

Patty Klunzinger

Glass Blowing



*** Welcome! Please stay in front of the table and don't touch this red kiln. It's hot, but it is not dangerous. ***

My name is Patty Klunzinger. I'm a Glass Artist and the Owner of Glass Utopia.

This globe is called Glaskolben, and it's made in Germany. Glaskolben are used to make these ornaments that I'm going to demonstrate today.

I will start by adding colored crushed glass that has been tested to be compatible so everything will heat and cool at the same rate without cracking.

You can help me design the ornament by choosing two colors. If you would like three colors, you have the option to add strings of glass. I'll add clear crushed glass to separate the colors and make it more sparkly. The crushed glass will melt onto the inside walls of the Glaskolben, and the (optional) glass strings will attach and suspend wherever they feel like going!

Time to put my safety glasses on and light the torch! The torch is a little loud, but the flame will not reach you. I will introduce the Glaskolben into the flame slowly, so it doesn't crack. When it gets warm and soft enough, I'll use this paddle made of graphite, that will not stick to the hot glass,

to push the point of the globe in. When they make the Glaskolben, they pull this point, and I like it better without it. Next, I'll get it a little hotter and roll it in this clear, finely crushed glass that will melt into the ornament and make it stronger.

With more heat, you can see the colors changing and the crushed glass melting onto the inside walls of the Glaskolben. In a few more seconds, you'll see the ornament reducing in the middle, and it will be soft enough to blow the air into it.

Now, I will place it into this kiln, that is set at 1,000 degrees, for about 15 minutes. This begins the annealing process that will strengthen the ornament. It is then placed in this fiber blanket to cool to room temperature slowly.

Next, I will use this scoring tool to score the neck of this cooled ornament to remove the blow tube. You can feel the tool to see that it's not sharp. It creates a score line, and I will crack the tube off there. I'll insert this cap assembly into the neck.

When I started making ornaments, Amazon had not yet been invented so I couldn't always find hooks. I taught myself how to make them with this galvanized steel wire. I'll hook it on, and it's ready to hang on my tree!

Thanks for watching!

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