

Glass Diversions

How to work with Palladium Leaf

With palladium leaf, try to handle and move it with tweezers and not your fingers. I cut mine into strips and various geometric shapes and then put them on my graphite marver (where it won't stick), then roll over them with my warm bead.

Process: I roll my bead in the palladium leaf and burnish it with my marver quickly before the bead cools. After the palladium is burnished onto the bead, I super heat it in an **oxygenated** flame and cool it in a neutral or slightly reducing flame. I repeat this about 3 times, usually the effect isn't obvious until after annealing. Then I put it straight into a hot kiln. Doing this gives the palladium leaf gorgeous purple, blue & teal hues. It resembles those luster seed beads that have that reflective finish on them. My base bead is usually black, EDP or any other dark opaque. I've also been told you can use transparent as a base color but I haven't tried that.

- Encased, palladium will stay silver.
- Exposed, palladium tends to turn plum, teal, blue-green or blue.

Palladium is wonderful because it can't be melted in if it's burnished in properly. You really can't mess it up and that's what's so fabulous about using palladium leaf. When you want a silver foil look but you tend to melt in silver foil or leaf, palladium is what you need! It's the colors that can come from it that are my reasons for using it. It can shift from the pewter-silvery color it comes in to blues, greens, purples and even some pink.

If your palladium is staying silver when not encasing it, then you're probably getting it too hot. So, let it cool a bit and strike it in the flame (try a slightly reduction flame) before putting it into the kiln. I've also heated my bead in a neutral flame until the whole thing is glowing (almost molten) and then popped it in the kiln to get the really cool colors. There are several ways to get the colors to pop.

FYI...Palladium reacts in lower temperatures, so you won't always see the reactions until after a bead comes out of the kiln. It will show different colors with different types of glass because of the different types of flames needed for each.