

## Glass Diversions

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### **How to work with Silver Leaf / Foil**

The trick to keeping the silver that silver look is keeping the bead cool enough before encasing. You need to encase quickly. So, after rolling your bead in the silver foil and burnishing it in with your marver, keep your bead in the outer part of the flame where it's cooler while you get a gather of hot glass to encase with. You need to be rather quick with this step otherwise you'll melt in your silver and won't see it under the encasing.

If you don't want to encase the silver and you want to melt it in I would suggest putting dots of a transparent or clear on top of the melted in silver and then reduce your whole bead. Where you don't have dots you'll get a reduction look and where the dots are you'll have little windows able to see through to the silver below. That's very cool!

If this fails, consider buying my Palladium leaf because it never melts in so it always looks silvery. It costs a bit more but well worth it if you're having trouble with the silver burning off too quickly.

Also, you can make SIS (Silvered Ivory Stringer). To make this, get a gather of Ivory (I prefer dark ivory) and roll it in either silver foil or leaf (I prefer leaf) then burnish it in well, heat it and pull it into a stringer. You can also pull silvered stringer from other colors. Some of the ones I've tried are: copper green, EDP (purple), rubino, turquoise opaque, petroleum green and clear. They all have a different look to them.

### **When to use Silver Leaf vs. Silver Foil**

Some people prefer silver leaf and some prefer foil. With ivory, leaf gives a more even yellowish-brownish stain, while foil is less even and balls up more into the little silver balls. It depends on which look you like.

Try making a base bead, apply silver leaf or foil, burnish it in, melt it in, then roll in some frit and melt the frit in. Depending on the base color and the frit color, you can get some really nice outlines around the frit. Basically, the silver leaf left on the bead is fuming the frit. The fun part is finding combinations that you like.

Another method: make a base bead, apply thick stringer and don't melt it in. Heat up the stringer and roll in silver leaf. The silver sticks to the stringer and not the base bead. Melt in for a very cool, organic look. You can also try ivory or copper green stringer.

If I want the silver color to remain, I use silver foil. Make base bead, roll in foil and burnish in really well. Then remember not to get the bead too hot...just keep it warm in the outer part of the flame so the foil doesn't burn off. Then add some transparent color or clear on top. Heat the transparent color very hot and pause for a moment before applying it to the bead because if it lands on the bead extremely hot it will burn off the foil. Melt in gently. Watch the heat so the foil doesn't melt in. You can cover the bead entirely with different transparent colors or clear or leave some spaces where the transparent doesn't cover. In those spots, you will get some more organic looking lines and such.

Just don't reduce too long or it will start to blacken. This applies to foil and leaf.