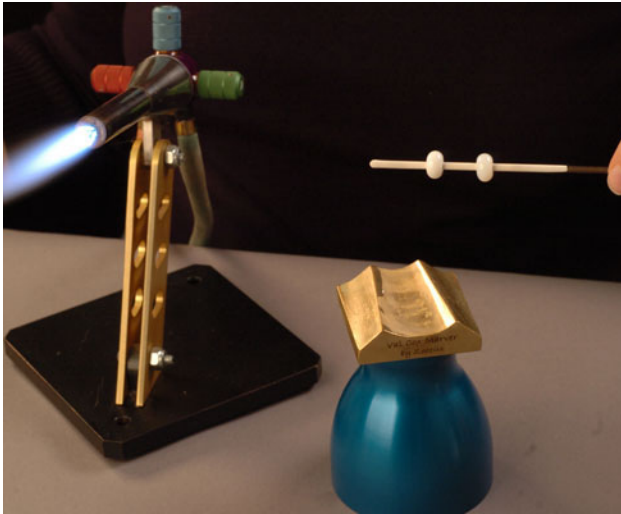


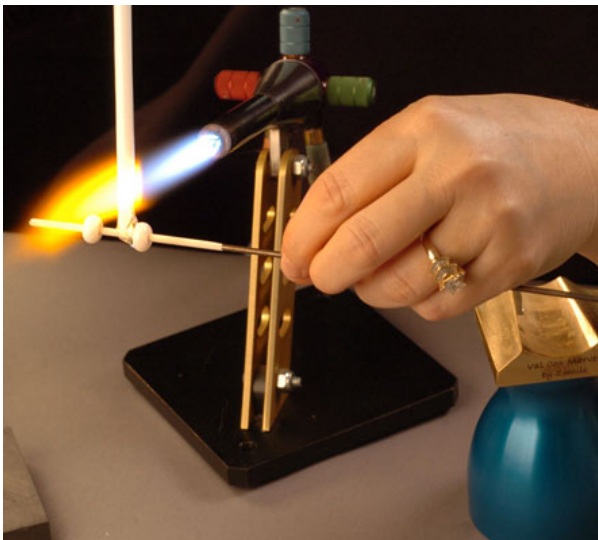
Val Cox Marver by Zooziis Tutorial

Tutorial Written and Photographed by Val Cox

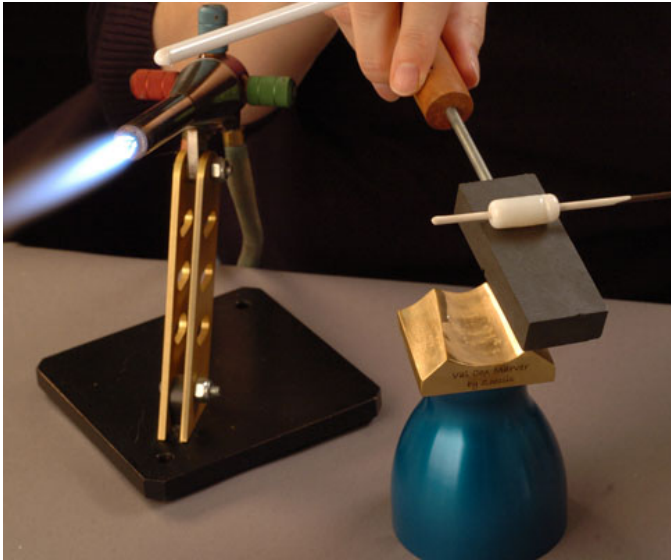
The following is one method for making simple bicones with my marver, by Zooziis. Your experimentation will certainly take it much further than this step by step. Of course practice and hot glass experience will be the biggest factor in your successes. Make 2 round beads, spaced the distance that you want your final bead to be. Make these two beads of similar sizes with nice puckers on the ends to start. You won't go back to reshaping these ends.



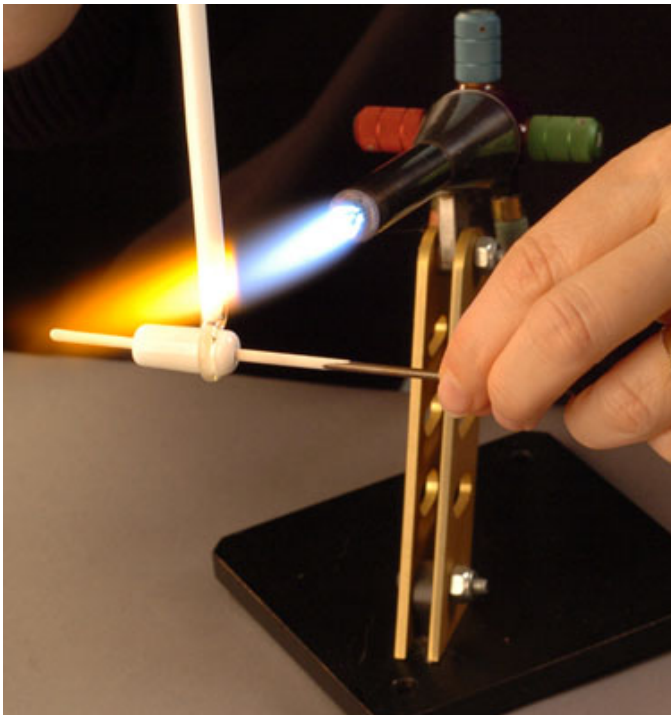
Fill in the space between your two end beads with glass. Work patiently to melt the glass in place as you go from one side to the other in a continuous rotation. Be aware of keeping your end beads warm, but do not reheat them to molten...they are the shape they will stay.



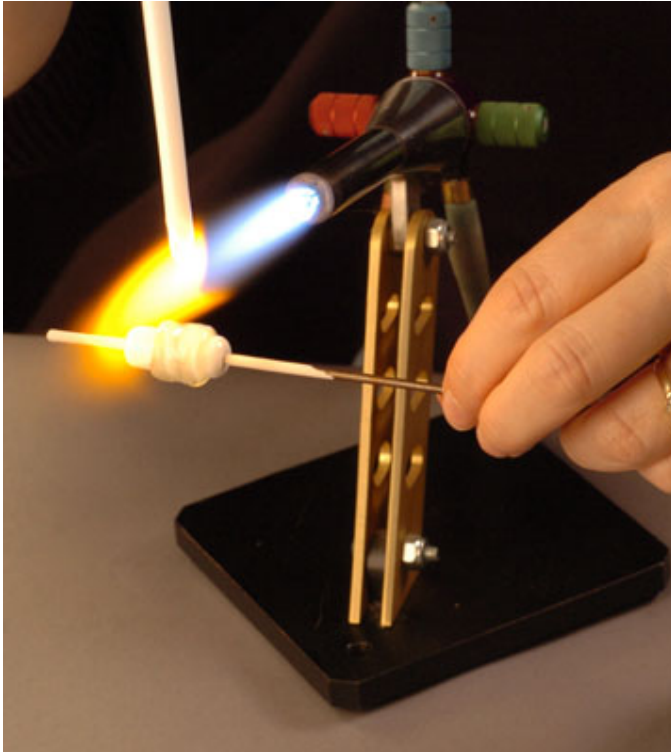
Marver your cylinder bead smooth with your torch-mounted or flat marver. I'm using a simple graphite paddle here.



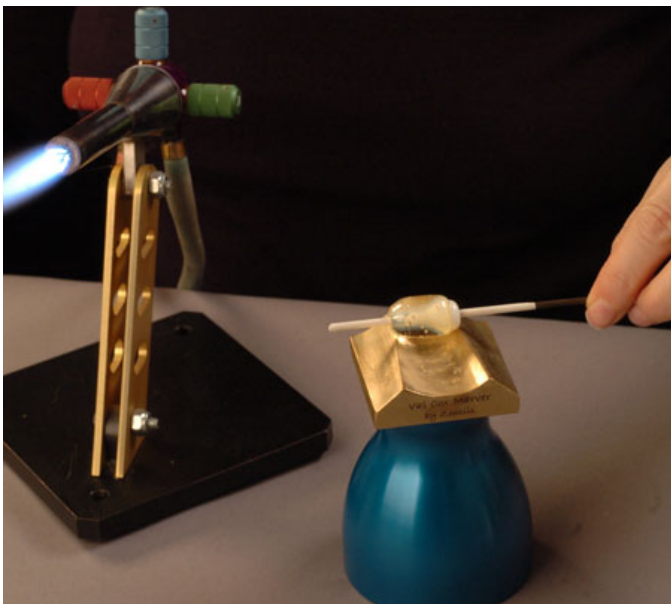
Start a new layer/rotation of glass onto of your cylinder. Don't start at the end, rather move in a little.



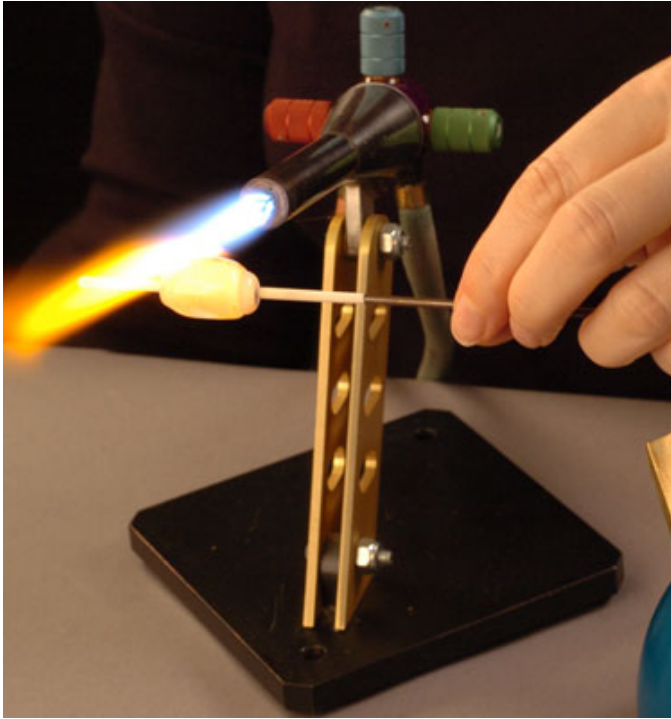
Continue winding this second layer on. Continue a little further than this photo shows, so that the last wind on the right side is just short of the end, as the left side shows.



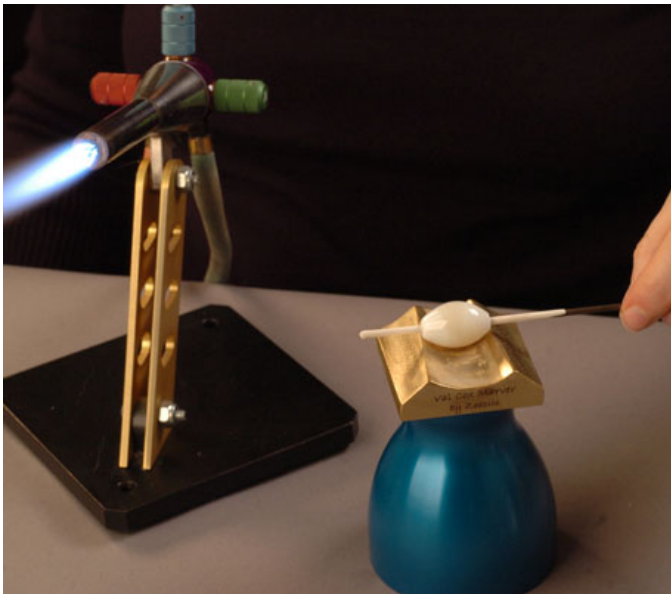
Heat the bead a little (leave the ends alone), and do your first bicone marver roll, positioned so the ends are at the ridge tips of your tool. Very gently, don't press too firmly into the marver, just lightly glide to get the basic shape. If you were going to add abstract decorations: frit, shards, twisties, now is a good time as the shape is still a little rough.



Reheat the bead, especially in the center, and marver again to fine tune (or to melt in any added decorations).



Marver gently to fine tune the shape. Sometimes you need to tip the mandrel up or down on each side to reshape the ends in case they got out of shape. If you were going to add precise decorations such as dots or silver now is the time.



Flame polish.



...and the simple bicone after annealing.

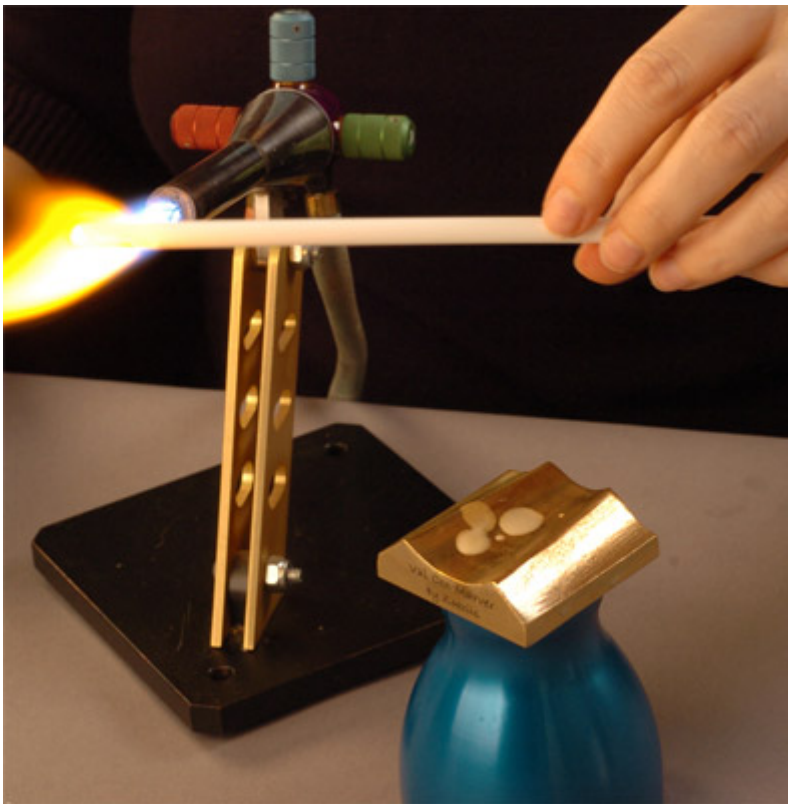


Applying the Beeswax

Just a drop or two of natural beeswax on your marver will make the glass glide along more smoothly when you marver. Just remember a little is all you need. A simple way to get the wax on your marver is to place your marver under the torch to catch the hot wax drips. Tip a corner of the beeswax block or stick into the flame, so 2-3 drops fall onto the marver.



Next, heat up a rod of glass into a gather, or get an inch of the rod hot/molten.



Use the hot glass to remelt the beeswax, and spread it out thinly all across the surface. It doesn't take much, and too little is better than too much. You won't need to reapply for sometime.

