

HEXAGONAL CABINET KNOBS

Making Cabinet Knobs Using a Zooziis Hex Knob Press

By Amy Oulette



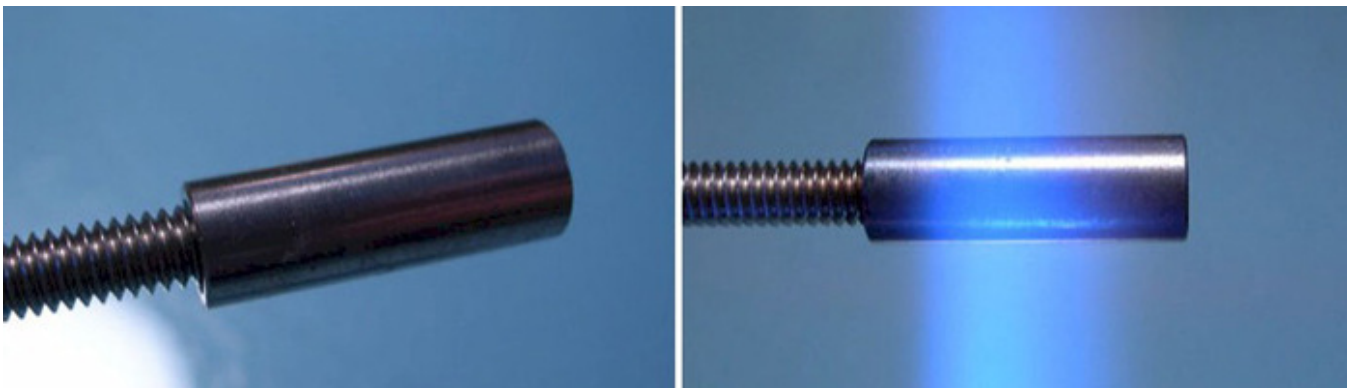
Our knob tools were built around the Make-a-Knob kits by Marj Bates. Marj created these special tools more than a decade ago to allow lampworkers to make marketable, high quality knobs for use on cabinets, dressers, and much more. We collaborated with her to design a tool that helps the artist achieve consistent sizes and shapes. Now you can easily redo your kitchen or bathroom! In this tutorial, I will show you how to make a cute, hexagonal-shaped knob with a bit of flair.

Tools and Materials:

- Effetre Opal Yellow
- TAG Fire Lotus (16 inches of thin stringer for edges and about 4 inches of thicker stringer for the flowers)
- Val Cox Golden Brown Frit #00
- Zooziis Hex Knob Press
- Make-A-Knob Kit mandrel and insert (from Zooziis.com or Glassthings.com)
- Hand tools of choice for tweaking stringer work
- Razor tool for putting veins in the flower.

Before you begin:

Secure the insert onto the thread mandrel. You want this to be quite tight so it doesn't loosen while you are making the knob. Do not apply bead release. You are making the knob right on the insert, so the knob will be ready to screw right onto the drawer as soon as it's out of the kiln. Heat the insert very well. You will find the glass will not stick to the insert if it's not hot enough. Concentrate the heat on the insert, and not the threaded mandrel. Now we can make the knob!





Step 1: Add a simple bead on the end of the mandrel, make sure it is rounded and even in size and shape. This bead should be about 1mm in from the end of the insert to keep the glass from going over the edge when you shape the tube in the press.

Step 2: Add glass to the rest of the insert using your small bead as a guide.

Use the press as a marver to form the tube. Once formed, use the press to finalize the shape and center the glass.

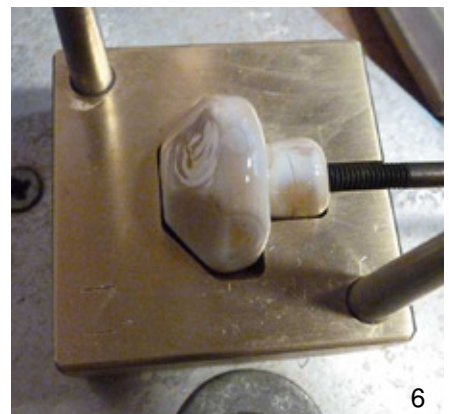
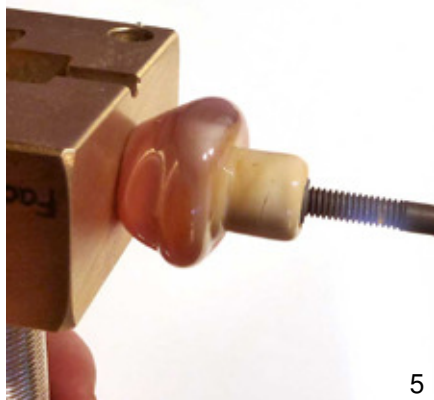
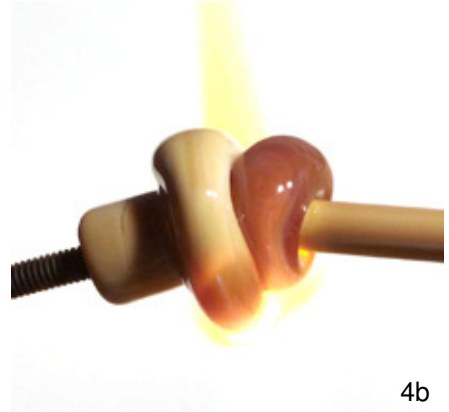
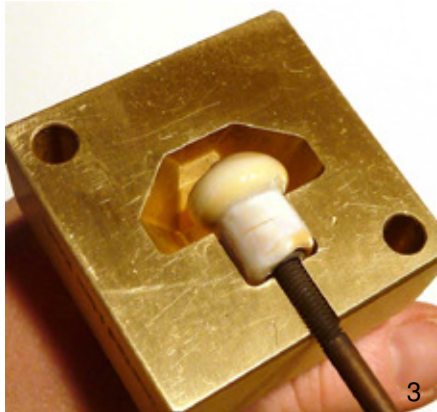
Step 3: You will now have a gather that comes out from the tube. The gather indicates the edge of the shape portion of the knob and shows you where to lay your remaining glass.



Step 4: Add glass to the shape portion. Once you have the glass around the edge, take a large gather and add to the front of the shape, over the end of the insert.

Step 5: The key to working with presses is to have the glass centered in the shape so the press is able to push the glass down and out into the shape. To do this, I take the side of the press, using it as a marver, to flatten the front of the shape.

Step 6: Set the gather into the press, then lift turn and set the other half in. This pre-shapes the glass for a nice clean press. It keeps the glass from overflowing the cavity and creating ridges where the press top and bottom meet.





NOTE: If you need to add glass to fill out the shape, so the facets are nice a crisp, you will want to add it along the edge where the facets meet the outer hex shape. This keeps the glass in the cavity, thus pushing the glass down and out, and keeps it from overflowing the cavity.

Step 7: After setting the glass in the press to pre-form it, reheat the gather and the tube (very important) and press again. You should have a fully-formed hex that has soft edges.

Step 8: Add frit, heat, and press again. This time you should have crisp edges and facets.

Step 9: Add stringer to the facet corners starting from the back of the hex and ending at the front flat face. Add to every other facet. You will have three done, as pictured. Then add the other three. This keeps the stringer you already laid from getting too hot and melting while you add the next stringer. You should now have stringer on all six-facet corners. Using a hand tool, seat the stringer in place. Keep your tube warm!

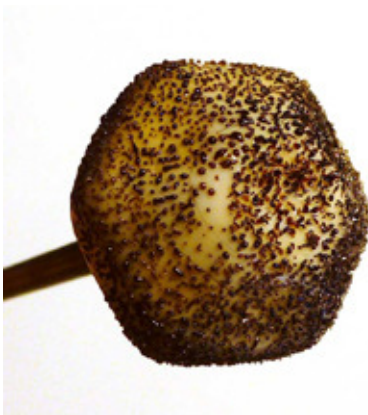
Heat the stringers at the back of the hex and tap down with hand tool of choice. This anchors them in place and makes for a smooth surface when the knob is in use. Keep your tube warm!

Add stringer to the edge facet. You want to lay the stringer between the existing stringer, not over it, so you don't get a large bump at each point where they join. Again, place every other section, and then do the other three for better heat control.

Note



7



8a



8b

NOTE: Keep the tube warm! Don't forget it while you are adding glass, and if you press multiple times be sure to heat well before doing so. You don't want to add so much heat that it becomes pliable, but keep it hot enough that it doesn't break. This is the trickiest part of making knobs. It's simple, but easily forgotten. If you need to crisp the tube again, you can do so with a marver, so don't fret, just keep it warm!



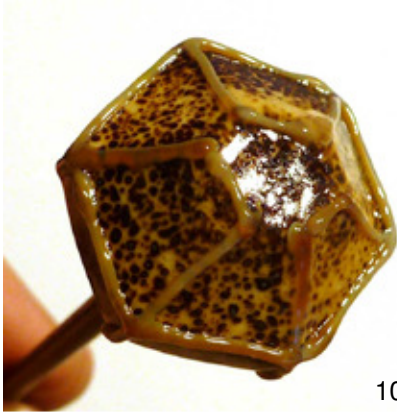
9a



9b



9c



10a

Step 10: In the same fashion, add stringer to every other section on the inside edge, then finish the remaining 3. Using a hand tool seat the stringer in place. Keep your tube warm!

Spot heat and secure each of the stringer sections, as needed, to be sure they are consistent in depth and are well seated to the glass.

Step 11: Using a hand tool seat the stringer in place. Keep your tube warm!

NOTE: If you find there are sections of the stringer that are thicker than you want, especially at the joins, you can spot heat, place your stringer on the heated area, pull gently and fire cut or snip close to the knob. This will remove small amounts of extra glass.

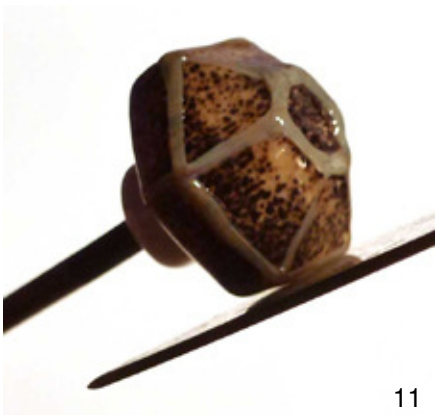


10b

Step 12 - Adding the flower: Make 5 evenly spaced dots with Fire Lotus. Using a razor tool, or something similar, make a line in the center of each dot to create veins in the petal. Add a final dot to the center of the flower. Done!

Pop the knob into the kiln, mandrel and all. When it is cooled, you can take it right off the mandrel, and install immediately!

I hope this will inspire you to make some knobs of your own. Below are some more examples of knobs made by me. Enjoy!



11



Note



12



Sources:

TAG Fire Lotus: <http://www.taglass.com/104.html>

Val Cox Frit: www.valcoxfrit.com

Zooziis Hex Knob Press: <http://www.zooziis.com/squareknob-2.aspx>

Knob mandrels and inserts from Zooziis: <http://www.zooziis.com/make-a-knobkit.aspx>

Knob mandrels and inserts from Marj Bates: http://glassthings.com/detail.cgi?item_id=25043&category_id=2189

Here are some knobs by the talented **Marj Bates**, creator of the Make-a-Knob system. Whether you make knobs using just the threaded mandrels and inserts or with a Zoozii's press, you can let your creativity soar and have something in your home that is truly one of a kind.



Lori & Kim
Murrini

Handmade Premium Murrini

www.LoriandKim.etsy.com
www.loriandkim.etsy.com

Bead Addicts

Lampwork Beads and Jewelry by
Angie Ramey and Verna Hedgecoth

www.BeadAddicts.etsy.com
www.beadaddicts.etsy.com

Soda Lime Times
Lampworking Magazine

Your ad
could appear
HERE

Contact Diane Woodall
at
diane@sodalimetimes.com
diane@sodalimetimes.com