

*Encased Floral Panels*



A comprehensive lampwork bead tutorial by Lydia Muell

## The Inspiration

Thank you for your interest in the “Encased Floral Panel” tutorial. The bead featured on the cover is called “Enchanted Hydrangea”, but to me, it’s significance is much greater than that. . . The little encased floral panels are the core design of my current body of work. In my attempt to share what inspired them, I need to start at the thought process that led to their discovery. Doing so also fills my selfish need to pay homage to it’s birth and evolutionary growth, while setting it free to be more easily explored by others.

During my first year at the torch, I created a small series of beads called “French Music Box”. As the name suggests, the series was inspired by an antique French Provincial style music box that my grandmother gave me when I was a small child. The delicate little box was wooden with a faded French blue finish that boasted a raised ivory panel with hand painted russet toned flowers on each of it’s four sides. Each panel was accented by draped gold-gilded garlands of intertwined leaves and pale pink ribbons.

Although I no longer own the music box, it at one time was my most coveted treasure. The pink tutu clad ballerina twirled in circles each time my chunky little fingers wound the magical key. . .She never failed to make me smile, but she wasn’t exactly the reason that I loved the music box so much. It was the spirit of the music box itself and it’s beautiful exterior. I adored it, and even as a child I recognized the grace, elegance and beauty in it’s design.

Perhaps at this point, you are wondering what a music box has to do with a hydrangea bead. Strangely, the relevance is quite important as it would be the idea that inspires the floral panels that would in turn, evolve into the encased floral panels that I use in my work today.

Back in my “newbie” days, my brain was exploding with ideas and inspirations that more often than not, resulted in frustration and angst after trying to emulate them at the torch. I so badly yearned to create something in glass that was splendidly new and fresh, yet had an appeal that celebrated the concept of classical design. Such a tall order for me at the time. . .I felt terribly limited by my lack of skill and experience at the torch.

*French Music Box  
Series  
Nov/2006*



*No. 1*



*No. 2*



*No. 3*

What's on Pages 3-12? Can't Tell You, But, Here's a Small Bite...



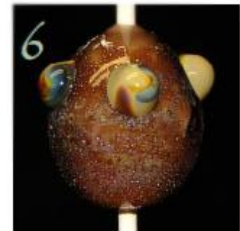
Gallery of bead designs that use the encased floral panel design.

Thoroughly detailed and illustrated, step by step instructions for how to create the cover bead, "Enchanted Hydrangea".



Fig 5. While your bead is still hot, (glowing a warm red), take one of your glass stringers and apply five small dots around the bead, at 1/3 of the way down from the top. Be sure that you are leaving a consistent amount of distance between each one so that they are evenly spaced. The purpose of the small dots is to mark where the larger dots will be placed in the next step. It's much easier to remove and replace the small dots if you didn't space them evenly the first time. Proper placement of the first series of dots is essential to the visual balance of the design.

Fig 6. Heat the tip of your glass rod until you form a small gather and place a large dot on top of one of the small dots applied in step 5. Repeat this step until you have five large raisin dots.



The Garland of Leaves



Fig 28 Using your glass stringer place four dots in a row the natural curve of the bead. Then place three more dots on either side of the first dot to form a group of seven dots. Repeat this step until you have a group of

Fig 29 Using your glass stringer place a small dot on top of each dot of Fig 28. Make them as completely

Click the flower, for purchasing details.

