

The Beadery[®] Melted Bead Suncatcher

Here is an easy way to make a beautiful sun catcher out of melted beads. You can also string several together to make mobiles, wind chimes or a piece of kinetic art.

Materials needed:

- Transparent Beads
- Metal Pans
- Metal Cookie Cutters
- String



Other items and tools needed:

- gas grill (or toaster oven that can be plugged in outside)
- metal tongs or large pliers, hot pads, timer, drill, scissors

Instructions:

Step 1: Cover the bottom of your pan with a single layer of beads. Get as many beads into the pan as you can while keeping them in contact with the bottom of the pan.



Hint: If you don't have a pan the size or shape you want, you can use foil to contain your beads.

Step 2: Preheat the gas grill to approximately 400°F and place the pans in the center. Depending on the size of your grill, the beads should take about 10-15 minutes to melt. Be sure to check the beads frequently and make adjustments for uneven melting due to hot spots.

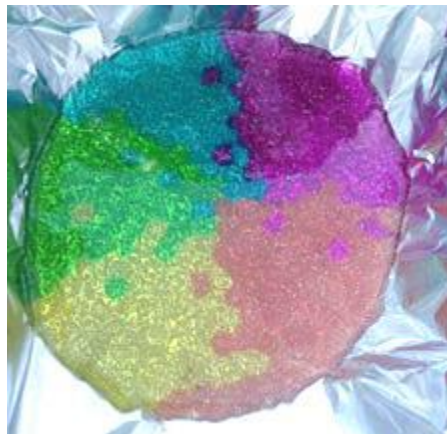
***WARNING: MELTING PLASTIC MAY CREATE NOXIOUS FUMES.
DO NOT ATTEMPT TO MELT PLASTIC USING AN INDOOR OVEN.***



Step 3: When the beads have completely melted, remove the pan from the grill using tongs or pliers and place on hot pads. You will hear crackling as the plastic cools and contracts slightly from the sides and bottom – this is normal.

Note: If you heat the beads too long, they may start to bubble or discolor. When the surface is smooth, the beads are ready to be removed.

***WARNING: THE PLASTIC AND PAN ARE VERY HOT,
BE VERY CAREFUL WHEN MOVING.***



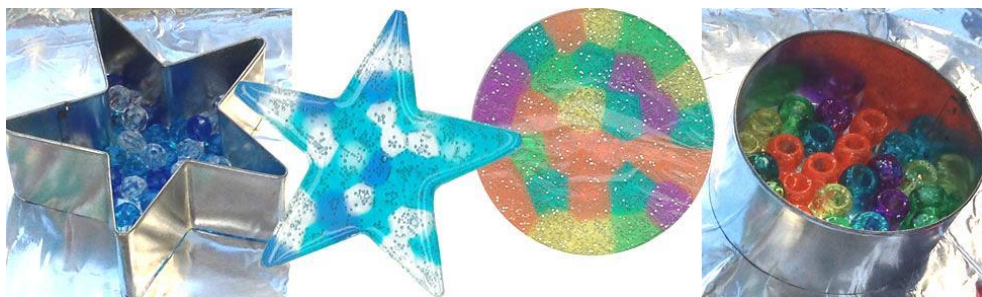
Step 4: After the melted beads have completely cooled, turn the pan over and the shapes will pop out.



Step 5: Use a drill to make a small hole to attach a piece of string for hanging.

Notes:

- Smaller pieces can be made using muffin tins. You can also use cookie cutters to create different shapes. Just place the cookie cutters in a metal pan and fill with beads or surround with beads if you want a shaped hole.



- Round beads will create hexagon shapes when melted together. Different shapes will create other melt patterns, so have fun experimenting.



- If you do not have a gas grill, a small toaster oven can be used *outside* to melt the beads.