

## Glass Diversions

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### How to work with CZ's

My CZ's can be worked up to 2200 degrees Celcius. Most people encase them but you can leave them on the surface as well. FYI...Tanzanite & Emerald should not be overworked in the flame or the color will burn out. All other colors handle well in the flame.

When working with CZ's, I have found a couple ways to place them. Here are my favorite instructions on how to use them:

**Option #1** - Use a dot of white glue at the end of a mandrel (some people use a 6" mandrel) and place 1 CZ on the end of each mandrel. Let sit standing up in sand or Styrofoam to let air dry. Once dry you can use in your lampwork by poking a hole in your bead with a tungsten pick and then heat the hole and lightly press the mandrel tip with the CZ into your hot bead. Hold it for a few seconds. The heat from the bead melts the white glue and places your CZ perfectly where you want it. Use your tweezers or poker and press the CZ into the bead giving the CZ a bezel setting of glass up around the edges holding it in place.

**Option #2** - Have your CZ's laying flat size down. Take your tweezers (*I use locking tweezers which really help so the CZ doesn't fall out of your tweezers. You know the tweezers that stay tightly clamped until you squeeze them to open them up*) and pick up a CZ by the edge of the face. Once I've got the CZ in my tweezers I turn the tweezers over so now the flat side is facing up. Then you have the CZ in the right position in your tweezers. Now I can lay my tweezers down and focus on getting my bead hot and hole plunged.

Spot heat where you want the CZ to go. Use a tungsten pick and poke straight into the bead - not too deep, not too shallow. Then spot heat the hole you just poked, pick up your tweezers and hold the CZ over the hole and squeeze the tweezers so the CZ drops down into the hole. Give the CZ a little more heat by bringing the bead from under the flame (hold for a few seconds) and use the tweezers to push the CZ down a little to bezel set it.

**Optional Step** - Encase or not to encase? That's the question of the day. I like to encase the CZ by covering it with a clear dot. If you're making an encased floral you will want to do this clear dot otherwise you'll have a bubble on top of the CZ and it will not look pretty and will cover the CZ. It's important to get the initial hole going straight down towards the center of the bead/mandrel (not off to the side). If you're not going to encase the CZ, then just make sure you've poked it and bezel set (as explained in Option #1) the CZ so it won't pop off at a later date.

Have fun,

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