

Sauvarins Coloured Glass Studio Ltd

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Instruction on glass cutting

1. BUY THE BEST CUTTER YOU CAN AFFORD

If it helps you to cut accurately and comfortably, it will save you money in the long run. Look for a cutter with a comfortable handle and a high-quality, long-lasting wheel made of carbide steel.

2. ALWAYS USE A CUTTING LUBRICANT

Cutting oil is the best lubricant. We recommend keeping your cutter in a jar with a clean sponge at the bottom soaked in oil. This reduces the amount of excess oil. Remember to clean away the oil completely before firing the glass because any residue can cause devitrification.

3. WORK WITH YOUR FULL BODY

For the most uniform score, stand up and away from the worktable. Keep the cutter wheel perpendicular to the glass with the handle held upright or slightly angled back toward your body. Then move your whole body—not just your arm or hand—for the most uniform score.

When scoring severe curves, work at the corner of your worktable and move around the table as you cut.

4. SCORE THE SMOOTHER SIDE OF YOUR GLASS

With art glass, often one side is smoother than the other. You'll find that scoring on the smoother surface is easier and leads to cleaner breaks.

5. IF POSSIBLE, POSITION YOUR SCORE SO THAT THERE IS AN EQUAL MASS OF GLASS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE SCORE

Otherwise, the break below the score line will naturally tend to move to the side where there is less glass, resulting in an edge that flares out from your score on the bottom side of the sheet. If you're cutting numerous thin strips, start with a piece that is four times as wide as the strips you need. Cut it exactly in half. Then cut each half in half. By always keeping an equal amount of glass on each side of your score line, you can get perfect strips that are as narrow as the glass is thick.

6. CONCENTRATE ON APPLYING UNIFORM PRESSURE AND USING CONSISTENT SPEED

Listen for a smooth consistent sound as you score. It should not be scratchy. When scoring opalescent glasses with the correct amount of pressure, you may hear no sound at all.

7. NEVER SCORE TWICE OVER THE SAME PATH

If you make a bad score, do not re-score the same line on the same side of the glass.

You'll dull the cutter wheel and lessen your chances for a clean break.

If you absolutely must break the glass along a line that is poorly scored, turn the glass over and very carefully score along the same line. Then break it as usual.

8. WHEN CUTTING CURVES, CONSIDER RUNNING YOUR SCORE FROM THE INTERIOR OF THE SHEET

Consider how glass naturally breaks when you start to run a score. It tends to run as directly as possible to the edge of the piece. Therefore, if possible, when cutting complex shapes, start running your complex curves or circles away from the edge.

9. AVOID TAPPING WHENEVER POSSIBLE

Tapping almost always leaves a jagged edge. But if you must, tap directly under the score line to minimize flared edges.

10. BREAK OUT YOUR GLASS IMMEDIATELY AFTER SCORING

If allowed to sit too long, a score line will begin to develop fractures radiating along its entire length. Such fractures make it nearly impossible to run the score cleanly.

11. Use a clean rag with your grozing pliers

Information compiled from our experience and Bullseye Glass instructions.

<http://www.bullseyeglass.com/>