

Tutorials – Using Copper Foils

Copper foil is made in different widths - 3/16", 7/32", 1/4" and 3/8" - in roll lengths of 36 yards and has adhesive on one side. The narrower the foil the smaller the final line of solder between the glass pieces but also the technique becomes more difficult as greater accuracy of cutting is required.

Before foiling all the glass pieces should have been cut and checked on the "cutline" to see that they fit together accurately.



Make sure that each piece of glass is clean especially from cutting oil, and then wrap the edges of each piece in foil.

Position the glass on the centre of the foil and as you do this press the foil down tight and smooth the edges with your All Nova tool.

When each piece of glass has been foiled, lay them all down on the workbench. If the panel is rectangular use wooden laths as for leading.



The first soldering to be done is to tack the pieces together with blobs of solder. This is done before attempting to run a bead along the whole length. Soldering is the most important step when using foil as it affects the strength and final appearance of your project.

All exposed copper must be soldered as the joint relies upon the solder for its strength. Flux all the foil and, using a soldering iron and solder run a bead along the seam between the pieces of glass. The object is to produce a raised bead; it is a good idea to practice this technique on scraps of glass foiled together before you begin an important project. Good soldering will enhance the appearance of the final object.

The final stage is to thoroughly clean the finished object removing all flux residues from the glass. The solder may then be stained to either a black or copper finish by using a liquid patina.