

DRAGONFLY PENDANT

Text and Demonstration
by William McNerney

Photography and Graphics
by Ryan McNerney



Northstar Glassworks
Clear
NS-066 Sublime Green
NS-041 Butterscotch
Momka's Glass
MB076 Purple Thunder
MB062 Obsidian
Glass Alchemy
GA 4838 Dragon's Eye

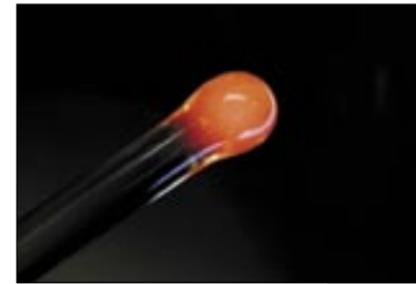
Northstar clear rod in 3 mm. All colors in 7 mm.

Tools and Materials

Small Masher Trimming Shears
Tungsten Pick Tweezers

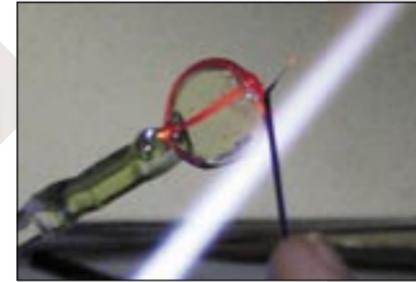
1

Heat the end
of the Sublime
Green rod into a ball.



2

Flatten the
ball with the
masher into a
circle and start
striping the outside
edge with the
Obsidian stringer.



3

Place the
center stripes
and connecting
stripes all using
the stringers
of Obsidian.



4

Rake the
lines as desired.



Place a bit of Purple Thunder stringer material in the wings to give some variation and melt everything in.

5

Using trimming
shears, cut the
wing through the
center to about
the middle.



6

Stretch the wing
segments, separate
the wing pair from
the rod, and set aside.



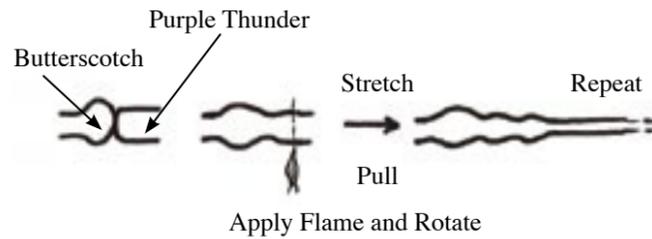
Don't get concerned with perfect shaping yet. Save that for later. Now make another wing set with similar patterns. Try to make a mirror image of the first set.

7

Start making the body by melting the Butterscotch into a ball.



This will be the thorax. Now attach the Purple Thunder rod and melt the junction smooth. You will be starting the segmented tail (anatomically, the abdomen).

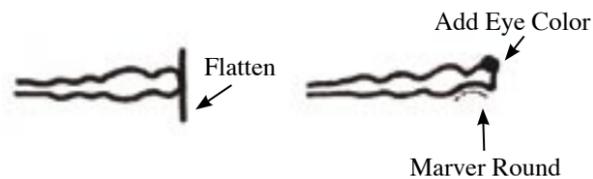


8

Form the segments for the abdomen/tail.



A real dragonfly has ten segments in its abdomen/tail. I think 2-3 segments suggest it nicely without driving me crazy. Use gradient heat and place the flame strategically to accomplish this. Leave the end of the abdomen/tail connected to the Purple Thunder Rod as the punty for continuing work on the dragonfly head and body.



9

Create the head by pulling and condensing the Butterscotch end attached to the body.



Flatten the top of the head, then round the bottom side of the head for the future loop area of the bail. I use the side of my torch for this.

10

Add Dragon's Eye color for the eyes.



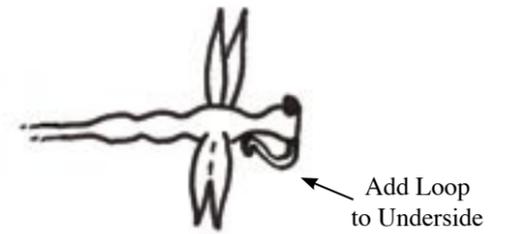
Make these babies **big** and melt in rhomboid-like round. In a real dragonfly, the head is relatively large and dominated by two large compound eyes that are oriented up and to the sides. I think the eyes can make this dragonfly not look like just any old bug.

11

Attach the wings to the completed body.



Once the wings are well centered and melted in, the final shaping of the wings is done. Use gradient heat to pull, shape, and tip the wings so that they are symmetrical.



12

Use the 3 mm clear rod to add the loop connecting to the head and underside for the bail.



13

Dip the entire dragonfly in a bushy, reducing flame to bring some of the silver metallic sheen and colors to the surface.



Flame-cut the tail. Anneal at 1050°F for 15 minutes.

I hope you enjoy this tutorial and find the dragonfly to be a fun project.

crystalbill@gmail.com

© Copyright 2010 by The Flow. All rights reserved.



Bill McNerney has been frameworking for the last five years. He has found the lampworking community to be very supportive at all levels and that, of course, making things in glass is so very rewarding. Bill is a full-time dentist and has found flame-working to be his favorite hobby. He can be contacted through his art website.