

# Fancy Latticino Tutorial Using The Inspiration Toolworks Optical Mold By Karen Hardy

*Skill Level – Advanced Beginner to Intermediate*

*(you should know how to pull stringers and create and use a maria)*

This tutorial will teach you how to make a complex looking Latticino twistie using the Inspiration Toolworks Optical mold. Experiment with different color combinations to make some really spectacular twisties. These twisties can then be used to enhance beads by laying them down in various patterns and melting them in. You can also leave them raised for interesting effects.

## What you will need:

Inspiration Toolworks Optical Mold

Graphite marver to put mold on (I use a 6x6)

2 Clear Rods approx 8mm

Up to 5 colors . I prefer to use 3 – (usually one is always black)

Small piece of Chamois or potholder in case you need to move it while hot.

The colors shown in this tutorial are:

Vetrifond Pastel - Green Ocean

Intense Black

Odd Lot Coral

## BEFORE you begin:

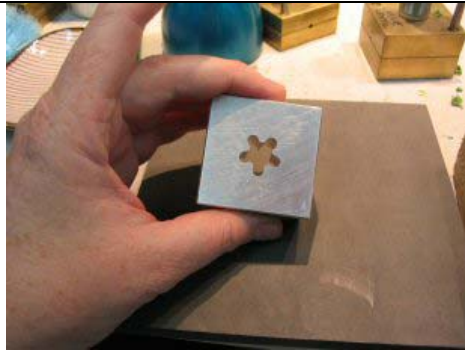
Now, if you're smarter than me (I can only hope) you're first step should be to pull stringers from your colored rods. I did NOT do this in the tutorial, but as I've already said, I'm hoping that your elevator goes to the top floor and you're bothering to read these instructions **and the instructions that came with the mold before** you light that torch and start melting stuff.

You want fairly thick stringers – 2-3mm, as this will make laying down the glass in the crevices much easier than trying to do it with a full rod. Okay – so now that we have those ready to go – let's begin!

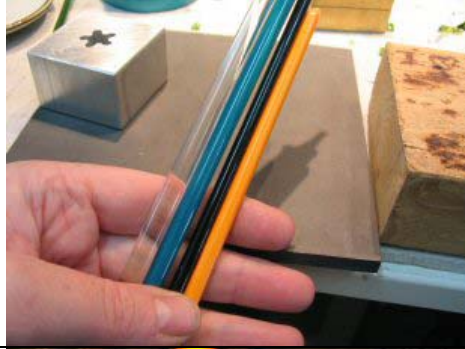
\*\*\*\*\*

Here's the cool optical mold. The mold gets wicked hot while you're using it, so make sure that you put it on something like a graphite pad while you're working. **Put it in a good spot where you can get to it.**

If you do find you need to move it, it helps to have a piece of chamois or a potholder around. **It's better not to need to move it.**



Here's my color choices – Clear for the center, this great Vetrifond blue I found, an odd batch of coral and some intense black!



We're going to make the clear center first, so heat up a nice blob of clear.



You want to plunge that blob into the mold and push down (steady it against the graphite pad!). Pull it out and flash it through the flame so you don't lose heat!



Here's the pretty flower shape before we fill in the crevices! It's not very thick – but you don't want it to be for this project.



Here I'm getting ready to add the blue. I would recommend using a stringer instead of a whole rod, but I'm a lazy you-know-what and just can't be bothered sometimes...



Oops! Darn it! Shocked that puppy right off – how embarrassing...luckily, no one will ever see my mistakes...

These are not the droids you're looking for...move along.....



We filled in the space between two of the petals with the blue, now we're putting the black on. You want to remember to bring the colored glass ALL the way up to the top of the flower.



Here's another line of the black. Again – see...the glass extends all the way to the top. Next we're going to add the coral stripe and we're almost done!



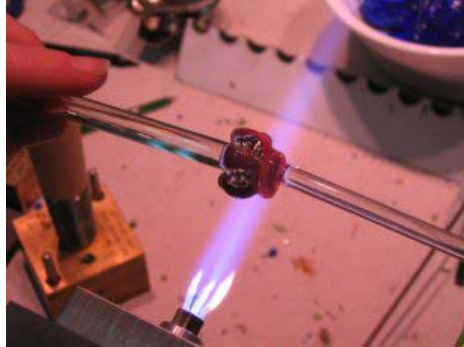
**ACTION SHOT!** Wave that hunk-o-glass in the flame. Thermal shock is a (rhymes with witch) – it's really awful to do this much work and have it pop off when you're **THIS CLOSE** to being finished!



Okey-dokey. Now that all the spaces have been filled, you make a Maria on the end of another rod of clear.



Stick that onto the top of the flower and make sure that you have a nice hot seal. Get the whole thing REALLY hot and melted. Prepare to pull your stringer!



You want to start twisting JUST BEFORE you start pulling. Twist, twist, twist, pull, twist, pull. If it's not hot enough, the finished product won't be smooth and clean. This part definitely takes practice – so don't be disappointed if your first tries are a bit lumpy.



Here's the finished Latticino!  
Mix and match your favorite colors to come up with some awesome combos!



This tutorial, in its entirety, is copyright Karen Hardy 2006. Any copying or redistribution without written permission is prohibited by law.