a big hit for me, they were referred to in many different ways by different people. Some called them "Fleur-de-lis" some used the term "paisley" and some simply called them "little black flowers". None of those terms would be wrong because the design is quite abstract and at the end of the day, what matters most is what is seen by the eyes of the beholder.

Initially, the inspiration for this design was my appreciation for the black figure pottery paintings that were popular during the Greek Archaic period (800 to 500BC). The black petal motif was often used as a border for the silhouette style pictorial subjects so masterfully carved into the exterior of each clay vessel.

Prior to my life as a glass artist, I often used the Greek petal motif as a border for the classical murals that I painted. From the time that I began lampworking, it was my goal to gain enough control over the glass to be able to apply the concept of the design to my beads.

Thank you for allowing me to share this tutorial with you. I hope that you find it inspiring.



## Intro

This tutorial provides a step by step in-depth instructional designed to teach you how to apply my Greek inspired black petal motif to your lampwork beads. Together, we will create a “Black Tie Event” and “Chick Rock” bead.

Looking back on my own experimentation of this design, I recognize my “Black Tie Event” and “Chick Rock” series as being a major turning point in my career as a lampworker. It was during these series that my skill in the manipulation of surface applied design elements saw it’s most significant improvement. By the time both series had ended, my ability to control stringer had greatly improved as well. This is the reason that I chose this design as a starting point for my written tutorials. Even if the motif doesn’t appeal to you as a design element, it’s practice has a great deal to offer in terms of skill growth. If practiced with patience and repetition, you should see a significant increase in your ability to manipulate the surface of your beads, thus creating intricate and interesting designs.

In writing this tutorial, I decided not to peel the proverbial onion back to what would be the beginner’s level. The tutorial requires familiarity with using presses, pulling stringer, adjusting your flame, and basic lampworking terminology. With that said, please practice this tutorial by using proper safety precautions, with proper ventilation.

The exercises in each section are created using 104 COE glass.



### Section One

Pulling Stringer for Your Projects

- Hand pulled aventurine stringer
- Rubino and pastel pink stringer



### Section Two

Tutorial for the “Black Tie Event” Button Bead

A great place to start, as it was my starting point for the design. Only one glass is used as the base for this bead. . .A big time saver, because it allows your main focus to be on the actual execution of the petal design.



### Section Three

Tutorial for the “Chick Rock” Button Bead

This section will teach you a bit about using multiple layers to enhance the depth of your beads, as well as a whimsical version of the Black Petal Motif.