

Glass Diversions

How to work with Silver Wire or Micro-Mesh

When working with mesh cut it into strips, shapes or small pieces before applying.

When your ready to apply your silver wire/mesh, heat up the part of the bead where you want to attach the end of the wire/mesh. (I don't heat the wire/mesh or it will ball up on you from the heat.) Grab your mesh with tweezers or if you're using wire just hold onto it and then touch your wire/mesh to the hot bead and then rotate the bead randomly applying your wire/mesh. Burnish in with a marver to make sure all parts of the wire/mesh have made contact with the bead and attached to it. If not, then when you go to heat it, the wire/mesh will ball up in those spots. And I find that opaque colors more than transparent ones are much better at accepting the wire/mesh.

Once marvered, then heat the wire/mesh so it melts into the bead. You will notice that some areas might ball up which is another great look. It all depends on what look you're going after. If that happens, that's where the wire/mesh wasn't adhered to the bead. Optional: You can encase it in clear or any transparent to trap the wire/mesh and to magnify it but make it a thin layer because a thick layer might crack.

I have found and also heard from others that if you're not encasing the wire/mesh then it's very important to melt it into the glass by at least 2/3. By doing so, it'll be slightly raised. If you don't do this, your wire/mesh will most likely pop off or be able to be picked off because it doesn't have enough surface contact.

These should go right into the kiln (batch annealing can be done but is not recommended) because they cool down too fast and will most likely develop stress cracks. I try to put beads directly into the kiln if I'm adding anything other than glass to a bead.

After all this, some wire/mesh can still pop off so please inspect all your beads carefully. Once annealed, you can check the adhesion of the wire/mesh by using something to try and pry it off with or even one of your fingernails.

Have fun,

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