

sea glass crafts

Find, Collect, & Craft 20 Projects Using the Ocean's Treasures



Rebecca Ruger



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*Find, Collect, & Craft More Than 20 Projects
Using the Ocean's Treasures*

Rebecca Ruger-Wightman



Racehorse Publishing

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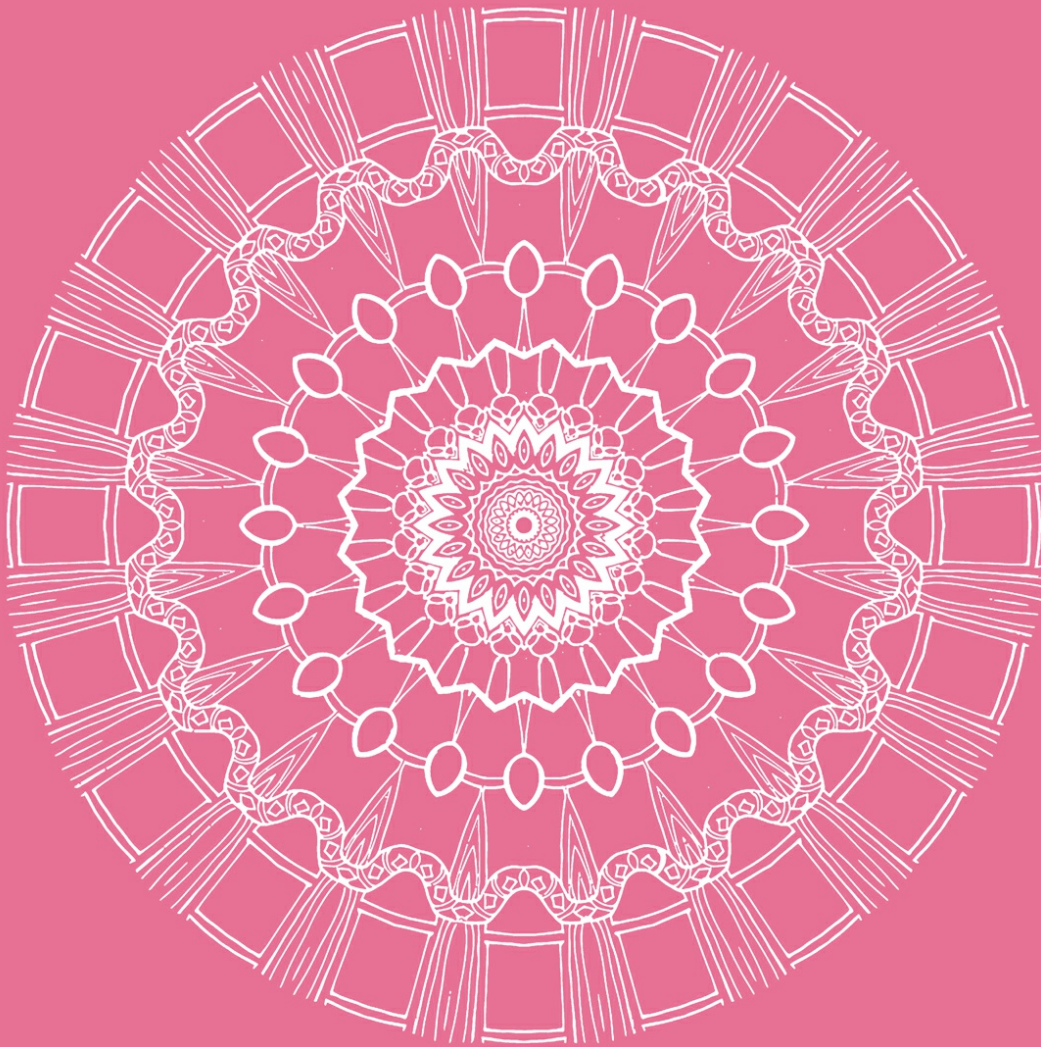
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This book is dedicated to the sea glass community at large—composed of hearty beachcombers who'll brave gale force winds and scorching summer sun, the cold-hurts-your-face winters, and sand in crevices you didn't know you had . . . just to bring home the sea glass. And to the earnest DIY-ers among us, like dogs with bones when we are inspired with new sea glass ideas, who know and appreciate the clever things that can be created with our beach-found treasure.

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Introduction

“One Man’s Trash . . .”

There’s something almost nostalgic about sea glass. Culled from the shores of our beloved beaches, it connects us to the past, evokes memories of childhood, and still offers so much promise for future use. Sea glass, to some, may just be discarded rubble with little appeal; but for so many others, the beautiful shapes and colors of the glass we hunt along the beaches is considered a “vanishing gem” and holds endless possibilities for the artist, jeweler, and crafter.

Sea glass, by its most elementary explanation, is trash: glass that was discarded at old dump sites along the water’s edge, by primitive means or garbage disposal, and often unfortunately by the careless litterer. Sea glass collectors with a romantic side will hope it carries a grander though more tragic tale of having been lost in a shipwreck hundreds of years ago. Whatever the case, the water and the waves have transformed it, over many decades, into the wonderfully smooth treasures that we seek today. Yet, defining genuine sea glass simply as “broken glass” or “trash glass” would be akin to believing that roses are weeds and pumas are merely cats.

There are qualities to sea glass that define how it is categorized. Jewelry quality glass (JQ) is known for its superior and smooth finish, its great frosted appearance, and has nary a chip or crack. Craft-quality sea glass will be less finished: its edges may not be as smooth, there may be shiny spots on its surface, and it may or may not have visible dings and chips. “Uncooked,” “fresh,” or “throwback” glass, picked from the water or

beach but seeming to be too new or too unfinished as sea glass, is usually thrown back into the water with hopes that it will return many years later as a usable shard.

Beach glass, by the way, is nearly synonymous with sea glass, the only difference being that sea glass is a product of salt water, while beach glass is the same treasure found in lakes, rivers, and creeks. It will be nearly impossible to tell the difference between equally worn pieces of sea and beach glass.

For me, the love of sea glass began more than a decade ago. The “thrill of the hunt,” as we say, is still my favorite part. But the crafting began rather incidentally—or accidentally, actually. In 2009, my then eleven-year-old received a jewelry-making kit for Christmas. It sat around for several months before she began to tackle some projects. When she did, she made some pretty rudimentary earrings and a few bracelets, which she immediately “sold” to her young friends. My sister invited her to set up a little shop at her annual Christmas party the next year. My daughter needed little encouragement, and soon we were scouring crafts stores and how-to books to improve her skill. She showed up at the party with not quite twenty pairs of earrings and sold them for \$4 a pair. We still laugh because she somehow made \$90 that night. But that was all it took! She was hooked, and when someone suggested she sell at an upcoming holiday church bazaar, she begged me to let her. She crafted away over the next few weeks, but really didn’t have enough to fill an entire booth at a vendor show. I had been making a few beach glass crafts myself, only for friends, and asked if she wanted to put some out at her table to give it a nice, full appearance. And that’s how it started. People in western New York had never heard of beach glass, and they were intrigued. My daughter and I shared booths at several shows over the next couple of years until her interest waned. By then, I had my own shop on Lake Erie and had expanded my crafts, my skills, and my catalog. But always, the lure of the glass—the history and story of each piece—has been what has drawn me. The items I make are just an extension of my fascination with

beach and sea glass.

For others with this same love of sea glass, their efforts to incorporate these gems into their lives and home are only limited by their imagination. Hopefully, I've taken all the guesswork out of working with sea glass in this book, which presents a wide variety of tried-and-true—and easy-to-make!—projects to inspire you. Feel free to add your own artistic flair and design to any of these creations!

Happy Glassing!

Rebecca

Chapter One

Sea Glass Pictures

Looking for something different to hang on your walls or set on your tabletop? Sea glass pictures make for great decorating and always garner lots of attention. The 3-D effect of the sea glass literally stands out, drawing the eye. “Everyone comments on it,” is heard over and over from happy crafters when speaking of the sea glass pictures hung on their walls.

Ask ten sea glass picture artists the best method for making pictures and you’re sure to get ten different answers. But you’ll also get ten different results and ten different styles. In this first chapter, you’ll find the method I have used for almost a decade. The use of a tried-and-true adhesive is critical to the project. Luckily, I’ve done all the hard work (trial and *many* errors), having tested and discarded several different glues over the years. I like the E6000 adhesive for several reasons: it’s rather quick-setting, holding firm after only an hour, though it needs a good twenty-four hours to cure completely; it stands up to heat and steam, which is mandatory as so many people decorate with beach glass and sea glass in their bathrooms; and it doesn’t yellow over time. Detractors of E6000 complain of the odor, but as with any projects utilizing strong adhesives, we recommend wearing a protective face mask. E6000 does take a little getting used to, as it tends to run a bit out of the tube, but you will find that a little goes a long way.

In regard to the sea glass used, it will depend on the composition of the picture. You will find that sorting through your collection of glass to find

the perfect pieces for your picture project will sometimes take longer than the actual creation of the picture. Whatever your design, do take some time before beginning the steps of picture-making to lay out your project glass first. This will reduce the chances of the finished project not being exactly what you've envisioned.

Basic Flowers

Materials Needed:

- Picture Frame with Glass Pane
- Scrapbook Paper
- Decoupage Glue
- Foam Brush
- Sea Glass
- Beach Stones
- E6000 Adhesive (or a Comparable Adhesive)



Process:

The paper must be glued to the glass pane that accompanied the purchased frame. It is imperative that the paper be “burnished” well enough to eliminate any bubbling underneath.

1. Using the foam brush, cover the frame glass with an even, light layer of decoupage glue.
2. Starting at one end, lay the paper onto the glued surface, and press with a sweeping motion, much as you would when applying contact paper to shelving or wallpaper. With either the palm of your hand or a thinner roll of paper towel, force the paper down solidly onto the glass, and expel any extra glue out from between the paper and glass. Too much decoupage glue will increase your chances of

bubbling the paper; too little glue will run the risk of the paper not adhering properly.



3. Re-assemble the papered glass in the frame, behind the mat, if using one. Allow one hour to dry.
4. Set the sea glass design, as previously laid out, onto your paper in frame.
5. Lift each piece individually, apply the E6000 to the underside, and replace in frame.



6. Allow a full twenty-four hours for the glue to dry.





Beach Glass Family

Similar to Basic Flowers, this project will require adhering the paper to the glass pane of the picture frame. Alternatively, you can use the background paper with quote under the frame glass and glue the sea glass directly onto the glass pane. This, however, gives a different “look,” and it’s slightly trickier to not have any glue showing under your sea glass.

Materials Needed:

- Picture Frame with Glass Pane
- Cardstock
- Decoupage Glue
- Foam Brush
- Sea Glass
- Driftwood Stick
- E6000 Adhesive (or a Comparable Adhesive)
- Printout of Your Favorite Quote



Process:

1. Find your favorite quote and print it onto a craft-quality cardstock paper to fit into the frame you've chosen.
2. Choose your sea glass pieces to create your family; round pieces look best as heads but are sometimes harder to find. You only need a "body" and a "head" piece for each person.



3. Repeat steps one through three from the Basic Flowers ([page 2](#)).
4. Adhere the driftwood stick to the paper, as a “bench” on which your family will sit.
5. Having previously laid out your beach glass people, glue them individually onto the paper in the frame. (*Extra.* Add the family dog or cat!)
6. Allow a full twenty-four hours for the glue to dry.



Quote or Mirror

This picture is relatively simple, as it involves no laying out of the glass to resemble an object or person. Mix up the sea glass colors, or keep it to one color family to match your choice of background paper or your home decor. Also, because the sea glass is on the frame itself, it's easy to change out the quote or mirror, or even add a family photo.

Materials Needed:

- Picture Frame with Glass Pane
- Cardstock or Scrapbook Paper
- Printout of Your Favorite Quote
- Mirror, Cut to Size
- Sea Glass
- E6000 Adhesive (or a Comparable Adhesive)



Process:

1. This particular frame was chosen with purpose. It is well suited to this project, having a “channel” in its structure—meaning the frame has an indent, or a channel with a lip and sides, which gives a good enclosure for the sea glass.
2. For our photo and quote, I found a background photograph of the ocean that serves as a subtle and muted backdrop for our quote. Using Microsoft Word, type in your quote, centering the words and keeping in mind the size of the opening of your frame. Using the “Insert” option in Word, add the picture and right-click to position the photo behind the text.





3. Print your quote picture on quality cardstock and arrange it behind the frame glass, as you would a regular photograph in a frame. If using the mirror option, the glass pane can be set aside (but saved for possible future use, if you decide to switch back to a photo).
4. Reassemble the frame with picture.
5. Add the sea glass. To give a good showing of glass, you'll want to layer and pile it, but be mindful of using enough glue on each piece to hold, but not so much glue that it begins to ooze out between the pieces.
6. Get creative. Add shells, sand dollars, or starfish to accentuate your beach and sea glass theme. Add paper flowers to give it a pretty flourish.
7. Allow a full twenty-four hours for the glue to dry.





Sea Glass Shadow Box

Gather up the family vacation photos! This is a great project to make with the kids, incorporating all their favorite beach finds and your cherished memories. Another option would be to cover the monogram letter with sea glass as well, using the E6000, or paint it an accent color with acrylic paint.

Materials Needed:

- Shadow Box Frame
- Sea Glass and Shells
- Push Pins (usually included with shadow box)
- Wooden Monogram Letter
- Family Photos



Process:

1. Ready your shadow box frame. A front-loading shadow box is recommended, as they are easier to manage when arranging the items within, and it's simpler to add items in the future. Clean the frame glass with glass cleaner.
2. Arrange your pictures as a backdrop using the pins included with the frame.



3. Place your monogram letter inside. Strategically placed additional pins will hold the letter in place when hung on the wall.
4. Add your collected sea glass and beach-found treasures. (It is not suggested that you glue anything directly to the burlap or fabric that usually comes with the frame as, over time, the glued items are likely to fall.) The sea glass should be tucked just at the bottom of the frame, and it's quite simple to open the shadow box and rearrange to your liking.



Sea Glass Pottery Abstract

Make no mistake, ceramic pieces and pottery shards found on the beach—while not glass—are considered part of the sea glass family. They are sometimes considered an even greater find than beach glass because they are rarer, and most deem them more personal items than sea glass; ceramic, porcelain, and pottery pieces—certainly those with patterns still remaining—were not simply mass-produced canning jars or beer bottles. They were cup and saucers, dinner plates, and pitchers that once graced the family dinner table or a tea service of years gone by. This simple mosaic is a great vehicle to show off the patterns you have collected. A group of these in several different sizes makes for a fabulous wall display.

Materials Needed:

- Beach-Found Pottery Shards
- E6000 Adhesive (or a Comparable Adhesive)
- Square Matted Frame
- Heavy White Cardstock



Process:

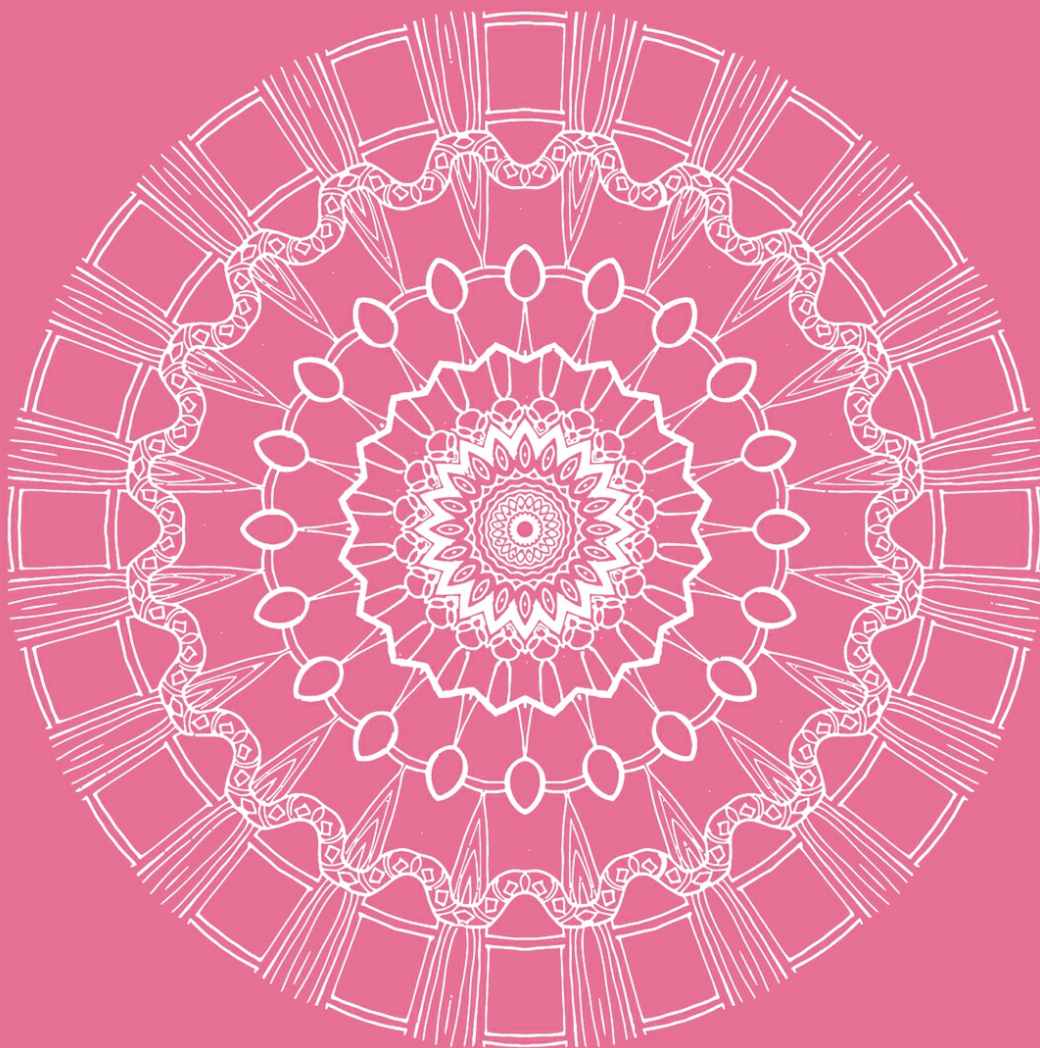
1. Prepare your frame. Adhere your cardstock directly onto the glass of the frame using the instructions from the Basic Flowers ([page 2](#)), steps one through three.
2. Arrange the pottery shards inside the mat of the frame, using the pieces with straight edges for the outside and corners. If using several different colors of pottery shards, be careful to not group too many of the same color together. It's a good idea to add a few non-patterned fragments to give a break in the scheme if using many colors. (If you're lucky enough to have enough of all the same hue or shade, eliminate the non-patterned pieces.)





3. Use the E6000 to affix each piece separately, again being careful to use the proper amount of glue.
4. Allow a full twenty-four hours for the glue to dry.





Chapter Two

Sea Glass and Candles

There are many reasons we love candles. We decorate with them and use them for celebrations, romance, and spiritual purposes. We meditate with them, or simply employ them to give the perfect ambiance to the dinner table. They give a soft and warm glow and provide a feeling of comfort. Adding sea glass to your candles can only make them better! Any of the following candle and sea glass crafts can be made with scented, unscented, or aromatherapy candles.

Gel Candle with Sea Glass

Some people may enjoy the addition of an ocean scent to these seascape candles and a bit of glitter or color. Keep in mind that if adding color, a little goes a long way. It is recommended that you use a toothpick dipped into the color and then into the heating gel rather than pouring the color directly into the gel. Too much color will make it difficult to see the sea glass inside your finished candle seascape.

You can create a gel candle with “suspended” sea glass by pouring gel in 1-inch increments, adding sea glass, and allowing to set until rubbery before adding the next inch of gel and sea glass until the candle is filled. The beauty of a gel candle to me, however, is the way the sea glass looks inside the gel—like a watercolor painting, the pieces are almost transparent and seem to shimmer and be made of water themselves.

Materials Needed:

- Clear Glass Container
- Sea Glass
- Gel Candle Wax
- Candle Wick (non-wire, core-bleached wicking is recommended)
- Sand, Broken Shells, or Decorative Gravel
- Hot Glue Gun
- Scissors

Optional: Glitter, Color Additive, and Scent



Process:

1. Prep your container and wick. Place a dab of hot glue at the bottom center of your glass container. Press one end of the wick firmly in place there, making sure the length of the wick is appropriate to the height of the glass container used. Wrap the top of the wick around a straw or spoon or fork and lay across the top of the glass container to keep the wick from falling fully into the gel.



2. Add the sand, gravel, or shell pieces to the bottom of the container

in a level amount all around the wick. This should only cover the bottom of the container and the glued base of the wick. Give the glass container a steady shake to level if needed.

3. Heat the candle gel according to directions on the product. This will involve melting the gel in a stovetop pan, over low heat, and NOT bringing it to a boil. If using gel candle dye or color, or scent, these should be added now.
4. Pour the melted gel wax into your glass container. Be careful not to pour directly onto the sandy bottom as this may cause cloudiness. Drizzle the wax slowly down the wick so that it pools, rather than splashes, into the bottom and sets up nicely. Pouring slowly will reduce bubbles in the set wax. Leave plenty of space in the container, as adding the sea glass will raise the level of the gel wax.





5. Add your sea glass. Disperse different colors all around the bowl of the glass container so several colors are visible from any angle.
6. Set the candle where it will not be disturbed for at least twelve-hours. The gel will set, and any trapped bubbles should rise to the top and pop. If more bubbles appear after this twelve-hour timeframe, simply place the candle on a baking sheet and insert into a 200-degree oven for twenty-five to thirty minutes.
7. Use scissors to trim your wick to 1 inch above the gel.
8. There is no limit to creativity! Add sand dollars or starfish within the layers, or put an entire beach scene with a mini Adirondack chair and umbrella in the bottom of a larger glass container before adding the layers of gel and sea glass. Check out the fairy garden or doll house departments in craft stores for ideas and separate pieces.

***Note:** The hot glue will only hold the wick in place until moments after the gel is poured. The hot gel will unset the hot glue, but if left

undisturbed at this time, until the gel is set, the wick will stay in place.*

Coastal Wine Glass Candle Holder

These candle holders are perfect for your patio bar or even your dining room table. Choose a sand color that will allow the sea glass to be seen but that also matches the colors of your chosen display spot. Adding shells or any other ocean-themed items inside is completely optional. Always allow the sea glass to be center stage!

Materials Needed:

- Plain Wine Glass or Water Goblet Glass
- Sea Glass
- Twine
- Light-Colored Décor Sand, Heavier Grit
- E6000 Adhesive (or a Comparable Adhesive)
- Short Pillar Candle
- Round Wood Disc
- Acrylic Paint and Foam Brush



Process:

1. Use the foam brush to paint the bare wood disc. The inside should be painted white to provide the basic colorless backdrop for the contents of the glass. The outside should be painted to give a finished look to the project. Ideally, the disc will be just a bit larger in diameter than the rim of the wine glass. Allow to dry completely before continuing.

2. Fill the wine glass. Lay the glass on its side and place the sea glass inside the bowl of the glass, pushing it up toward the stem. Next, add a fair amount of sand to cover the bottom of the upside-down standing glass. Give the glass a gentle shake to move the contents away from the rim of the glass. The sand and glass will shift while working; using the thicker sand will first, eliminate much of the dust you would find in the small grain sand, and second, allow the sand—once the project is completed—to settle nicely on the bottom, under the sea glass without leaving dusty residue.





3. Affix the wood disc to the rim of the glass. Use a thin layer of E6000 along the rim edge and press the wood disc firmly in place, making sure it covers the bowl of the glass completely and is centered on the rim. Do not stand the glass upside down at this point until the glue is dry, so the sand does not stick to it. Slowly stand the glass upright. Allow to dry completely.
4. Wrap the twine around the wine glass and the candle. When the glue holding the disc in place is completely dry, stand the wine glass upside down. The sand and sea glass now secured within should settle into place. With a glue gun and heated glue stick, place a dab of glue at the starting point of wrapping. Keep the twine tight as you wrap, avoiding spaces between the twine. Place another dab of glue at the end point of wrapping and press the twine firmly into place. Wrap the base of the candle holder to the desired height, which should be below the sand line. Wrap the stem of the wine glass, from the bowl to the base. Next, add rope or twine to the candle itself. Hot glue will not adhere to the candle; use E6000 or other heavy glue to affix rope to candle.





5. Place your twine-wrapped candle onto the underside of the base of the glass, which is now the top of your candle holder.
6. Optionally, you can add ocean-themed charms or shells to the project at the point where the bowl of the glass meets the stem.

Terra Cotta Pot Candle Holder

This project is such a treat and can be done with any size terra cotta planter. It all depends on how much sea glass you have and want to use. Pick your favorite color paint, use several different colors to paint the planter pot, or go all out and decoupage the pot with lightweight scrapbook paper in coastal colors or patterns.

Materials Needed:

- Terra Cotta Pot and Saucer
- Acrylic Paint or Spray Paint
- Foam Brush
- Pillar Candle
- Sea Glass
- Hot Glue Gun
- E6000 Adhesive (or a Comparable Adhesive)
- Nautical/Sisal Rope or Thick Twine
- Starfish, Bows, or Other Decoration



Process:

1. Prepare the pot and saucer. Thoroughly cover the terra cotta planter with paint. If using spray paint, remember to work in a well-ventilated area and cover all surrounding surfaces for protection. Using acrylic paint will likely require two coats; allow each coat to dry completely before proceeding.



2. Attach the pot and saucer. Stand the pot on its head. Using the glue gun, trace a line of glue around the bottom of the planter pot and place the saucer carefully on top, rim side-up, centered evenly.





3. Attach the twine or heavier rope. Run a neat layer of hot glue along the underside of the rim of the pot and affix the rope in two rows (one length around the pot will not be visible when pot is right-side up). Add an additional line of rope to the bottom outside edge of the pot, where the saucer will eventually be attached. Attach the starfish, bow, or other decorations. Lay the pot onto its side, using

two objects on either side or something cushiony to keep it from rolling. Using the glue gun and hot glue, fasten the starfish or other decoration near to the top rim of the pot, mindful that it not be place beyond the top as this is the base of the finished project. Allow to dry completely.

4. Stand up the joined pieces. The saucer is now the top of your candle holder. Place the pillar candle in the center of the dish and surround with sea glass colors of your choosing.





Votive Holder with Sea Glass

This simple little project really shows off the sea glass well when a small tealight or votive candle is lit inside. You can use any size or shape of glass container desired, depending on the amount of sea glass you have on hand. The larger the votive holder, the more sea glass it will take to cover it. Four-sided glass containers are perfect as they lie flat to allow for an easier time of gluing—the sea glass tends to slide down on the curved sides of round glass containers.

Materials Needed:

- Clear Glass Votive Holder
- Sea Glass
- E6000 Adhesive (or a Comparable Adhesive)
- Tealight or Votive-Size Candle



Process:

1. Prepare your surface. Clean the glass with glass cleaner to remove any traces of oils from hands or any other surface debris that will inhibit the sea glass from adhering properly to the container glass.
2. Attach the sea glass. Lie the candle holder glass on its side and affix sea glass pieces one at a time using the E6000. Be mindful of the bottom of the glass container and where the sea glass pieces are set; pieces that jut out over the bottom will cause the candle holder to be wobbly if the sea glass extends beyond the base. Allow to set for at least one hour before continuing.



3. Turn container glass onto the next side and repeat step two. Allow to set for at least one hour before continuing.
4. Continue with sides three and four, allowing enough drying time in between so the sea glass doesn't slide, shift, or fall off when turned onto the next side.
5. When all four sides are completely covered in sea glass and have been allowed time to set, fill in the corners with sea glass one piece at a time. Use something soft or cushiony to hold the glass corner-up. We used a bit of rolled rope to steady the glass. Allow a full twenty-four hours to dry completely.
6. Place the candle inside. The E6000 will hold against the small heat of a lit candle, but if you are concerned about the heat and the glue,

or if you've chosen a container that is particularly narrow, it's a good idea to use a candle within that comes in its own glass votive holder, thus placing a glass candle inside your glass container.



Chapter Three

Quick Crafts

The following projects are presented to offer some options for items to be made rather quickly, without the fuss of grouting, drilling, or other more time-consuming processes. These are happy beginner projects, perfect for the casual crafter looking to incorporate sea glass quite easily. All materials needed are easily found at your local craft stores or Etsy shops.



Memory Locket

Materials Needed:

- Memory Locket, with Clear Glass and Magnetic Closure
- Necklace Chain
- Sea Glass
- Locket Charms (charms without a bail or loop)

It's This Easy:

Open locket and place sea glass and charms, forward facing, inside. Close locket and pass necklace chain through bail or loop on locket.





Marble in Locket Necklace

Materials Needed:

- Round-Hinged Locket or Bead Cage, Large Enough for Sea Glass Marble
- Sea Glass Marble or Favorite Piece
- Necklace Chain

It's This Easy:

Simply insert marble into bead cage and slide the necklace chain through the closed loop. These bead cages or marble lockets are readily available from many jewelry findings shops and Etsy shops, and are the perfect vehicle for the elusive sea glass marbles!



Wine Bottle with Sea Glass and Lights

Materials Needed:

- Wine Bottle, Emptied
- 10-Foot Mini LED Light String, Battery Operated
- Sea Glass

It's This Easy:

The title says it all. Take any empty wine bottle, remove label and clean bottle—clear bottles work best to show the colors of the sea glass. You can make quick work of the glue from the label with a little Ajax, a scratch-free scrubber (that you won't use again), and about thirty seconds.

Feed a small strand of twenty-five strung lights, or the even smaller rice lights, into the bottle from the top, adding sea glass pieces intermittently as you feed the entire strand, minus the plug end, into the bottle. Fill until the entire bottle is full of sea glass and lights. The plug end of the lighted strand will remain outside the bottle with enough cord for reaching an electrical outlet.



Creative Touch: Use paint pens to decorate the bottle, or mailing labels to mark where the enclosed sea glass was found. Throw an artificial flower in the bottle to hide the cord coming out from the top. Makes a cute night-light!

Bird Bath Bedside Table

Materials Needed:

- Indoor or Outdoor Decorative Birdbath
- Sea Glass
- Round Glass Topper
- Clear Protective Pads for Glass

It's This Easy:

If your birdbath is a darker color, you may want to consider spray painting it white or a soft cream color, so the sea glass will show under the glass topper. Once clean and dry, fill the basin of the birdbath with the desired color and amount of sea glass. This project actually shows better if you don't fill it too much. Alternatively, you can make a little beach garden in your birdbath by adding sand, sea shells, sand dollars, and starfish. You can likely find round glass toppers in your local craft stores, but if your birdbath is larger, the nearest glass-cutting business can usually make this piece for a very reasonable price, with good beveled or smooth edges. Affix the clear glue dots on the underside of the glass topper in four to six spots at equal intervals to secure the glass; press the glass firmly onto the glue dots to prevent the glass from moving side to side or sliding along the rim.





Filled Sea Glass Lamp

Materials Needed:

- Fillable Lamp or Lamp Adaptor Kit, Mason Jar, and Lampshade
- Sea Glass

It's This Easy:

This beauty will surely be the focal point of any room! Fillable lamps are found at many home goods stores and discount shops, and are plentiful on the internet. Craft stores even sell lamp-topper kits that turn household mason jars into lamps. Be careful of the size you purchase if you wish to have it full immediately—make sure you have plenty of glass to fill the base. Two cups of sea glass in a lamp base with a 6-inch diameter will barely fill the bottom 2 inches of the lamp. A coordinating, but not distracting lamp shade (let the sea glass be the star!) will finish this nicely.





Sea Glass Wine Stoppers (Glued)

Materials Needed:

- Sea Glass
- E6000 Adhesive (or a Comparable Adhesive)
- Wine Cork
- Acrylic Paint

It's This Easy:

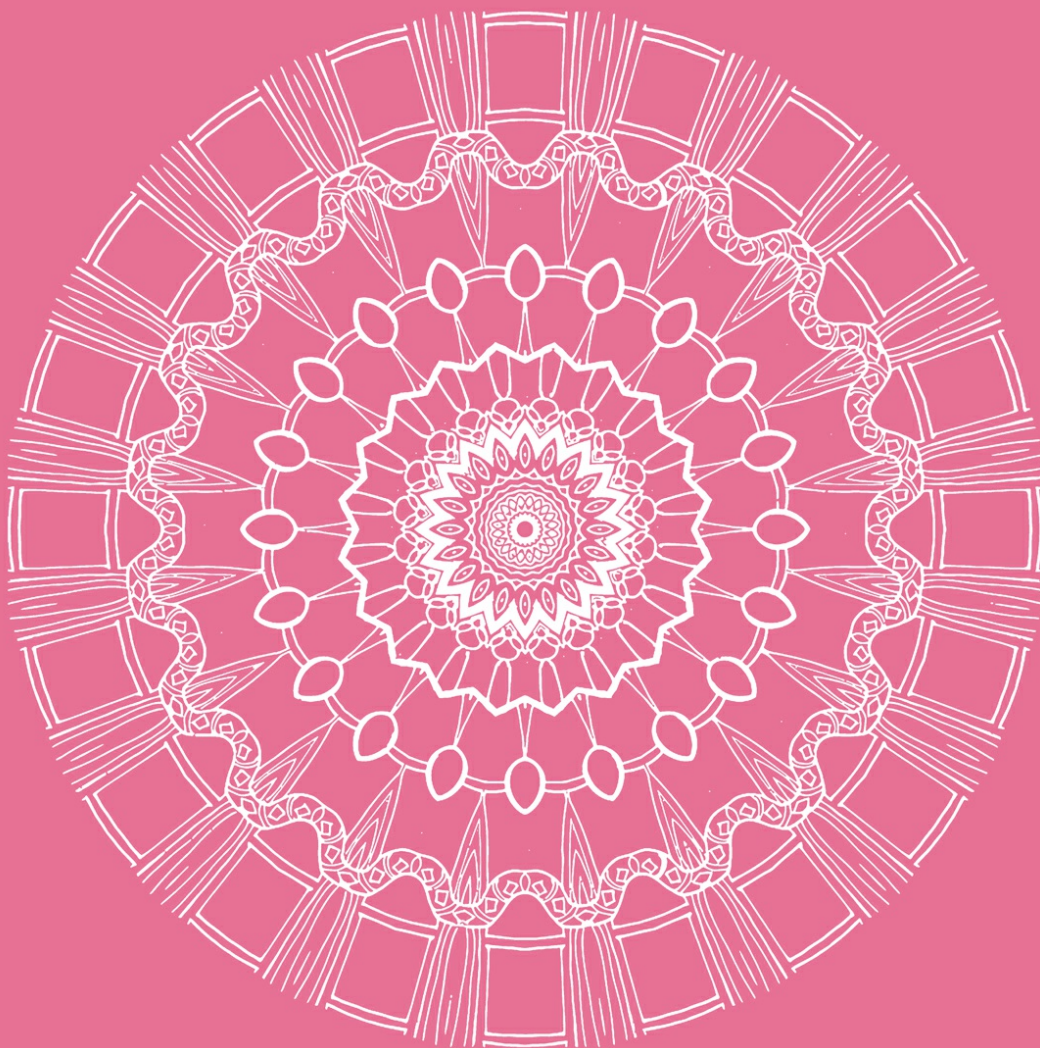
Flat pieces of sea glass work better at the base of your stacked stopper, but a nice bulbous or rounded piece finishes it well at the top.

Apply a thin coat of acrylic paint to the flat top of the wine cork. This will create a good base for the glue and allow better color showing of the glass itself. Allow to dry at least three hours.

It's best to glue one piece at a time and allow at least twenty minutes of dry time before adding the next piece. Keep level while allowing to dry. After all pieces are affixed to the cork, "paint" a layer of clear acrylic around the sea glass for added durability and to achieve a "wet look." Use a matte finish acrylic finish for less shine. Finish with twine or leather wrapping near where the glass meets the cork. Makes a great hostess gift when attached to a bottle of wine!



***Tip:** This sea glass stopper can be made with any type of flat-topped wine cork—glass, plastic, acrylic, or wood.*



Chapter Four

Grouted Sea Glass

Make a beautiful sea glass garden path with stepping stones, add pizzazz to your room with grouted mosaic sea glass switch plate covers, or let the sea glass coasters take center stage when you entertain. It's easy to be intimidated by the mosaic/grouting process, but the projects are quite simple and the finished products are so unique, it's definitely worth giving them a try. All the items on the materials list can be found at your local craft stores.

Stepping Stone

If you choose to create a pattern or design, you can sketch it out on the back side of the contact paper with a marker. Alternatively, you can employ a random scatter of sea glass and will not need to sketch out a pattern.

Materials Needed:

- Plastic Basin
- Sea Glass
- Contact Paper
- Thin-set Mortar or Concrete
- Non-stick Cooking Spray
- Trowel or Plastic Knife
- Grout Sealer
- Rubber Gloves

Optional: Sketch, Pea Gravel



Process:

1. Spray the plastic basin with non-stick cooking spray. This will facilitate removal of the stepping stone once it's dried.
2. Cut the contact paper to fit the inside bottom of your plastic basin. If you're sketching a pattern, do this now on the non-sticky side of the contact paper. Lay the paper inside the basin, sticky side up.
3. Attach each piece of sea glass onto the contact paper upside-down in the desired pattern. When the stepping stone is removed from the basin, the side of the piece facing the contact paper will be the top of your stone.



4. Mix the thin-set mortar or concrete with water, following the package instructions. (Pea gravel can be added to strengthen the stone; this is unnecessary if you live in a milder climate or will bring your stone in for the winter. In general, mix two parts wet thin-set to one part pea gravel by weight. For example, to make one stepping stone, use four parts wet thin-set mixed with two pounds of pea gravel.)
5. *Tips for using and working with thin-set:* Wear a dust mask to avoid breathing in the fine powder, and mix it outdoors if possible, using thick rubber gloves for protection. Roughly, you will use $\frac{1}{4}$ pound of water per one pound of thin-set. Properly mixed thin-set should be about the consistency of thin cake frosting. The working time for thin-set is about two to three hours if it's covered when not in use. Do NOT dispose of leftover thin-set in plumbing or down drains; it is concrete and can harden underwater.

6. Pour your mixed thin-set into the plastic mold to the desired height. I suggest a good 1 ½ inch depth to create a solid and sturdy stepping stone. Level the thin-set with a trowel or plastic knife.





7. Allow to dry for at least twenty-four hours.
8. Remove the stone from the mold. Turn the plastic mold over and press from the center of the underside while pulling away at the sides. Peel the contact paper away from the stone. Clean off any residue on the top surface of your sea glass. You may find “voids” in the top of the stone where air bubbles went unnoticed. This is easily fixed by mixing up a small amount of thin-set and filling the holes. If you find the thin-set managed to ooze between the glass and contact paper and is now covering your sea glass, simply use a screwdriver to chisel or scrape away the extra thin-set.
9. Sand the edges with medium grit sandpaper, or use the damp sponge to round out the edges or corners. Wipe the entire stone top with a wet sponge.
10. After forty-eight hours, apply a thin coat of tile and grout sealer to

protect your stone.







Switch Plate Cover

Switch Plate Covers can be found at any hardware store and are even available at Walmart. You can use the basic plastic kind, or wood, or even metal. As with so many sea glass projects, a white background will always allow for the sea glass to be shown to its best effect. Likewise, uncolored grout will also show the sea glass to its greatest advantage. If you choose to use a wooden switch plate cover, you can paint it white, but at the very least must give it a quick seal with some spray shellac and let it dry, as you will need to seal the wood so it doesn't soak up the water from the grout.

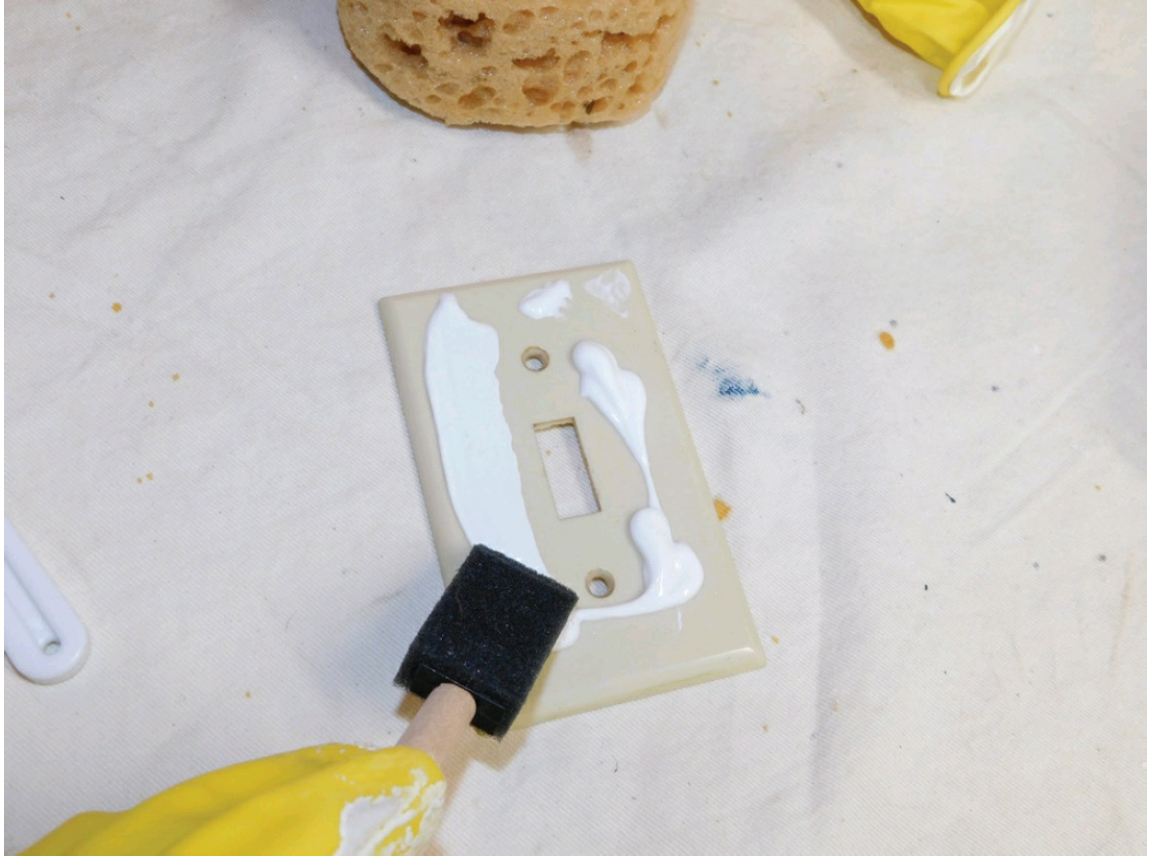
Materials Needed:

- Switch Plate Cover
- E6000 Adhesive (or a Comparable Adhesive)
- Foam Brush
- Sea Glass
- Grout
- Grout Sealer
- Rubber Gloves
- Cake Candles or Drinking Straw



Process:

1. Coat the entire switch plate cover with E6000, applied as a thin coat with a foam brush.
2. While the glue is still wet, affix each shard of sea glass to the switch plate cover. Allow to dry completely, up to twenty-four hours. It's important there are no spaces between the glass and glue, as grout will seep underneath the sea glass and reduce color vibrancy.
3. When glue is thoroughly dry, apply the grout to your project. Use standard size cake candles or drinking straws to protect the screw holes. The pre-mixed grout (mostly sold at craft stores) will work, but regular thin-set will hold better. Remember to follow grout package instructions for mixing, aiming for a cake frosting consistency. For this small project, it's okay to simply use your hands to fill in the grout; wearing the rubber gloves, scoop out a good bit of the grout from the mix and smear it all over the glued sea glass mosaic. Fill in all the spaces between the sea glass pieces and make the grout as level as possible all across the surface, wiping away and discarding all excess. (See Instruction No. 5 in the Stepping Stone for best thin-set/grout practices.)





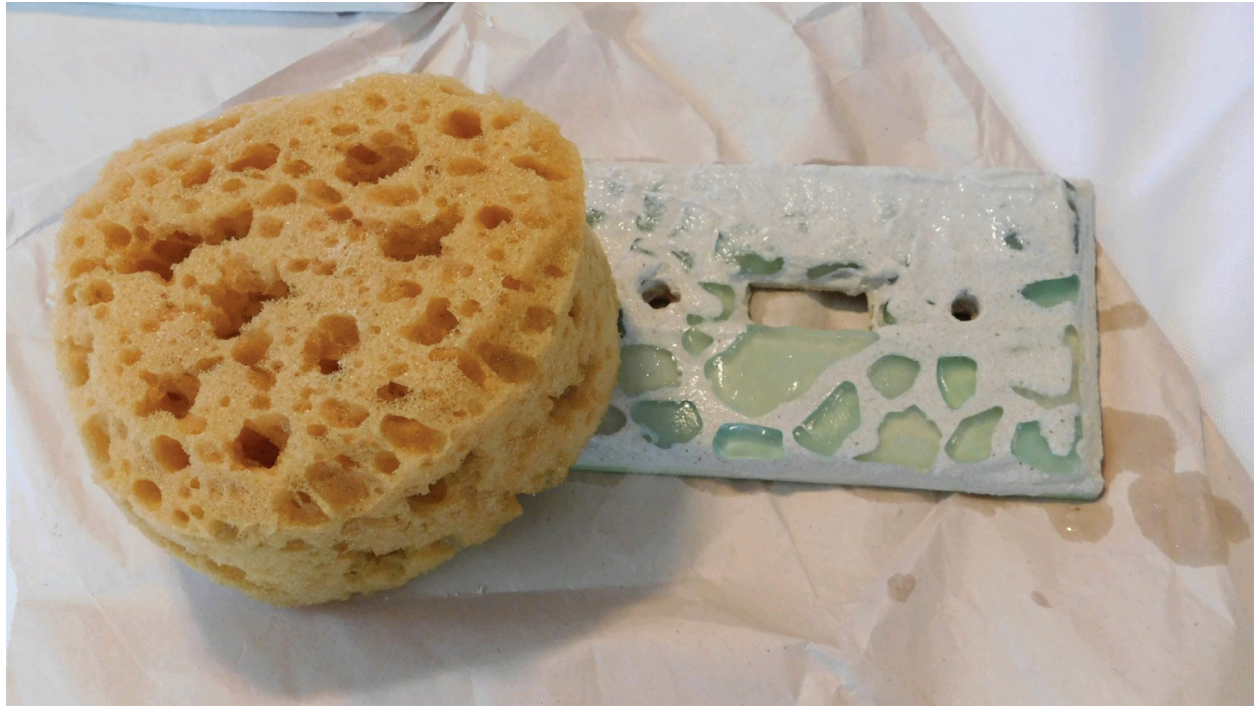


4. After about ten to fifteen minutes, use a damp rag or sponge to wipe away and clean up the grout.
5. Allow to dry completely overnight and then wipe again with a damp rag or sponge to remove all traces of grout from the sea glass pieces and smooth all rough edges. (Note: A bit of grout was intentionally left in the lines of a patterned piece of sea glass; this

gives great detail to the glass pattern.)

6. After forty-eight hours, apply a coat of grout sealer.





Sea Glass Tile Coasters

This project is very similar to the Stepping Stone on [page 42](#), but naturally done on a smaller scale. The molds are inexpensive enough that buying and making four coasters at a time is easy and a time saver. Wrapped with a pretty bow, these make great hostess or wedding gifts.

Materials Needed:

- Coaster Mold
- Sea Glass
- Contact Paper
- Cooking Spray
- Grout
- Grout Sealer
- Rubber Gloves
- Trowel or Plastic Knife
- Damp Sponge
- E6000 Adhesive (or a Comparable Adhesive)
- Thin Sheet of Cork



Process:

1. Spray the plastic mold with cooking spray.
2. Cut the contact paper to size, to fit almost perfectly in the bottom of the mold. Place the contact paper sticky side up, to hold the sea glass in place.
3. Arrange your sea glass in any desired pattern. Keep in mind the side of the sea glass that is touching the contact paper is the top of your coaster; you want this side, or these pieces, to be as flat as possible so the coaster can safely hold a drinking glass—severely curved sea glass might tip or topple any drinking glass set onto the

coaster. Keep the sea glass at least 1/8 inch away from the side of the coaster for added security, as the grout needs to be able to fill in all around the sea glass to hold it in place effectively.



4. Add the mixed grout. Carefully pour and level the grout to a depth no greater than 1/2 inch. The top of the grout, once removed from the mold, will be the bottom of your coaster, and it should be as level as possible for a stronger connection to the later-applied cork bottom.
5. Being much smaller than our Stepping Stone, the coaster can be removed from its mold after only a few hours. (While the grout is

setting, you might notice a small amount of heat produced and the mold will be warm to the touch. When the grout is set, the plastic of the mold will be completely cool again.)

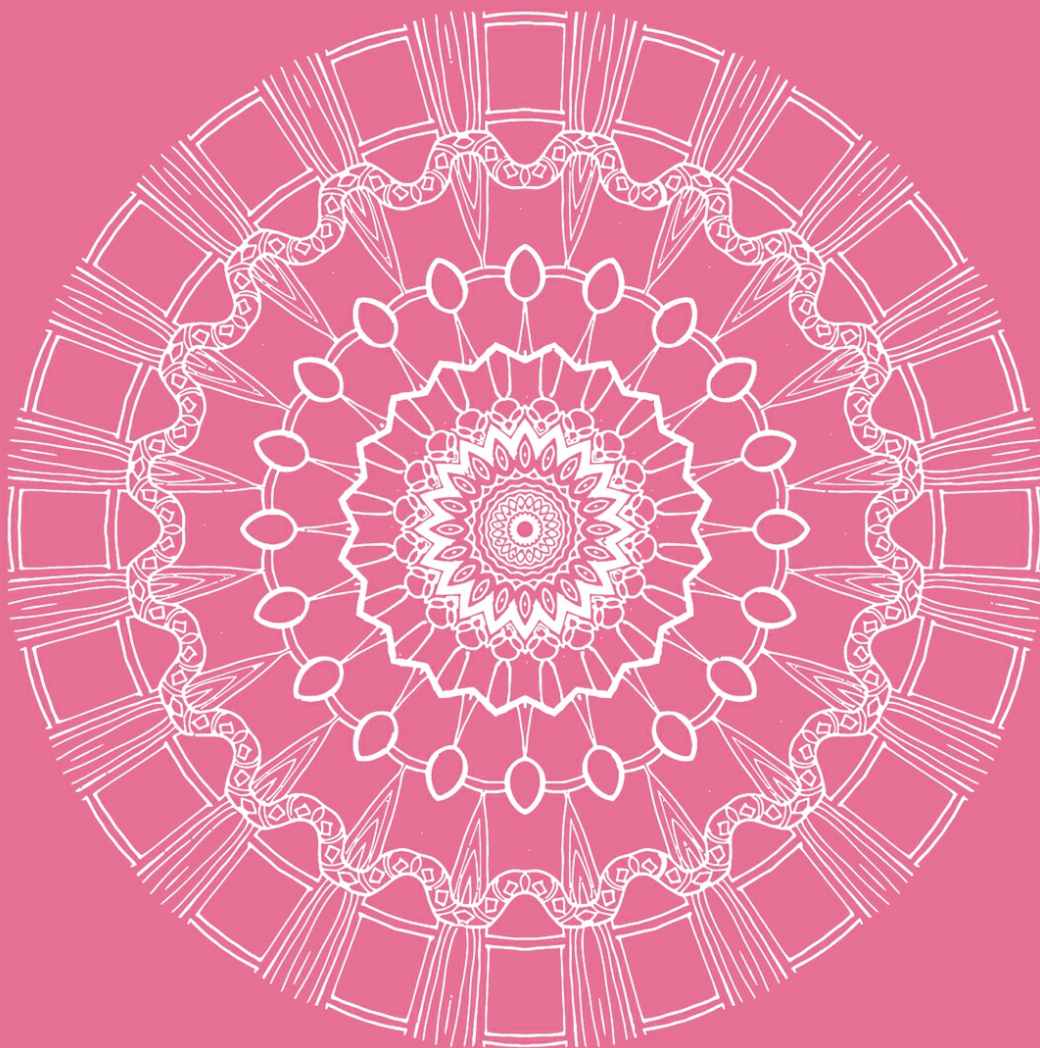
6. Release the coaster from the mold. Turn it over and press against the middle of the back of the mold while also pulling away at the sides of the mold.



7. Peel off the contact paper from the (now) top of the coaster.
8. Wipe the surface of the coaster with a damp sponge and use sand paper, if needed, to reduce any rough or uneven edges.
9. Apply grout sealer after six to eight hours. Allow the sealer to dry for another six to eight hours.
10. Finally, use the E6000 to apply the measured and pre-cut cork bottom to the coaster.







Chapter Five

Sea Glass Gifts

The charm of gifts made with sea glass is that they are so unique. You won't find these items in the mall or at any large retailers. So now you have a one-of-a-kind offering for your sea glass friends and loved ones. But don't stop here—any of the projects in this book (not just the ones in this chapter!) would make for perfect gifts.



Air Plant with Glass

The beauty of air plants is that they require so little care—no green thumb needed, these little beauties will last forever! But they do require *some* care. Nourish them once a week by setting them in a dish of water for fifteen to twenty minutes. Air plants should be kept where they'll receive bright, indirect sunlight. Additionally, they do fine under fluorescent home/office lighting. Put them together with sea glass in any size or shape glass terrarium and you've got yourself an easy, beautifully tropical live plant.

Materials Needed:

- Air Plant
- Terrarium Globe, Glass Container
- Sea Glass
- Shells, Starfish, Sand Dollars, or Sea Urchins



Process:

1. Gather your supplies. Any size, shape, and color of sea glass will work, but we do suggest using nicely frosted pieces to offset the shininess of the terrarium glass. For the glass, there are several shapes and sizes specifically made for terrariums, but don't be boxed in by these—any glass container that will allow the plant to breathe and the sea glass to be seen well is suitable for this project.
2. Add the sea glass. Place all your pieces in the bottom of the terrarium.
3. Set your air plant on top of the sea glass. This does not need to be “planted,” or buried in the glass. Just set it agreeably on top of your piled glass.



4. Add your embellishments. Place your shells and starfish or whatever extras you choose artfully around the air plant.
5. For gift giving, choose a gift bag that has a bottom width at least as wide as the diameter of the widest part of the terrarium container. Cut a piece of cardboard to fit flat on the inside bottom of the bag (under your tissue paper) to give support as terrarium glass is thinner glass usually. Wrap the terrarium in tissue paper, leaving the top open. Pack the bag with additional tissue to keep the air plant level and safe.



Mini Pail with Sea Glass

You may have collected sea glass over the years that has no apparent use—it's not jewelry quality with a soft, frosted finish, but neither is it craft-quality sea glass, being either too curved or too shiny still. Here's a quick gift idea to make use of that sea glass that just doesn't fit anywhere else. These are great for party or wedding favors, too!

Materials Needed:

- Mini Tin Pail
- Acrylic Paint or Spray paint
- Foam Brush
- Sea Glass
- Small Organza Bag
- Ribbon and Gift Tag



Process:

1. Gather the sea glass into the organza bag and draw the attached ribbon closed.
2. Paint the mini pail. If using spray paint, remember to wear protective gloves and mask and spray in a well-ventilated area. For acrylic paint, apply one coat of paint with foam brush and allow to dry for thirty minutes. Apply second layer of paint. Allow to dry an additional thirty minutes.
3. Place the sea glass pouch into the pail. Use shredded paper or pea gravel on the bottom of the mini bucket if the filled bag appears too

small in the tin, or sits too low.

4. Wrap the ribbon around the mini pail and tie a bow.
5. Add gift tag or note.





Thank
you!



Bookmarks A

For the book reader on your list, or as fun project for you and the kids or grandkids, these easy DIY bookmarks make a great gift! Or add several to your own library of books. Choose your favorite ribbon color—use a different color than the sea glass you plan to use to make the glass stand out. Once the glass is drilled, these are so easy to assemble. Keep in mind the wider the ribbon you use for this bookmark, the larger your center-drilled hole in the sea glass needs to be. Likewise, you will need larger hole beads for wider ribbon, too.

Materials Needed:

- Ribbon in Several Colors (Silk Bracelet Ribbon Used Here)
- Sea Glass with Center Hole Drilled (See the section on how to drill glass on [page 72](#), use 2.1 millimeter Drill Bit)
- Large Hole Beads



Process:

1. Cut the ribbon to size. Books come in many different heights, but standard sizes include 8 or 9-inch height for paperbacks and almost 10 inches height for standard hardcover. Plan to make bookmarks in several different sizes to be 3 inches longer than the full height of the book when finished, and assume another 6 to 8 inches per bookmark to work with. For example, when making a bookmark for a trade paperback at 8 inches, we want the finished item to be 11 inches longer so we will cut the ribbon to 17 to 19 inches to begin.
2. Tie a knot in the ribbon. The height of the paperback is 8 inches; center your ribbon lengthwise on the page of a book and mark a spot on the ribbon that is $\frac{1}{2}$ inch past each end of the page. Tie a knot at these spots.
3. Add your decorative beads to the ribbon. Thread the bead with the ribbon and move it up to the knotted place on the ribbon. If the bead hole is too small, use a jewelry headpin to force the ribbon through the opening.
4. Add your drilled sea glass. Thread the sea glass onto the ribbon and slide it up tight against the bead at the knot.
5. Follow with another bead.
6. Tie another knot immediately after the sea glass. Repeat Steps 3-6 on the opposite end of the ribbon.





Bookmarks B

Materials Needed:

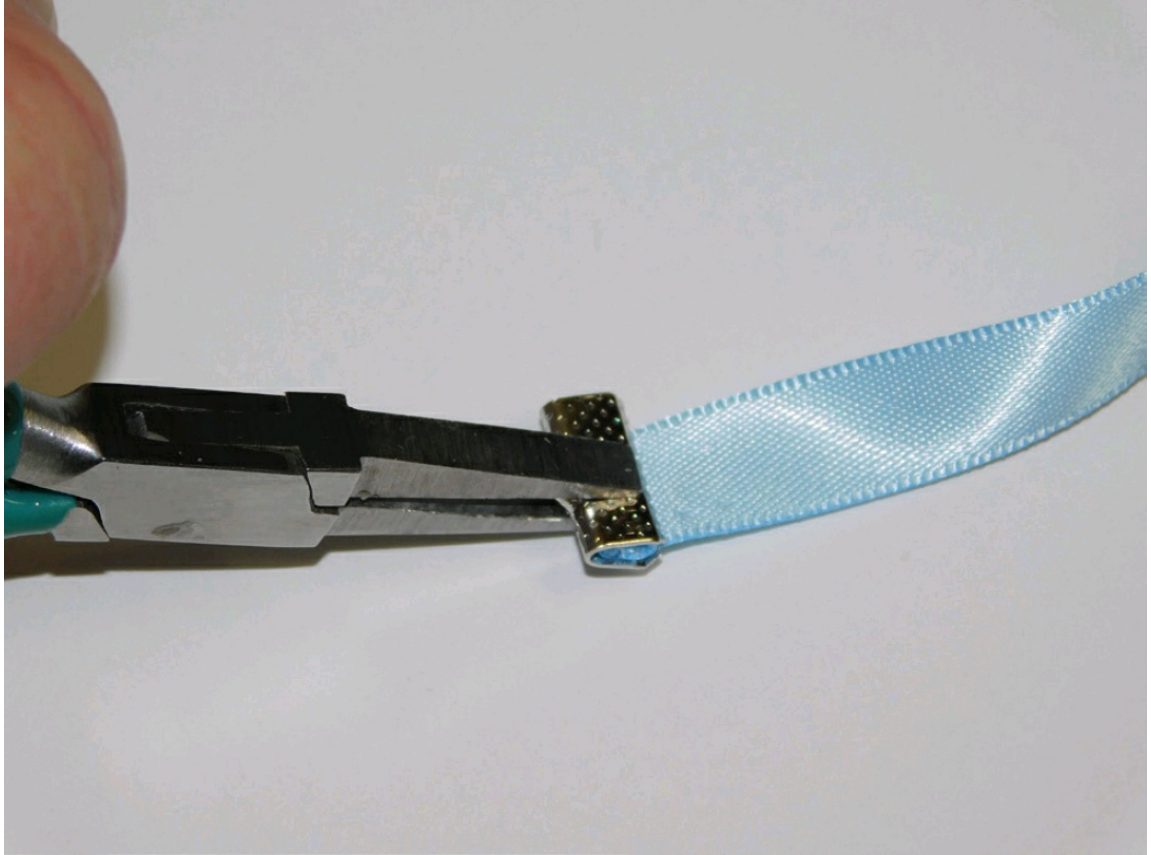
- Ribbon
- Clamp Ribbon End
- Jump Rings
- Tassels, Charms, Beads
- Sea Glass, Top-Drilled
- Flat Nose Jewelry Pliers, Wide and Narrow



Process:

1. Cut the ribbon to size. Assuming a 10-inch bookmark is the appropriate size, cut each ribbon to 11 inches.
2. Attach the clamp ribbon end to each end of the ribbon. Using the narrow flat nose pliers, fold the end of the ribbon over twice, upon itself, to create a thick end using about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of the ribbon. Place the clamp end piece over the folded ribbon end. Be sure the ribbon is centered in the clamp end. Use the wide, flat pliers to close the clamp, pressing firmly first in the middle then at each side.





3. Repeat step two on the other end of the ribbon.
4. Attach sea glass to one of the clamp ends. Using both flat pliers, open a jump ring with a forward and back motion; do not open the ring by pulling the ends away from each other. Slide the open jump ring through the drilled hole in the sea glass. Next, slide the jump ring through the loop in the clamp end. Rejoin the jump ring by reversing the opening motion.
5. Attach a tassel, charm, or beads to the opposite end of the ribbon. Using another jump ring and the same open/close method, decorate the second end of the bookmark with decorations of your choosing.





Notecard A

Letter writing may be a thing of the past, but a thank you card never goes out of style. Neither do get well, happy birthday, thinking of you, or any other notes sent to a loved one! And so much better than a store-bought card, these easy DIY's will surely put a smile on someone's face. As with each craft presented in this book, there is no "simple trick" to get the project done, but there is always some know-how that makes it easier: For Notecard A, flat glass is best, especially if you plan on mailing it. It requires no extra postage, but it is suggested that you cover the front of the card with a folded piece of tissue paper before tucking it into the envelope.

Materials Needed:

- Heavy Cardstock
- Sea Glass
- E6000 Adhesive (or a Comparable Adhesive)

Process:

1. If you plan to hand-write your sentiment, do this before gluing the sea glass. A mistake or an unfortunate downhill slope of the words is easy to fix with a new sheet of cardstock, before the glass is glued.
2. You may also choose to print your sentiment on heavy cardstock

and trim the printed paper to the desired size.

3. Choose the sea glass that best suits your design and arrange on the face of the card. It's best to decide upon a design that uses very few pieces of glass.
4. When satisfied with the appearance, use the E6000 to attach each piece individually. While notecard paper is heavier, be mindful of the amount of glue used. Too much will cause the paper to curl or buckle.





I'm Lucky to Have a Friend

Thinking of You...

Merry & Bright

Notecard B

There are so many things we can do with all the great photographs we take of our beach glass and sea glass. So, scour your Instagram page and grab your favorites—this card can easily be made in multiples!

Materials Needed:

- Plain Notecard, Size 5 x 7 inches
- Favorite Sea Glass Photograph
- Decoupage Glue
- Foam Brush
- Plastic Wrap or Waxed Paper



Process:

1. Prepare your photograph. Standard printed photos are 4 x 6 inches. If printing your own photo at home, make sure you choose “actual size” when printing and not “fit to frame,” as this will shrink the image on the 4 x 6 photo paper.
2. Prepare your notecard. You want to center the picture on the face of the card. It will be helpful to very lightly pencil mark the centered area. (A 4 x 6 photo on a 5 x 7 notecard will mean there is ½ inch space outside the picture on all four sides.)
3. Glue your photo. Lay the picture flat, image-side down. With the foam brush, apply a very thin layer of the decoupage glue to cover the entire back of the photo, taking special care to make sure the

glue reaches all the way to the edges.

4. Affix the photo to the notecard on your marked spot. The photo paper will have started to curl almost immediately after applying the adhesive; work quickly. Press the center down first and smooth with outward strokes across the photo. Use a paper towel to wipe away any excess glue that may have seeped out from under the photo.
5. Lay a single layer of plastic wrap or waxed paper over the photo notecard and press between the pages of a book. Allow several hours for the glue to dry. If making many photo cards, the same book can be used for many pictures tucked within different pages to keep flat while the glue dries.



Chapter Six

Drilling Sea Glass and Creating Drilled Crafts

Introduction to Drilling Sea Glass

Having the capability and the know-how to drill glass can open a whole new world of possibilities for crafts and projects in which to incorporate sea glass. Suddenly, jewelry, mobiles, charms, and ornaments with drilled glass are imaginable. Again, you are only limited by your imagination!

The trick with drilling sea glass is . . . there is no trick. It's a simple matter of having the right tools for the job and some basic knowledge. The drill bit is essential. Regular drill bits will very easily and very quickly crack the glass, and often you will find they will not catch the glass and begin to bore. Tungsten or diamond-tipped or coated drill bits work best for drilling glass. There are several varieties of diamond-tipped drill bits, but be careful as some are used for engraving only and will be labeled appropriately with "*Not for Drilling.*" I recommend using a diamond twist drill bit, which comes in sizes from 1 millimeter to over 2 millimeter diameter head size.

While it is possible to use a hand-held drill, or a Dremel tool, best practice suggests that you use a stationary drill, which allows for better control of the process. The Dremel tool can be mounted into the Dremel stand, making it more of a drill press, which works perfectly, as part of the technique calls for a pumping action (up and down) rather than a solid push of the drill into the glass. This decreases the chances of the sea glass

cracking or breaking, as the heat created by the drilling can and will break the glass without steps to avoid this.

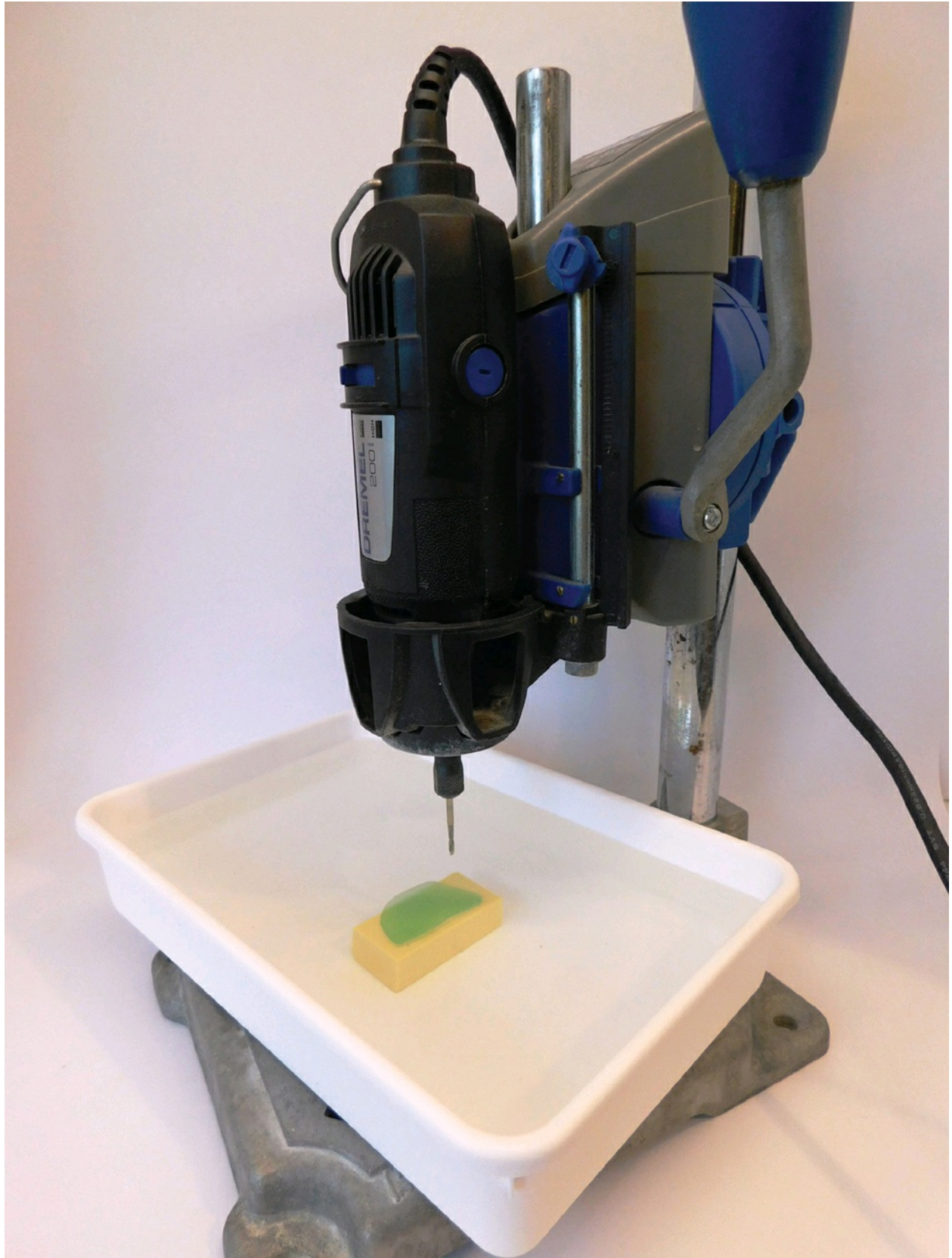


The simplest and most effective way to keep the glass from overheating is to drill with the glass set into a dish of water. You will need to change the water after every fifteen to twenty pieces drilled, as it will get murky. A plastic basin filled with water will work just fine. You will want to employ a thick rubber eraser to secure the glass. This is sturdy, yet soft enough to absorb the vibration of the drilling, further lessening the chances of breakage. A block of wood or a thick silicone pad will work as well.

Don't forget safety! Always use safety goggles, protective gloves, and a mask (you don't want to inhale glass dust). Make sure the drill bit is securely fastened into the drill before turning it on.

You may want to use a permanent marker to note the exact drill spot on the glass. The drilling will erase the small mark if you are careful. Turn the drill on, starting with a slow speed and light pressure. Holding the glass with one hand (fingers firmly placed *around* the glass and NOT in the area

where the drill will press) use your other hand to control the handle and lower the drill. Use a pump action—smooth and steady down pressure and release (up) every few seconds, to relieve the heating of the glass. To reduce or eliminate the chances of a “blowout” (chipping or breaking of the smooth coating on the backside), turn the glass over when halfway through. It’s important—and sometimes tricky—to line up your hole perfectly, but it’s much easier to do than to avoid chipping the glass by drilling straight through from one side. Mostly, you will find that the halfway drilled hole is visible from the side of the glass that has not been drilled.



It's a good idea to use your lesser quality sea glass (craft grade or lower, and not rarer colors) when you first start drilling as there will be mistakes or cracks. You won't mind a piece of lightly frosted white cracking in two as opposed to a jewelry-quality piece of red perishing under the drill. With practice, you will come to know the feel of the drill on the glass. You will know when your bit is getting dull and nearing the end of its usefulness and needs replacing. You will also (sadly) recognize the feel of the bit in the glass just before the shard cracks. After a while, with much repetition, you should get to a point where only one or two out of every fifty pieces drilled might break, and this is most often caused by forcing a dull bit, trying to prolong its life, or a lack of patience with the slow and steady process required to drill effectively.



Drilled Sea Glass Projects

So, you've learned how to drill sea glass now! The door was just pushed open for so many more craft and jewelry projects for you to consider! While making any drilled creations certainly involves one more step in the process, you'll find the extra time and effort will certainly pay off. You'll now

find yourself returning from your beach combing and immediately separating not only craft and jewelry pieces and colors and sizes, but also making a to-be-drilled pile.

Sea glass makings that use drilled glass will mostly call for the hole to be drilled in the glass three different ways—top, center, and double drilled. (Rarely, you may find a need for a triple hole-drilled glass piece.)

- Top-Drilled Sea Glass can mostly be found in jewelry, pendants, and necklaces especially.



- Center-Drilled Sea Glass can be used in bracelets, letter openers, and as ribbon embellishments.



- Double-Drilled Sea Glass will be necessary for projects such as sea glass buttons and certain link bracelets and our Sea Glass Mobile.





Angel Ornaments

There are so many reasons to love this angel dangler and so many ways to enjoy it—on the Christmas tree, hanging from the rearview mirror to keep you safe while driving, as a lampshade embellishment, or quite easily strung with a chain as a great necklace. Make one for yourself and several for your friends! For this project, the best sea glass pieces are triangular, with a good pointy top on which to wrap the wire.

Materials Needed:

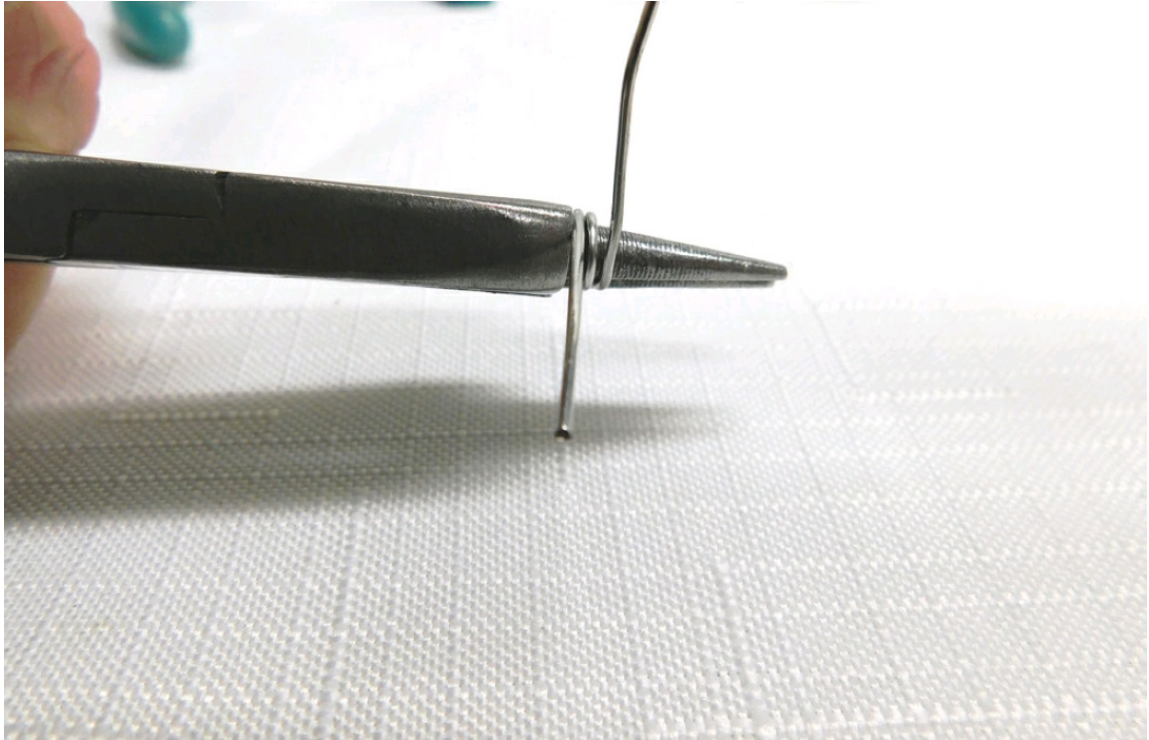
- Jewelry Wire, 20 or 22 gauge
- Top Drilled Sea Glass or Sea Glass Pottery, 2 to 3 Inches Each
- Angel Wing Bead
- Angel Head Bead
- Daisy Spacer
- Flat Nose Pliers, Round Nose Pliers, Wire Cutters



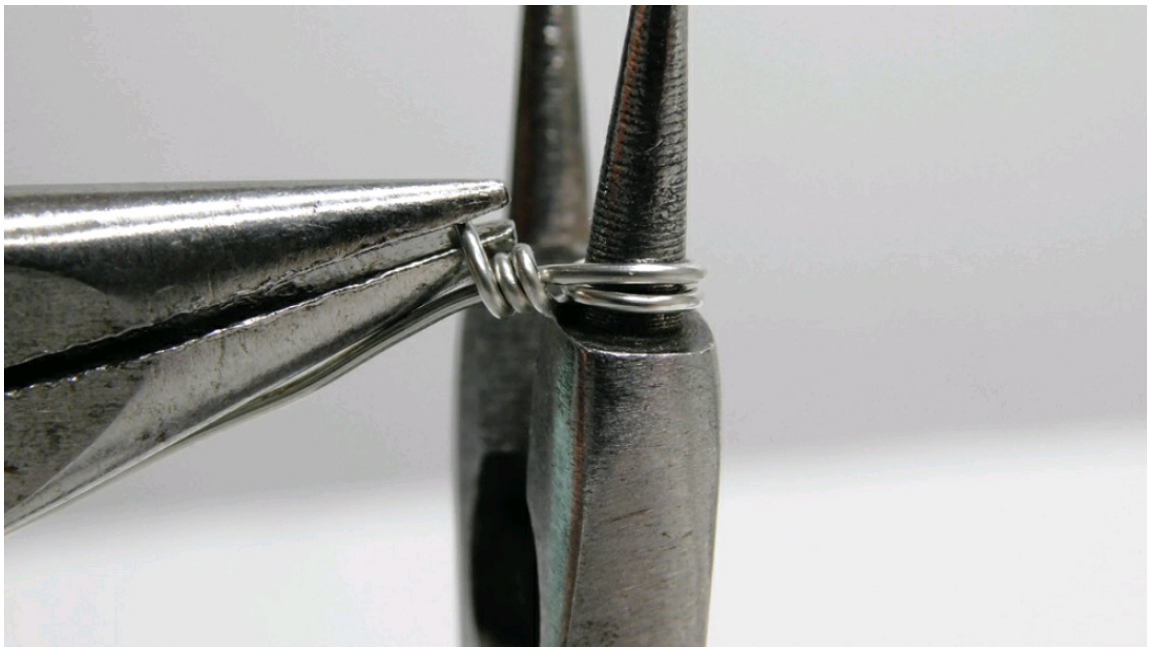
Process:

1. This project is worked from the top down. Cut about an eighteen to twenty-four inch length of wire. Insert the wire into the round nose pliers, with about 1 inch sticking out one side. Using your round nose pliers, wrap the long part of the wire twice around the fat end of the pliers' nose.
2. With the short end coming out from the underside and pointing directly at you, push the piece up, perpendicular with the long stretch of wire and now parallel with the nose of the plier. Use your thumb or flat nose pliers to push the short end of the wire around the long piece of the wire three to four times, with no space between

the rows. Trim any excess as close as possible to the long wire and use the flat pliers to smooth and tighten, using a firm twist motion in the direction the wire was wrapped around.



3. Remove the looped wire from your pliers.



4. String up your angel. Add the top pieces first in this order: decorative color bead, daisy spacer (halo), angel head, angel wing bead, and finally the sea glass piece. Push them all the way up the wire, tight against your loop end.



5. Wire the head to the body. Leaving only $\frac{1}{8}$ inch of space between the bottom of the angel wing bead and the top of the body, press the wire upward from where it comes through the hole of the body. Curve this piece just over the top of the body and around the wire beneath the wing bead. The length of the wire should now be facing to one side of the angel, horizontally.



6. Wrap the body. Beginning at the spot just beneath the wings where you twisted the wire, and using a firm pulling motion, wrap the wire tightly around to fill the space between the wings and the body, and then around the top of the body. Leave no space between the wrapped rows.



7. Continue to wrap the wire until it crosses the top of the drill hole. This is the last pass in the front of the angel. Wrap around to the

back of the angel and thread the wire through the hole, pulling tightly on the wire at the front. Use pliers to grab and pull all remaining wire through the hole until the remaining length is all now coming through the drilled hole at the front of the angel.



8. Cut the remaining wire to leave only 1 inch. Pinch the very end of that inch of wire between narrow, flat nosed pliers and twist around, forming a very tight swirl. When the swirl reaches the body of the angel, press it flat against the body.



Sea Glass Drop Necklace

Over the years in my neck of the woods, I've sold more jewelry and artwork with sea foam and light aqua sea glass than any other color. It's that calming, soft pastel color that calls out to people—reminds them of summer days and wonderful beach memories. This necklace can be made with any color of sea glass, of course, and it will still draw much-deserved attention. Here, it's made with all stainless steel components to be sturdier and require no cleaning at all.

Materials Needed:

- Two Pieces of Top-Drilled Sea Glass, Any Color
- Jewelry Beads
- Jewelry Tools, Pliers, Cutters
- Jewelry Findings, Jump Rings, Eye Pin, Daisy Spacer Beads, Bail Bead, Connector Bead
- Necklace Chain



Process:

1. Attach the larger piece of sea glass and the connector bead to the bail. Open a 9 or 10 millimeter jump ring and slide through the sea glass. Add the connector bead onto the jump ring at the front side of the sea glass. Add the bail onto the same jump ring. Close the jump ring.
2. Construct the drop piece. Stack your chosen beads on the eye pin (we used 20 gauge), placing the larger (if any) bead at the bottom so that it falls beneath the sea glass to keep a smoother profile. See step two of the Sea Glass Earrings on [page 88](#) to wrap the top end of the eye pin, excepting that after you've created the loop in your eye pin, it must past through the bottom loop of the connector bead before finishing the wrap.





3. Add the second piece of sea glass to the bottom loop of the eye pin. Use a jump ring (6 to 8 millimeters, if the second piece of sea glass is smaller than the top piece), threading the ring through the drill hole in the glass. Close the jump ring.
4. Attach the chain. Slide the open necklace chain through the bail.



Bottle Stoppers

To make these delightful bottle stoppers, where sea glass is definitely the star, you'll need to shop online, as I've yet to find this stopper base in any craft store. This particular stopper is considered a "beadable" item, meaning it's left blank for you to fill with beads, naturally—but of course, we've chosen to stack 'em up with sea glass!

The barrel of the stopper has a diameter of 2.5 millimeters. If you don't have this size drill bit, you can still make this craft. Consequently, you must "ream" out the glass hole. To do this, after you've drilled the hole completely, hold the glass piece between your thumb and forefinger (not set onto whatever cushion you've used when regularly drilling the glass). Using a low speed on the drill, press the bit down into the previously drilled hole and move the piece around in a circular motion, shaving off more of the glass to create a bigger opening. Test it on the stopper barrel until it fits snugly. It shouldn't take more than a few turns around, or about ten seconds of "reaming" to reach the necessary size.

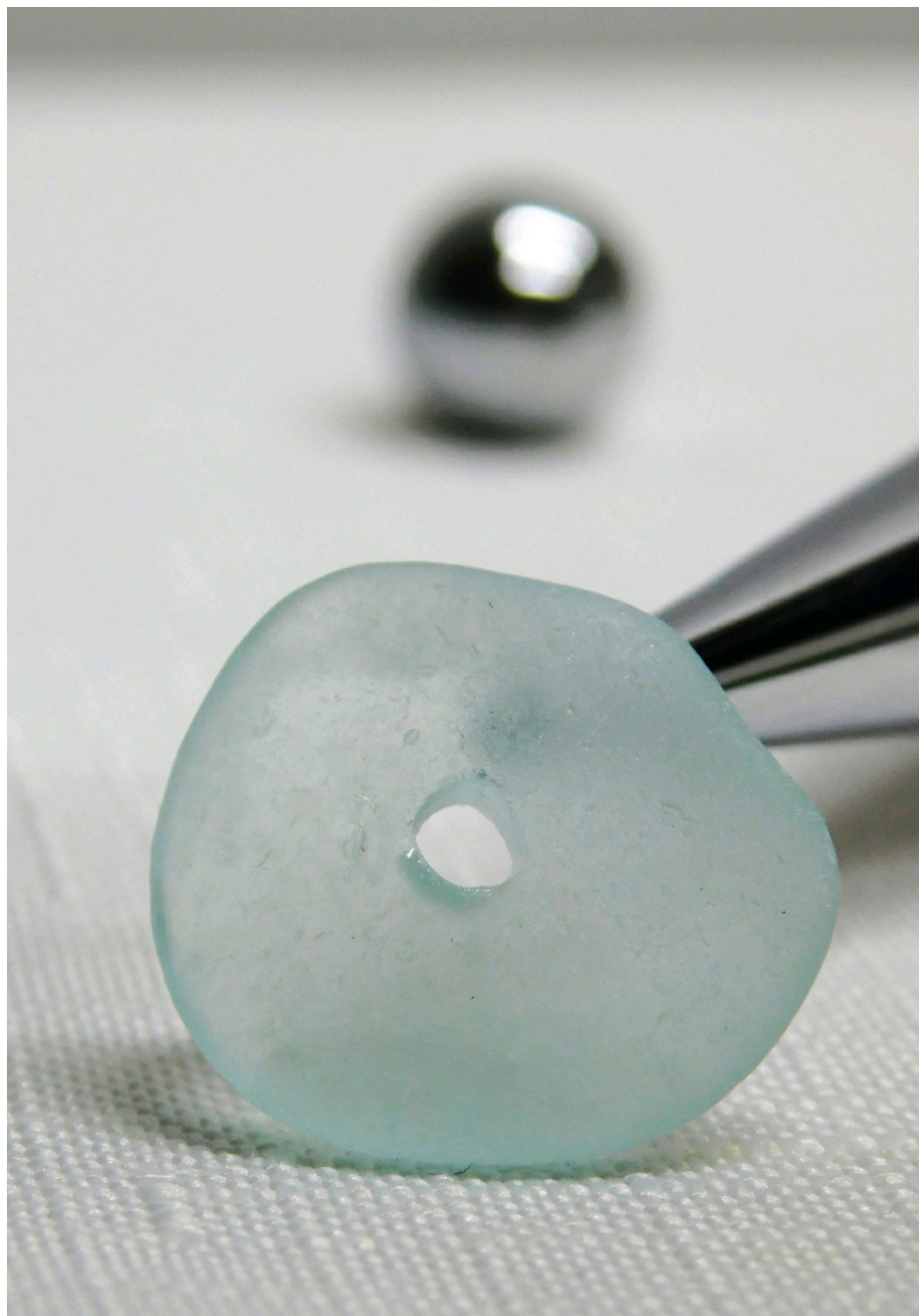


I've made and used these for wedding shower favors and hostess gifts. Make a great gift basket including these stoppers and a couple bottles of wine and a pair of wine glasses. You can also include our Sea Glass Wine Charms.

Materials Needed:

- Sea Glass, Center Drilled
- Beadable Wine Stoppers

- Optional: Large Hole Beads



Process:

1. Unscrew the ball cap from the stopper barrel.
2. Arrange your sea glass (and beads, if desired) onto the metal stem.
3. Replace your bead cap. Do not over-turn the cap, as these tend to quite easily be stripped of their threading.
4. Say, "Wow, that was easy!"



Sea Glass Earrings

Remember Clairee Belcher from *Steel Magnolias* (Olympia Dukakis' character)? She set us girls straight when she proclaimed, "The only thing that separates us from the animals is our ability to accessorize." True, Clairee. So true.

Accessorize to your heart's content with sea glass drop earrings. There are so many styles and designs to choose from which feature sea glass as the centerpiece. Try out this statement-making pair, which really puts the spotlight on the sea glass.

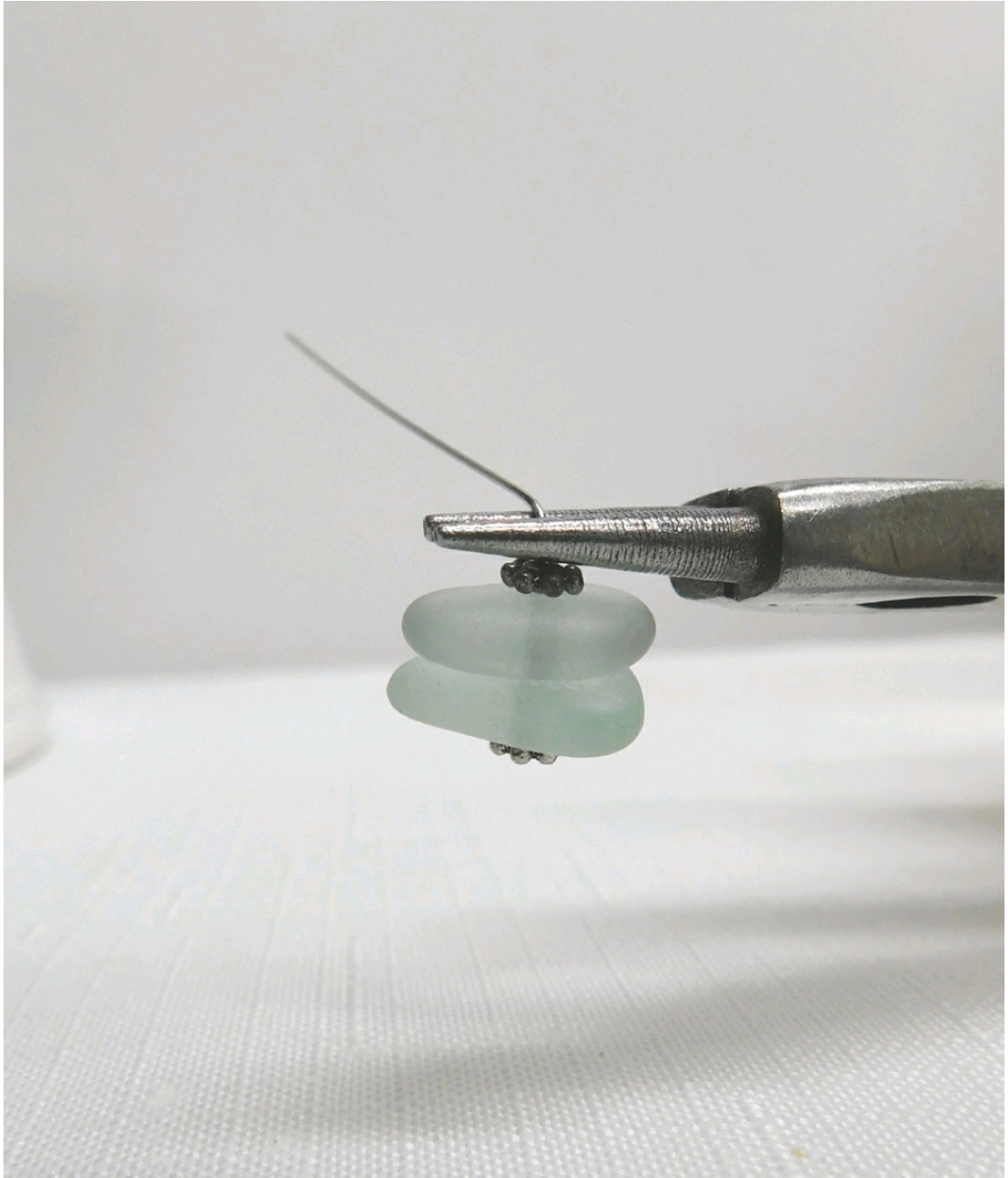
Materials Needed:

- Sea Glass, Center Drilled
- Jewelry Findings—Head Pins, Jump Rings, Earring Hooks
- Jewelry Tools, Round and Flat Nose Pliers, Wire Cutters
- Connector Bead with Double Loops
- Daisy Spacer Beads



Process:

1. Arrange the sea glass pieces, two for each earring, on the headpin, with two daisy spacer beads bracketing the shards.
2. Working with one filled head pin, push all beads to the bottom of the pin. Using round nose pliers pinching the pin above the top spacer bead, bend the pin to make a right angle. Now move the pliers up onto the extended end of the head pin, just past the bend. With your flat nose pliers (also called chain nose pliers), pull the far end of the head pin over the top of the round nose pliers toward you. Next, pull the long end of the wire around and under your round nose pliers, away from you, to form a loop. Still holding the long end of the head pin with the flat nose pliers, wrap the pin around itself under the round nose pliers. Wrap the pin several times around until it meets the daisy spacer bead. Trim the excess pin and use flat nose pliers to smooth the cut end into the wrapped row.



3. Assemble the Earring Parts. Open the loop on the ear hook and insert the loop of the connector bead; close the ear hook loop. Attach a jump ring to the bottom loop of the connector bead, slipping the looped sea glass in same jump ring. Close the jump ring.



4. Repeat steps two and three for the second earring.



Sea Glass Flowers

I definitely do not have a green thumb, and air plants are about the only plant I haven't killed yet. With these, however, there is no planting or watering or wishing they didn't droop and fade. These sea glass flowers really are perennial. Dress up the mantle or a side table, or make a larger arrangement for the dining room table. You're sure to get compliments—but be prepared also for the “Can you make one for me?” inquiry as well!

Use small vases to make a quick little accent piece. If using a larger vase, you'll need plenty more sea glass flowers and may want to add artificial greenery to make them look fuller; in this case, keep the greenery lower than the flowers so that the sea glass doesn't get lost in the greens. This truly is one of my favorite sea glass projects to make!

Materials Needed:

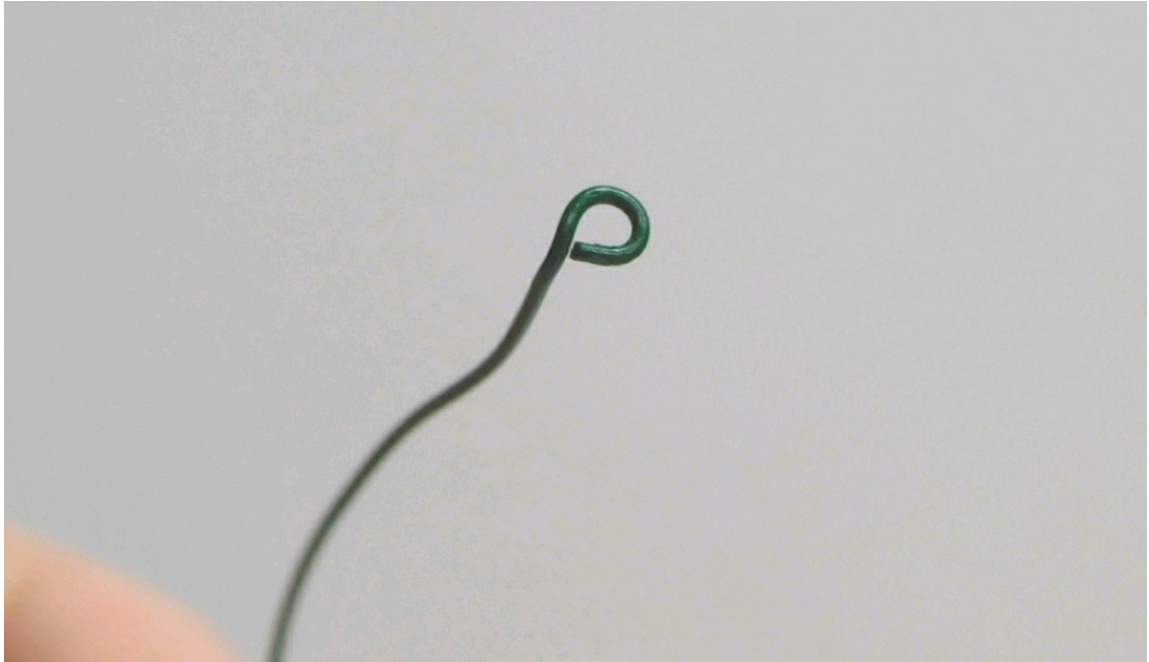
- Sea Glass Pieces (any color), Center Drilled
- Or, Sea Glass Pottery Pieces, Center Drilled
- Green Sea Glass, Top Drilled, Leaf Shape
- Small Flower Vase
- Flat Round Beads or Bead Cones, Flattened
- Flat Nose Pliers
- Florist Foam
- Stem Wire and Florist Wire
- E6000 Adhesive (or a Comparable Adhesive)
- Natural Excelsior Moss (Or Spanish Moss)



Process:

1. Prepare the vase. Cut the florist foam to fit inside the vase. The top

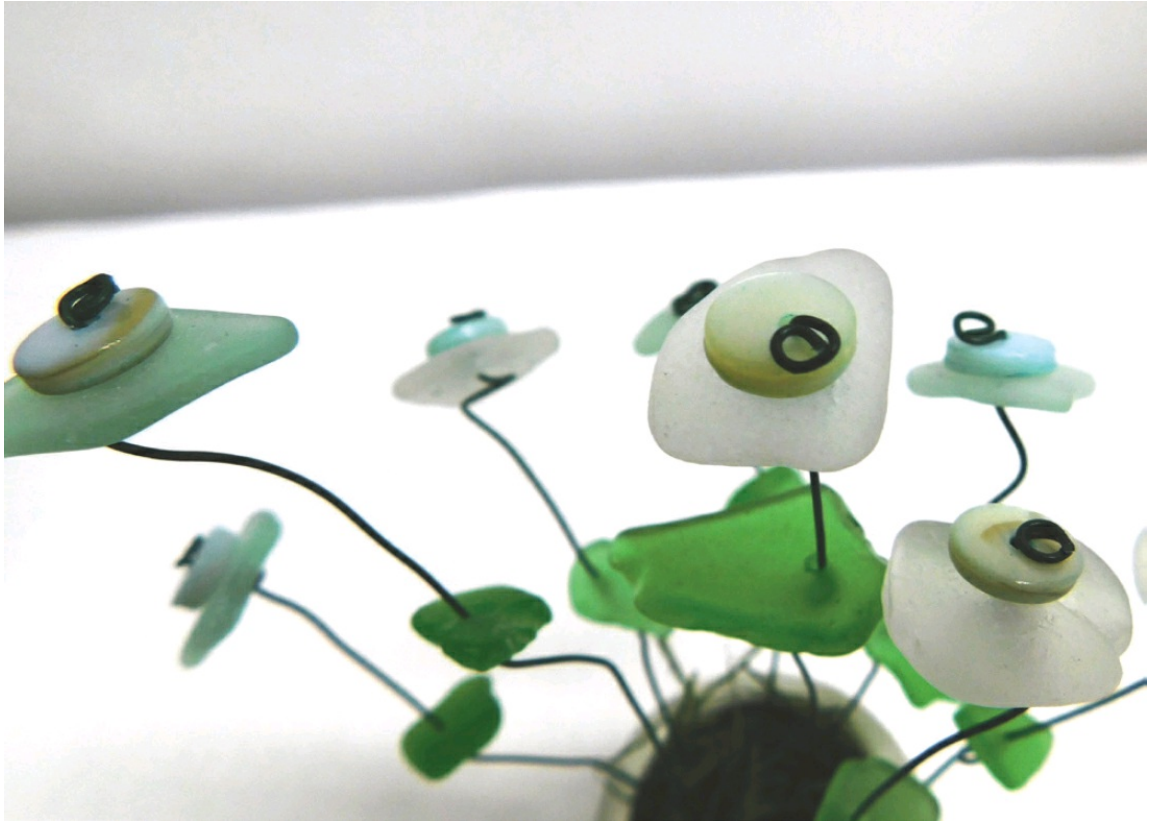
of the foam should be an inch lower than the opening of the vase. Put a dab of the E6000 on the bottom of your cut foam and press into the vase. Arrange a small amount of excelsior moss to cover the foam and fill to the top of the vase.



2. Prepare the flowers. Start with the stem wire. Take one end of the wire between the jaws of the round nose pliers. Turn the wire around the pliers one time to form a very small loop. Using flat nose pliers, bend the loop to be perpendicular to the length of the wire. This will serve as your flower center and prevent the sea glass from separating from the top of the wire. Thread both your flat jewelry bead and your center-drilled sea glass “flower” onto the opposite end of this wire, top (good side) facing the loop. Push the glass and bead all the way to the loop. Holding the sea glass and bead against the loop, bend the wire immediately underneath and give it one round turn before straightening it out again. This will keep the glass flower and bead topper in place on the wire.



3. Add the leaves. Thread a piece of the green, top-drilled glass onto the same wire, stopping just $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch below the flower (do not make all flowers leaves the exact same distance apart; larger vases with taller stem and more flowers will look better if you add more than one leaf to each flower). Make a one-turn loop under the leaf, or give the wire a kink immediately underneath the sea glass leaf to keep it from sliding down.



4. Repeat steps two and three to prepare seven to ten flowers for your vase.



5. Arrange the stemmed flowers in the vase, pressing the bottom end

of the wire through the moss and into the foam. Make sure the flowers are evenly spaced.

6. Add more moss if needed and/or extra greenery to fill out the arrangement.



Napkin Rings

Napkin Rings are the perfect finishing touch for your tabletop, giving your beautifully set table a polished look and an elegant feel. But don't save these sea glassed napkin rings only for formal occasions. They are perfect for your summer patio party or beach house luncheon, too!

Materials Needed:

- Craft Wire, 14 or 16 gauge
- Wood Block
- Sea Glass, Top Drilled
- Jump Rings
- Pliers



Process:

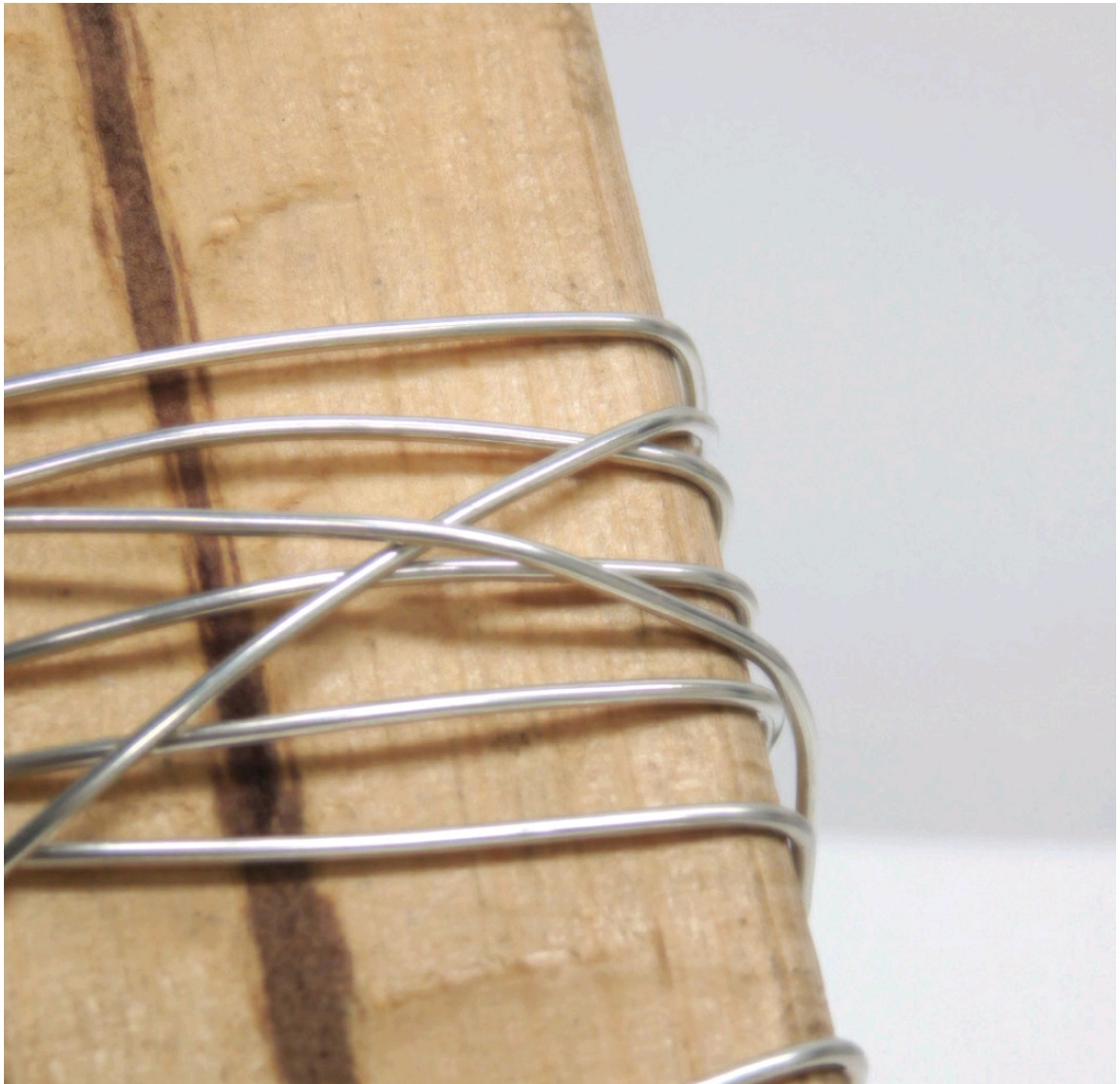
1. Select, buy, or cut a wood block to be roughly 1½ inches square. At first, keep your wire attached to the reel, as it is easier to pull the wire taut as you wrap. Use your thumb to hold down the beginning of the wire, with 1 inch extending over one end. Wrap straight rows around until you've reached a height on the block of about 1–1½ inches. The rows do not need to be even or perfect or always touching the previous loop. Press firmly on each piece at the flat side.
2. As you begin to wrap the second layer, begin to crisscross the wire, making X's on all four sides. After you have several X's on each of the sides, pull 14 to 18 inches of additional wire from the reel and cut at the end of that length. Using pliers to pull the wire tightly

around, also begin to weave the wire through previously wrapped parts. Weave at least once around and under different pieces on each side twice more around the block.



3. Secure the ends. At the last inch of loose wire, wrap it several times around a piece on the block, using pliers to pull it through. Do the same with the extra piece left extended from the beginning of wrapping. These can be neatened or made tighter after you remove

the wire from the block.



4. With the block sitting with one end facing your body, use your fingers to pull the entire stacked wire off the block. This will take a bit of wriggling and moving it incrementally.







5. Check your wrapped ends to make sure they are secure. You don't want the cut ends to be sharp against a fabric napkin. Manipulate the napkin ring form, if needed, to give it better shape. If some parts seem too loose, you can add extra wire, free-form weaving it around the loose pieces, or to fill in spots; complete the ends of the added piece in the same manner at earlier wrapped ends.

6. Add a jump ring to the middle of one side of the napkin ring.
7. Add several pieces of sea glass to this central jump ring, each drilled piece of glass having its own jump ring.



Sea Glass Mobile

You've probably seen a few sea glass mobiles by now. Most are made with fishing line, which is fine as a non-distracting vehicle to string the glass, and are mostly made using one-hole sea glass. You may find that fishing line is prone to tangling, and the single-drilled glass doesn't always lay or flow smoothly. This sea glass mobile is worth the extra time you'll need to double drill most of the glass and to essentially wire each piece twice. Use stainless craft wire if this will be hung outdoors; here, bronze craft wire was used to hang the mobile indoors.

Materials Needed:

- Round Nose Pliers
- Flat Nose Pliers
- Driftwood Piece, or Stick
- Screw Eyes
- Crafting Wire, 18 or 20 gauge, Cut into Twenty-five 6-inch Pieces
- Double-Drilled Sea Glass, Twenty Pieces
- Top-Drilled Sea Glass, Five Pieces
- Twine



Process:

1. Pre-arrange your mobile prior to wiring. If using several different colors, make sure they are spaced properly. Set five pieces in a row across and add glass to make five columns of five pieces each—twenty-five total. The last piece of each column should be the single-drilled piece of sea glass.
2. First, wire the hook that you will use to attach the column to the driftwood. Insert the wire into the round nose pliers, with about 1 inch sticking out one side. Using your round nose pliers, wrap the long part of the wire twice around the flat end of the pliers' nose. With the short end coming out from the underside, and pointing directly at you, push the piece up, perpendicular with the long stretch of wire and now parallel with the nose of the plier. Use your thumb or flat nose pliers to push the short end of the wire around the long piece of the wire three to four times, with no space between

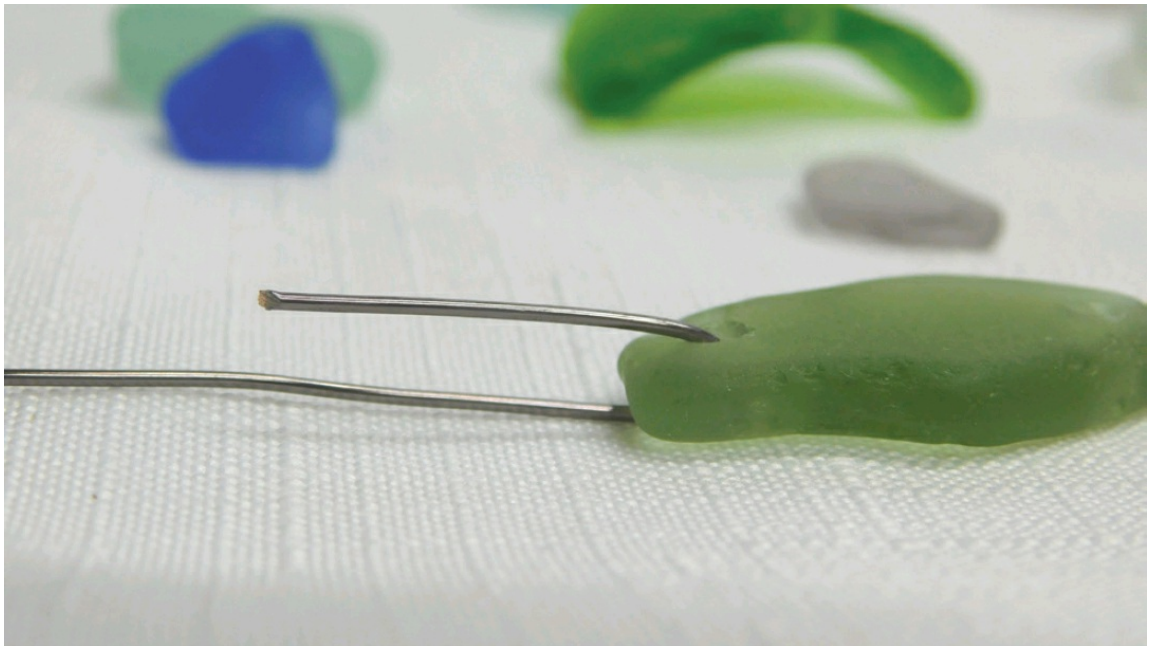
the rows. Trim any excess as close as possible to the long wire and use the flat pliers to smooth and tighten, using a firm twist motion in the direction the wire was wrapped around. (see photos in Angel Ornament, step two on [page 77](#))





3. String the glass. At the opposite end of the looped hook, slide a piece of sea glass onto the wire, pushing it up to about an inch or so below the looped hook (this is a free form project, no measuring required; make your mobile more interesting by NOT having each

piece of glass the same distance apart, or each column the exact same length). Use your thumb to push the open end of the wire upward, so that the wire going into the glass and the part coming out are now perpendicular. Cross the wire at the top of the sea glass. With the flat front of the glass facing you, bend the short (unattached) end of the wire behind, to the left. Wind this short piece of wire around the longer (attached to looped hook) part of the wire three to four times. Trim the excess wire; use your flat nose pliers to press the cut end into the row of wrapped wire.





4. Repeat step three on the bottom (second drilled hole) of this piece of sea glass. From the wire, attach the next piece of sea glass.
5. Repeat step three with each piece of double-drilled sea glass, following your set design, to attach five pieces in the first column. Your last piece in each column will be the single-drilled shard of sea glass.
6. Repeat step three until you have finished five columns of connected sea glass.
7. Attach your screw eyes to the driftwood you have chosen. First attach the screw eye into the center of the driftwood piece. Place two more screw eyes on either side of this piece. Attach two screw eyes to the top of the driftwood or, if round, to the opposite side of the stick.









8. Attach the column to the driftwoods. Individually, open each screw eye and place the looped hook at the top of each connected sea glass column onto the opened screw eye. Close the screw eye around the wired looped hook.
9. Add the twine. A 20-inch length of twine is sufficient as a hanger. Knot each end of twine through each of the top screw eyes.





Wine Charms

Of course, the whole purpose of wine charms is to allow your guests to identify their own glass of merlot, but let's be honest—we make and use wine charms because they're just so pretty and really dress up the stemware. Made with sea glass, now you've got a topic of conversation. (I've *never* met a sea glass collector who *didn't* like to talk about their collection!)

You can start from absolute scratch with these and cut and bend wire to suit your purposes, but using the earring hoops—30 millimeters are a perfect size for most wine glasses—your circle is made without kinks and your clasp is already done for you. Additionally, you might consider these laser-printed stainless steel circle charms, which can be found online. There are dozens of phrases available, or you can ask for a custom printing.

Materials Needed:

- Jewelry Finding, Hoop with Loop, 30 millimeters
- Top Drilled Sea Glass
- Jump Rings
- Various Charms and Beads
- Jewelry Tools, Pliers, Cutters



Process:

1. Attach the sea glass to the hoop. Do not attach the sea glass directly on to the wire of the hoop—the sea glass will end up sitting sideways, not flat, against the base of the glass. Thread a 9 to 10 millimeters jump ring through the top-drilled hole of your sea glass. On the top-facing side of the sea glass (the side you want facing up when complete) also attach a charm onto the jump ring to sit on the face of the sea glass. This is a wine charm with the sea glass as a backdrop.



2. Close the jump ring. Slide the loop of the jump ring onto the hoop wire.
3. Close the hoop wire.
4. Optionally, you can add pretty beads to accent the sea glass and charm. This wine charm features sea glass as an accent.
5. Use all stainless steel charms so they can be rinsed as needed or

even thrown in the dishwasher (in an organza bag in the silverware compartment). Slide four wine charm hoops onto a basic bangle bracelet to keep them together when not in use or to display on your (current) favorite bottle of wine.



Chapter Seven

Sea Glass Christmas

It's the most wonderful time of the year, indeed! For the sea glass lover, it's easy to incorporate our favorite gem into our Christmas decorating. Bring a little bit (or a lot!) of the beach inside this year with these clever holiday ideas. Get the kids or grandkids involved, as any one of these projects would make for fun, family-time crafting. As with any seasonal decorating—or any sea glass crafting—the possibilities are endless.



Sea Glass Wreath Picture

Any picture you can imagine created from sea glass can be made by applying the first three steps of these instructions. Additionally, this wreath makes a great ornament, if you use the Snowman Ornament project instructions as the basis of your design. Or, if you can make or find a nice wood backdrop, simply apply the pieces in the shape of a wreath onto the wood and add a hanging ribbon and bow.

Materials Needed:

- Picture Frame
- Sea Glass
- Scrapbook paper
- E6000 Adhesive (or a Comparable Adhesive)
- Decoupage Glue
- Foam Brush
- Ribbon or Bow

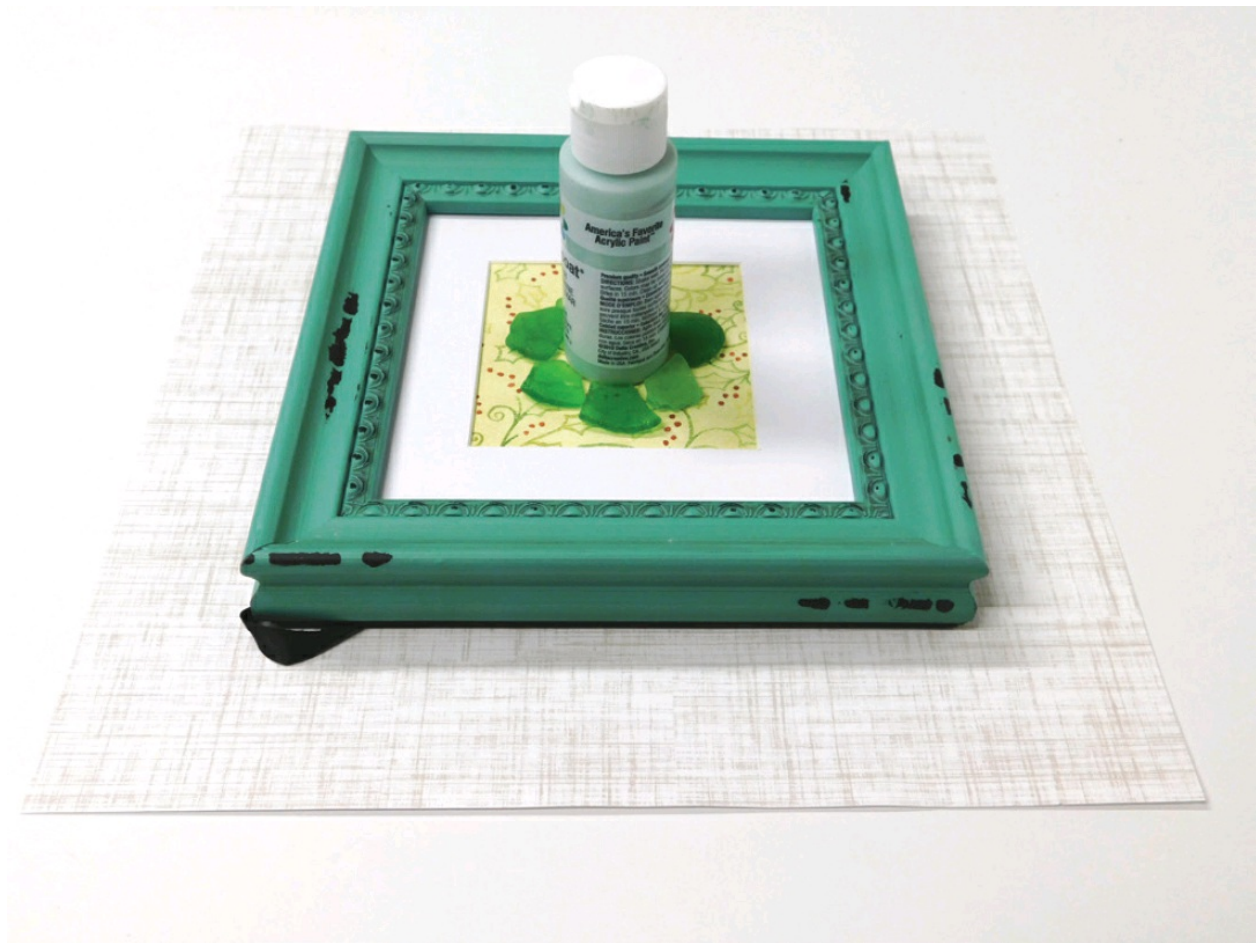


Process:

1. Using the foam brush, cover the frame glass with an even, light layer of decoupage glue. Starting at one end, lay the paper onto the glued surface and press with a sweeping motion, much as you would when applying contact paper to shelving or wall paper. With either the palm of your hand or a thinner roll of paper towel, force the paper down solidly onto the glass and expel any extra glue out from between the paper and glass. Too much decoupage glue will increase your chances of bubbling of the paper; too little glue will run the risk of the paper not adhering properly.
2. Re-assemble the papered glass in the frame, behind the mat, if

using one. Allow one hour to dry.

3. Use any round item to create the center (void) of your wreath. Glue the glass immediately around this item. These pieces do not have to be—and should not be—set to form a perfect wreath circle, but it makes for a better and more secure base to use flatter pieces and shards of sea glass. Lift each piece individually, apply the E6000 to the underside, and replace in design.
4. Remove the item used to create the circle and add smaller pieces to give character and depth to the base of the wreath. Live greenery wreaths are not perfectly round; they have boughs and greens that extend from the circle. Duplicate this in your layout.
5. Add the second layer. These pieces should be just a bit smaller in diameter than the first layer, as to show the depth of the wreath. Two layers should suffice, but you might need a shard or two here and there as a third layer to fill in any low spots or gaps.
6. Attach the bow.
7. Allow a full twenty-four hours to dry.





Christmas Tree Earrings

The hardest part about this pair of festive earrings just might be finding the perfect pieces of sea glass. Sea glass and glass in general tend to break in triangular pieces and these earrings are best suited to your most round shards; however, bulbous-shaped pieces will not work very well, as you want to create a layered look and not a stack of blobs. With that said, don't drive yourself crazy looking for the "perfect" green glass to use; use what you have and make it work.

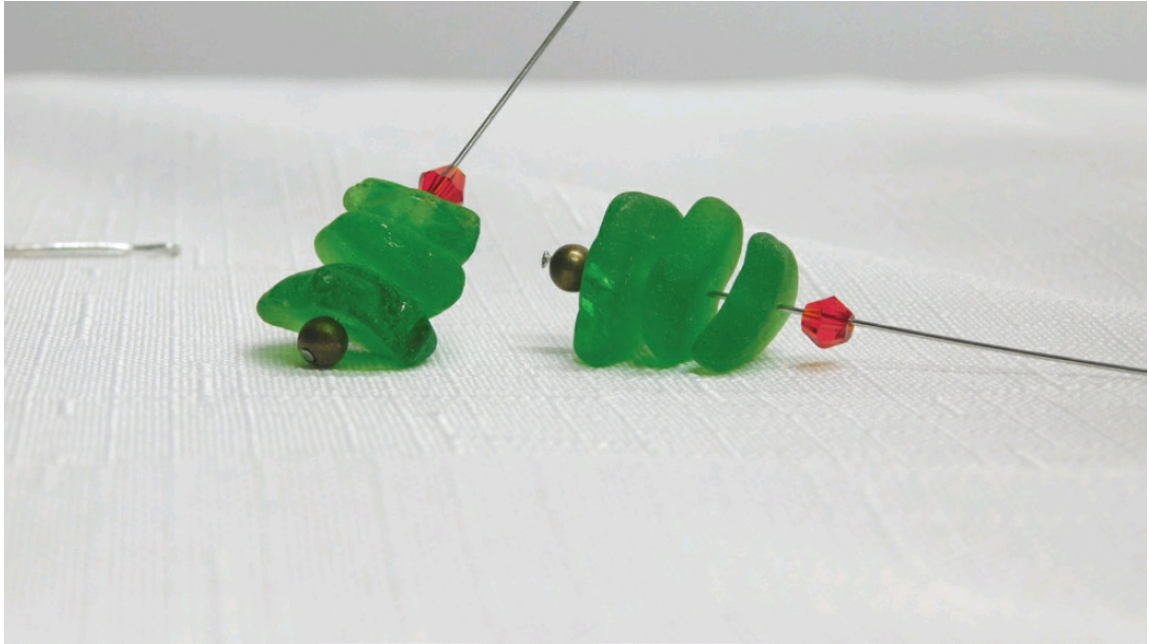
Materials Needed:

- Center-Drilled Green Sea Glass
- Silver Eyepins or Headpins
- Jewelry Making Pliers, Cutters
- Silver Earwires or Earring Hooks
- Small Red Bead
- Small Brown Beads



Process:

1. Drill the glass. See our entire section on drilling sea glass and beach glass and drill center holes in three pieces for each earring (six pieces per pair) for as many pairs of earrings as you choose to make. It's always a good idea to drill a few extra just in case.
2. Stack the earring parts. The bottom of the "tree" goes first onto the headpin or eyepin; slide the brown bead as the tree trunk onto the pin, followed by the glass pieces, largest first and smallest last. Finish with the red bead as a tree topper.



3. Assemble/wire the earring. Press the headpin or eyepin to a 90-degree angle immediately at the top of the red bead. Cut the remaining metal of the headpin to leave only $\frac{3}{8}$ inch. With your round nose pliers, grab the pin end farthest from the bead and roll back until the tip of the pin meets the pin part at the top of the bead. Make sure the wire is pushed flat against the plier to get a perfectly circular loop.
4. Open the loop of your earring hooks and pass through the loop you've made in your tree earring. Close the earwire.









Sea Glass Christmas Tree Picture

It's quite easy to make a single-layer pine tree in a general triangular shape. This sea glass tree comes from the "More is Better" family, with the glass triple layered to give it a rich and deeply dimensional appearance. Hoard your green glass, because this uses up quite a bit. And while this Christmas tree is wonderful for holiday decorating, keep in mind that by using any non-seasonal background paper, you've got a regular pine tree that can be enjoyed all year long!

Materials Needed:

- Green Sea Glass
- E6000 Adhesive (or a Comparable Adhesive)
- Picture Frame with Glass
- Decoupage Glue
- Foam Brush
- Scrapbook Paper



Process:

1. Use steps one and two from the Sea Glass Wreath Picture on [page 107](#) to set up your paper and frame.
2. Gather up your green. You'll have no need of rounded pieces for this picture, and will need to spend some time sorting through your green sea glass for the triangular and pointed pieces. The flatter the better for the first layer.
3. There is no need for a sketch. Simply lay out the first layer of green glass as shown, with pointed ends facing out. Start at the bottom with the largest pieces, and gradually decrease the size of the green

glass shards as you move upward toward the peak. Fill in the gaps in the center of the tree with more flat sea glass, fitting them in as close as possible. Glue the first layer. Lift each piece one at a time and apply E6000 to the underside, replacing it in the previously laid out design. The finished tree will be heavy with glass, so be generous but neat with the glue on this layer.



4. Add one brown piece of glass as the trunk of your tree.
5. Add the second layer. These pieces will be added one at a time, again being liberal with the adhesive. Set each piece of the second

layer a little more inward, toward the center of the tree. This layer of sea glass should be situated to cover half each of two different pieces of the first layer.

6. Finish the tree. The third layer will bring all pieces to a center point, shooting out in different directions, much as a live pine tree would look, with branches and boughs poking out.
7. Allow twenty-four hours to dry completely before hanging, standing, or gift giving. If necessary, use pliers and/or tweezers to remove any surplus of glue showing.





Card Holder (or Place Card Setting)

There's so much joy in the Christmas season, and so much of that comes from the time, effort, and love we put into our holiday decorating. In our efforts to decorate every inch of our home for the holidays—and use sea glass as much as possible!—you may want get the kids together and try these simple yet creative Place Card Settings or Christmas Card Holders. Round out your holiday feast décor in the dining room, or add a few of these on the mantle, displaying your favorite Christmas greetings this season.

Materials Needed:

- Mini Glass Jars with Lids
- Heavy Craft Wire, 14 or 16 gauge
- Sea Glass
- Pliers, Wire Cutters

Optional: Mini Christmas Tree, Artificial Snow



Process:

1. Gather your supplies. Small to medium pieces of sea glass work best for this project. I stumbled upon these clever little glass jars, which have a channel in the lid, but regular mason jars lids have a groove in them that will support the wire just fine.
2. Affix the wire to the lid. Cut a length of 14 or 16 gauge wire to 16 inches. Place one end of the wire flat on the side of the lid and curl the wire from that point around the lid, as tightly as possible against the cap. Overlap the wire about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Press the longer end upward with your thumb, to a 90-degree angle, flat against the cap but directing it above the cap. Twist the short end that you first placed against the lid around the corner of the angle. Turn this short piece around the longer piece several times, using flat nose pliers to maneuver the wire and tuck in against the cap. Use wire cutters to trim excess.



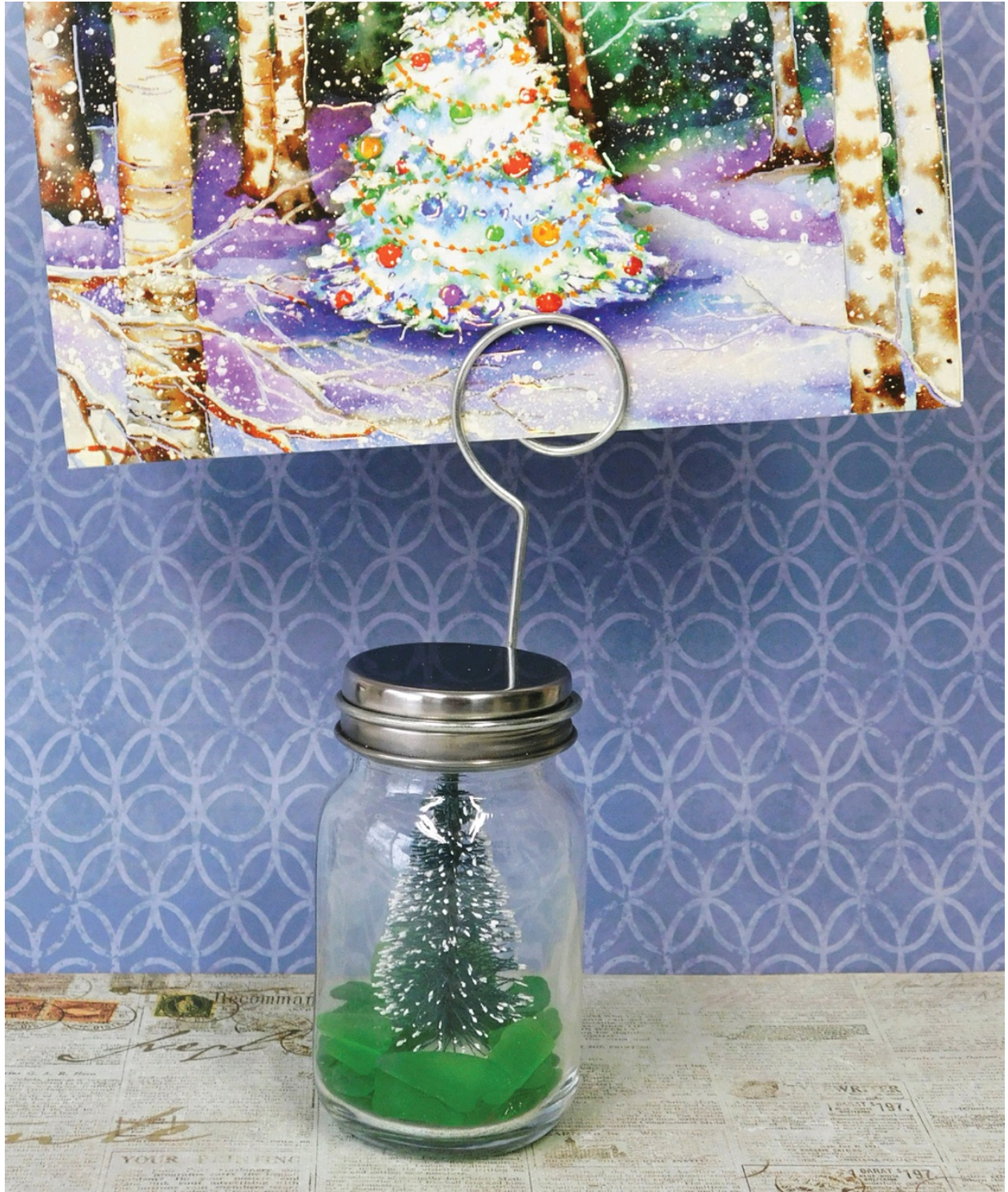
3. Make the holder swirl. With the cap set on the work space, and the remaining long end of the wire standing straight up, use your flat nosed pliers to turn the wire to a 90-degree angle, at about 2 inches above the cap. To make the swirl head, which will hold your place setting or cards, use your fingers to manipulate the wire into a flat,

curved circle. Do not use pliers for this step, as it will cause crimps in the wire. Turn the wire to make two full loops, the first of which will be larger and the second smaller to “fit” flat inside the first. Trim excess wire when your swirl holder is complete.

4. Fill the glass jars. Use the artificial snow with sea glass for some. Use the mini tree and sea glass for others; add a dab of glue to the base of the tree and press into the flat bottom of the jar. Surround the trees with small sea glass pieces. Add any additional embellishments you choose to decorate your jars.
5. Place the wired/swirled cap into the jar. Fit place card or Christmas cards in the swirled loop you’ve made.









Cork Bottle Ornaments

Wondering what to do with all your tiny beach and sea glass pieces? This is a perfect project to make good use of your tiniest beach finds. These little darlings can be hung on the tree, added to your gift tags on your wrapped presents, or used to decorate the bottle of wine you've bought as your hostess gift.

Materials Needed:

- Miniature Glass Bottles with Cork Toppers
- E6000 Adhesive (or a Comparable Adhesive)
- Sea Glass
- Screw Eye Hooks
- Ribbon





Process:

1. Uncork the bottles and fill with sea glass. Give the bottle a good

shake every few pieces to make sure they settle well. Leave enough space at the top for the cork to be pressed inside.

2. Cap the bottle. Run a thin line of glue along the side of the cork and set the cork back into the filled bottle.
3. Attach the hook. Place the tip of the screw eye hook into the center of the top of the cork and begin turning. Keeping the screw vertically straight, turn until the screw eye meets the cork.
4. Add ribbon for hanging.
5. Optional: Add charms from the eye of the screw.







Sea Glass and Picture Ornament

The best gifts to give and receive are always the ones made with love. And our favorite ornaments on the tree every year are the ones that include family and loved ones. Add this one to your “favorites” collection by joining your favorite photos with your favorite sea glass.

Materials Needed:

- Favorite Photos
- Flat Round Clear Ornament
- Sea Glass
- E6000 Adhesive (or a Comparable Adhesive)
- Ribbon
- Wooden Disc (For Measuring/Cutting Photo)

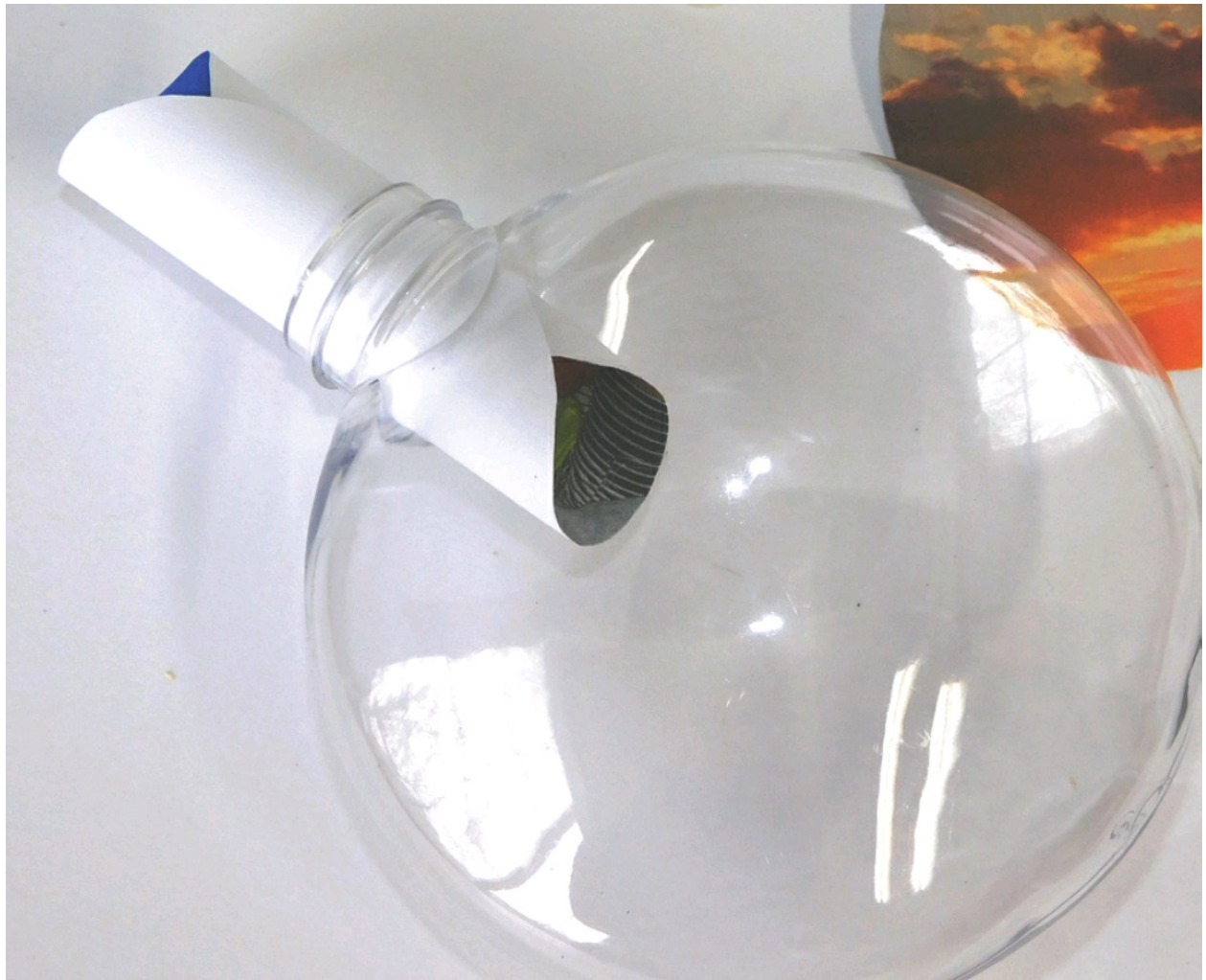


Process:

1. Gather your favorite family pictures. Use the round wooden disc (which must be slightly smaller in height than the ornament itself) and center on the photo, pencil-marking the cut lines.
2. Cut the photo into a circle using your penciled guide.
3. Place the photo into the ornament. Very loosely roll the photo, just closed enough to fit through the opening in the ornament. (Do not leave the photo rolled overlong as it will maintain some of the roll once inside the ornament.) Insert the cropped photo into the ornament. It will open once fully inside. Use tweezers as needed to straighten the picture within.



4. Add sea glass. Make sure the photo inside the ornament is against the “back” side of the bulb and drop the sea glass in front of it. The sea glass will hold the photo in place inside, and if there was any remaining curl to the cut picture, the sea glass should help to unfurl it.
5. Replace the cap. The sea glass adds weight to the ornament and the cap will need to be glued to prevent the bulb from separating from the cap. Run a line of glue around the inside top of the cap and press firmly into the ornament. Twist the cap once in place to spread the glue evenly underneath.
6. Add ribbon.





Sand and Sea Glass in Bulb Ornament

Simple, yet eye-catching, these ornaments look great on the tree, enhanced by the soft glow of the strung lights. But like so many other projects that include sea glass, these can be featured around the home at any time of the year. Change up the ribbon color to add them to any beach décor, or dangle from the gifts you give—these are perennial favorites!

Materials Needed:

- Clear Bulb Glass Ornament
- Craft Sand
- Sea Glass
- Ribbon
- E6000 Adhesive (or a Comparable Adhesive)
- Funnel



Process:

1. Prepare the bulb ornament. Use glass cleaner to remove any oils, marks, or fingerprints on the bulb.
2. Remove the cap of the ornament. Place the thin funnel end into the opening of the glass bulb and pour your craft sand into the wide end of the funnel. You need only about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of sand on the bottom of the bulb. Too much sand will hide your sea glass.
3. Add sea glass. Remove the funnel and drop the sea glass pieces into the bulb one at a time. Check regularly the width of the glass before inserting into the neck of the bulb. The uneven shapes of sea

glass can be deceiving and easily wedged in the neck.



4. Secure the cap. Use the E6000 for a strong hold, applying a line around the top underside of the ornament cap. Replace the cap and give it a good turn along the rim to distribute the glue.
5. Add ribbon or twine to the neck or loop of the ornament for a perfect finish.



Snowman Ornament

These festive ornaments with cheery snowmen are a huge hit on any Christmas tree or at the next ornament exchange! The fabric paint colors for the scarf, eyes, and buttons are all up to you. The snowman hats can be found at some craft stores but usually only when the seasonal items are available. Likely, they can be found online year-round.

Materials Needed:

- Round Ceramic or Porcelain Ornament
- Modge Podge
- Foam Brush
- Scrapbook Paper
- White Sea Glass
- Snowman Hat
- E6000 Adhesive—White (or a Comparable Adhesive)
- Fabric Paint and White Acrylic Paint
- Hanging Ribbon



Process:

1. Prepare the scrapbook paper. We like the look of the torn edges and recommend you tear by hand the individual rounds, just a 1/4 inch or so smaller in diameter than the ornament itself.
2. Decoupage the scrapbook paper onto the ornament. With the foam brush, apply an even, but not heavy layer of Modge Podge to the front of the ornament. Rub the surface of the paper with your fingers to push out any bubbles of glue beneath. No need to let this dry but apply a thin but even coat of Modge Podge across the top of the paper and past the ends to make sure the edges don't peel away over time.





3. Prepare your sea glass. A few things to note here: First, (and again) because sea glass as perfectly round discs is hard to find, use pieces that *best* fit your needs, choosing three pieces for each snowman to be made. Next, you will be tempted to use your best round piece for the snowman head but a cone-shaped or triangular shard actually will work better for securing the hat. And last, often

when using white glass for pictures, or in this case glued ornaments, once you've glued your shard into place you can see the scrapbook paper through the sea glass and it detracts from the overall picture. (White sea glass is of course simply clear glass made "white" by the frostiness acquired while transforming from broken glass to sea glass.) We regularly paint the underside (side to be glued) with white acrylic paint, careful to not have any showing from the front (top showing) or sides of the glass. This ensures that the product (in this case, the snowman) is the centerpiece and is not distracted by sea glass that is too transparent. Note the difference in the photo of sea glass with the underside painted verses unpainted.

4. Glue the hat on your snowman head. Using the white-colored E6000, dab a bit of glue on the top of the snowman head glass piece, front and back, and attach the hat.





5. Set up your three sea glass pieces in the shape of a snowman on the ornament and glue each piece separately with the white-colored E6000, careful to glue the contact points of the glass (sea glass usually has some degree of curve to it and not every part of the glass may touch the surface onto which it will be glued). Leave a little space between head and body piece for the scarf. The two bottom pieces can be touching when glued.
6. Paint your snowman. Using the fabric paints, which will give an added depth as opposed to acrylic paint, dot the eyes, mouth, and buttons with careful placement. Draw out the nose and arms, and give a flourish to your snowman's scarf with different colors. Add a line of "snow" with white fabric paint.
7. Add a ribbon hanger. Allow twenty-four hours to dry, or until the fabric glue is no longer responsive to touch.





About the Author

Rebbecca Ruger-Wightman is the Founder/Editor of *Glassing Magazine*, the first printed periodical about sea glass, beach glass, and all types of beachcombing. She is the owner of Beach Bum Glass, LLC beach glass art, and the promoter of the 2018 Buffalo Beach Glass & Coastal Arts Festival. Rebecca is a mother of four and lives just south of Buffalo, New York, along Lake Erie with her husband, Larry, and her four-legged beach buddy, Brody.

