

Fireworks Q&A

Q: What do I do if my bead release breaks while I am in the middle of making a bead?

You often can't do much more with your bead. If you have mashing pliers, you may be able to do a little more shaping. If any glass sticks to the bare mandrel, you may not be able to remove the bead without breaking it.

Q: May I use other kinds of gas with my Fireworks Quick-light torch?

The Fireworks Quick Light torch is specifically designed to work with MAPP/PRO (yellow tank) gas. MAPP/PRO gas burns hotter and cleaner than propane gas by itself. Propane and oxygen together require a different torch head. The small, 1 lb. tanks of MAPP /PRO can may be purchased at almost any hardware store and will last between 4 - 6 hours running time.

Q: Why is my glass turning grey or black?

Some colors "burn" more easily than others. If you are getting a lot of grey in your beads they look dirty - your flame is most likely too hot/high, turn it down.

Q: My glass is not melting?

The hottest part of the flame is approximately 3" ABOVE the tip of the torch. If you keep hearing a louder roaring/hissing sound you probably have your bead TOO CLOSE to the end of the torch.

Q: Why does it seem to take a long time?

Glass will not move unless it is molten. Let the glass get to glowing red, before you marver it. If you only barely heating the surface of the glass, then marvering it you are constantly cooling the bead this may why it is taking time. Get that bead molten red before shaping.

Q: Why does my bead release keep breaking?

If your mandrels are brand new, you may want to burn them a few times and scrub them with sand paper or steel wool. If they are well used, your mandrels may not be clean. Scrub them well before dipping. Bead release that has been on the mandrel for several days/weeks, holds longer/stronger than if it has only been on for half an hour. Also, check for humidity or moisture that may also cause your release to break.

Q: When should I cool my beads?

Beads less than 1" should be well cooled in fiber blanket as soon as you take them from the flame.

Q: Why do my eyes get really tired or hurt after working in a flame for a while?

If you are spending considerable time at the torch, you may consider investing in a pair of glasses that block the IR and UV light emitted by the flame.

Q: Why do I feel really tired after working in a flame for a while?

The torch, while running, is burning some of your available oxygen. Always work in an open, well-ventilated area, if you feel sleepy, STOP WORK take a break, go for a walk, stretch, drink some water. It is advisable to take a 10 minute break every hour.