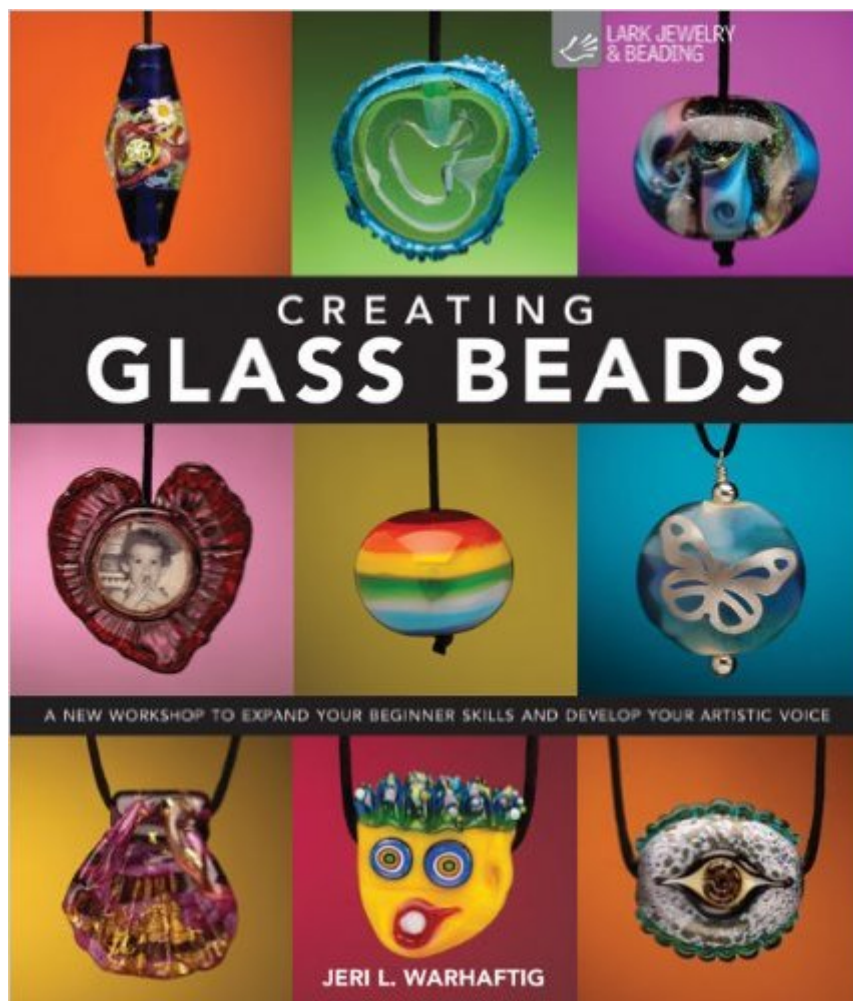


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Creating Glass Beads: A New Workshop To Expand Your Beginner Skills And Develop Your Artistic Voice



Synopsis

This technique-driven book propels beginning beaders many strides forward, introducing new skills and materials, encouraging aesthetic exploration, and giving specific instructions for creating 10 gorgeous flameworked glass beads. It's aimed at the ambitious novice who seeks to go past the basics and explore techniques that will serve as building blocks to developing an individual style.

Book Information

Hardcover: 144 pages

Publisher: Lark Crafts (March 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1600595820

ISBN-13: 978-1600595820

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 9 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (18 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #635,102 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 inÂ Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Glass & Glassware > Glassblowing #414 inÂ Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Jewelry & Beadwork > Beadwork #764 inÂ Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Jewelry & Beadwork > Jewelry

Customer Reviews

Jeri's first book, "Glass Bead Workshop" was so great, I just knew the next one would be - well, more of the same. NOT! This 2nd book is so awesome. Yes, there are projects and good ones too. BUT what is so different than any book I've ever seen on teaching lampwork techniques is that she shows what other beadmakers did utilizing her projects. Fun, huh? Each were very nice, and yet slightly different than hers. See, I already KNOW my work will not look like the experienced writer of the book's work. And yet, my beads were pretty darn good too thanks to her great instruction in the book. At the back of the book Jeri shows us the beads that she made for each project that she didn't feel were the best ones to be published for that particular project. What THAT taught me was that in fact, she had to do the project over and over and over (remember that word, practice?) until she was satisfied with the one she liked best for the project. I was so happy to see she made wonky beads too. Oh boy, it's nice to see the good, bad and the ugly. How nice to make yourself so vulnerable for our benefit. Wow. I decided to challenge myself to do each project as if I was one of the lampworkers that Jeri had asked to participate in her book. I have done a couple of them so far -

and I'm very happy with them. So happy, in fact, that I just HAD to write this review for those of you on the fence about purchasing this book. I'm showing the beads I made from her book in my blog. Go ahead - buy the book. You'll be glad you did.

"Creating Glass Beads" contains a fantastic series of projects designed to help the intermediate level beader develop more advanced glass working skills. We have started to expand our custom jewelry line in my wife's small business and have some experience working with glass, so we saw the projects in this book as a great way to improve our bead making. First of all, this is a beautiful book. It is filled cover to cover with some of the best artistic photos I have ever seen in a craft book. Fortunately it isn't just all pretty pictures, since it is also one of the better instructional books as well. The book starts off with a short section on the tools and setup needed to complete the 10 lessons presented. This is the only area of the book that I would have like to see include more information and really confirms that this is more of intermediate level book. The 10 "Sessions" are step-by-step instructions complete with very clear directions and outstanding photos. An interesting twist is the inclusion of examples produced by "Project Testers" (intermediate level beaders who tested the instructions) that show variations of the finished project. The included projects all produce professional looking beads that can be adapted and "personalized". The last section is the Appendix, which includes instructions for additional techniques and a section introducing the "Project Testers" with a sample of their work. The appendix section on "Working with Resin" was particularly interesting since we already use resins and hadn't thought about combining the two mediums. This useful book is a great addition to my craft book collection! Highly Recommended! CFH Note: I was provided with a review copy of this book by the publisher, but that in no way affects my rating.

Jeri's second book, *Creating Glass Beads*, is beautifully illustrated with excellent step-by-step instructions for each bead project. Jeri's use of the "project testers" show how individuality and personality influence the outcome of each bead project, proving there are no limitations to our beading designs. All beadmakers should have this book!

Many years ago, as part of my Art Education degree requirements, I took a class in glass blowing. It literally left me breathless. The molten glass had a mind of its own. Although I claimed to my instructor that the final finished project was as I had envisioned, he didn't buy my spiel. Perhaps, if I had "*Creating Glass Beads*," as a reference guide, I would have changed paths and explored lampwork beads instead. My finished beads would have been less labor intensive and would have

glowed with vibrant colors instead of looking like a muddy river. The author, Jeri L. Warhaftig has written a very informative and important book for would-be bead thinkers and doers. There is a very impressive introduction. She points out all the necessities useful in setting up a bead studio work space. Her approach in writing this book is quite different. Jeri recruited fourteen talented volunteers who were invited to participate in a series of tutorials organized around a particular skill building exercise. Most of the projects are directed towards the intermediate beader, although I could certainly see an adventuresome beader lighting up the torch, putting on the safety goggles, and exploring the challenges of the vibrant colored molten glass rods. The photographic resolution is excellent. The gallery pages display both fun and intriguing lampwork beads executed by a talented cast of creators. I would highly recommend "Creating Glass Beads" by Jeri L. Warhaftig. This book presents a inspiring visual learning experience. My glass professor's mantra always was "learn one, teach one." The author certainly does just that with her breathtaking array of lampwork bead techniques and "how-to."

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