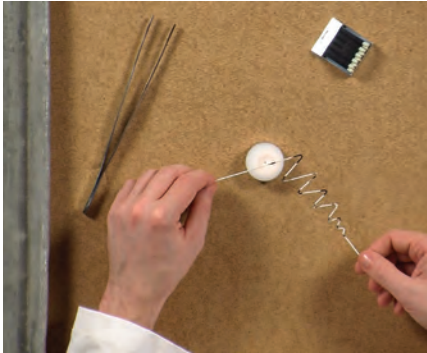


# Candle-Bent Stringer

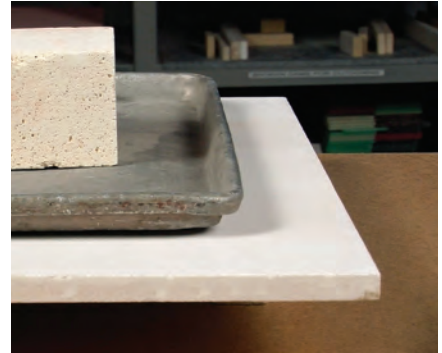
Adapted from the lesson "Working with Stringer," part of Bullseye Glass's Kiln-Glass Education Online series. All rights reserved. For more information, visit <http://www.bullseyeglass.com/education/bullseye-kiln-glass-education-online.html>



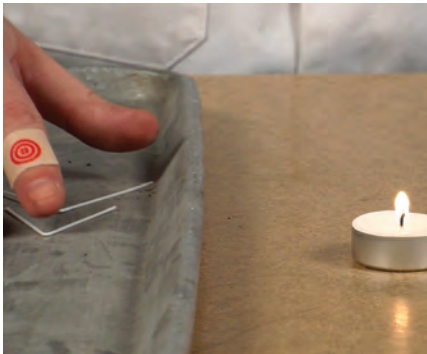
A fun way to "draw" with glass stringer is to work it in the flame of a candle.



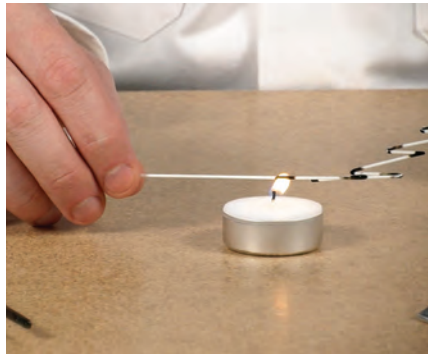
Always be cautious when using this process. The tip of the candle flame burns at around 1700°F (927°C), which is hot enough to soften the glass for manipulation.



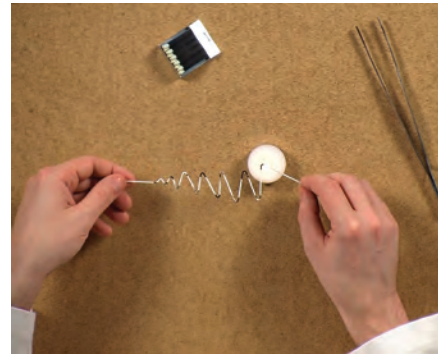
Be sure that you have a safe place to put down the hot glass. Suitable surfaces include brick, sheet metal, or any non-combustible surface.



Because glass is a good insulator, a stringer can retain heat for several minutes. Always assume that freshly bent stringer is hot and handle it with care.



To get started, place the stringer in the tip of the flame. Hold it steady until the glass starts to soften.



When the stringer is soft, bend it to the desired angle and then remove it from the flame to allow it to cool in place.



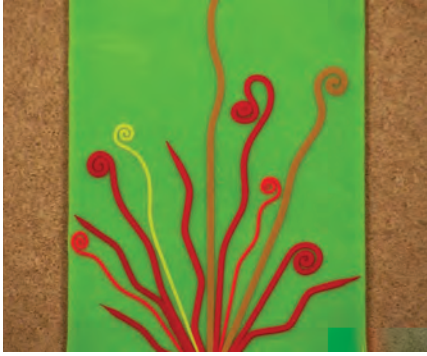
2 mm stringer will take more time to heat up than 1 mm stringer.



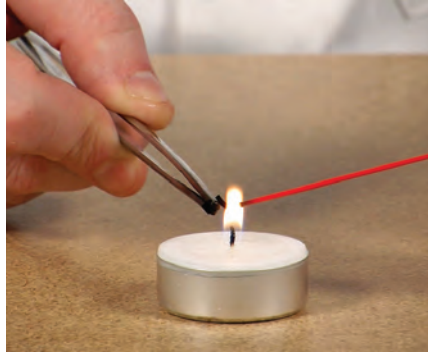
Be patient and keep the stringer in the hottest part of the flame until you are done with the bend. 2 mm stringer will stiffen faster than 1 mm stringer.

(Continued on reverse.)

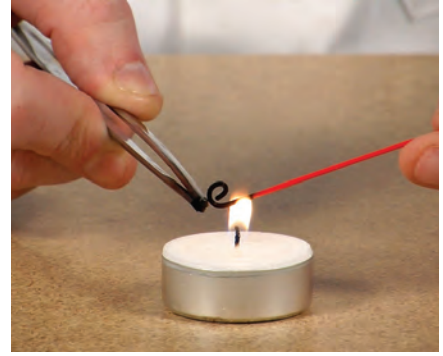
## Candle-Bent Stringer (Continued)



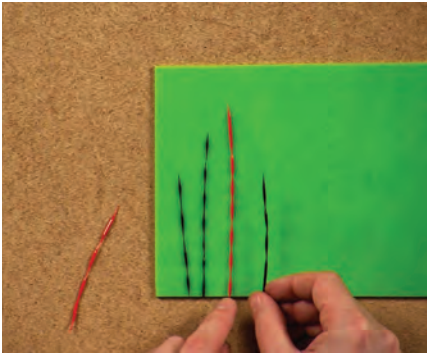
The candle-bending method is also great for making curlicues.



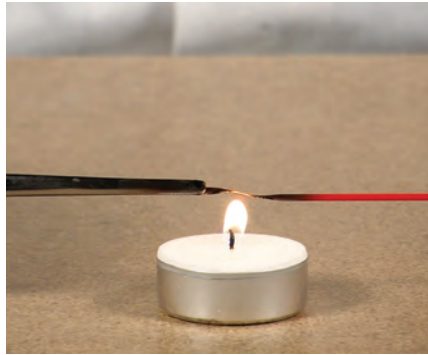
To make a curlicue, place the end of the stringer into the flame. When you feel it begin to soften, lightly tap up on the end to start the curve.



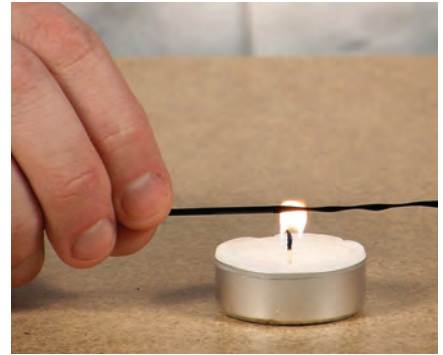
As you tap, slowly feed the stringer into the flame to heat up the next continuous section. Keep going until you have the desired size and shape.



You can also create a variety of line weights by stretching or elongating stringer in the flame.



To create an elegant stringer terminus, hold the end in the flame with tweezers, keeping a very slight tension. When you feel the glass begin to soften, use the tweezers to pull while keeping the stringer in the flame.



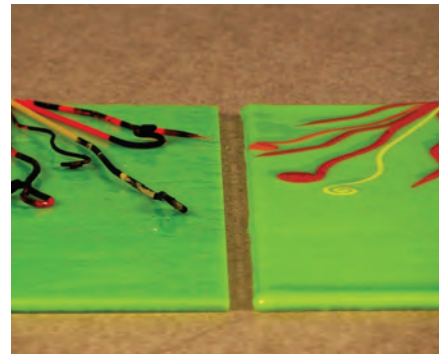
You can also manipulate the diameter of the stringer, using the pulling technique.



When making candle-bent stringer, be sure to avoid getting candle wax on the glass.



Wax is a contaminant that will show up in your finished work if not burned off prior to fusing.



You will not have to clean the soot from the stringer before fusing because soot is made of carbon. It will burn off completely when fired, leaving you with a clean finished piece.