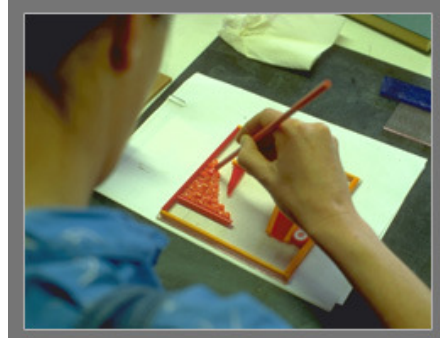


Tutorials – Creating a Design

The first stage for either method is to make a full size drawing of the window or object you want to produce. If a lot of detail is to be included by painting onto the glass, this drawing will be the cartoon and is the important original from which the final window is copied. A "catlike" is taken from the cartoon which gives the shapes of all the pieces of glass that have to be cut. In many cases, where painting is not required the first drawing may well be the "cutline". The accuracy of the "cutline" is crucial in that by keeping to it the glass will be kept to the correct size.

The thickness of your line will represent the space between the pieces of glass. For lead the width of this line would be between 2mm and 3mm depending upon the width of the heart while for foil it would be 1mm. After the glass has been cut the "cutline" is used again when leading the panel together. By keeping strictly to the drawing, the final panel or object will be made to the correct size.



Glass Cutting

Cutting glass successfully is a matter of using the correct technique and having confidence. It is certainly not something to be afraid of. There are many different cutters available today from the inexpensive steel or carbide wheel to oil cutters. The latter have a reservoir of oil in the handle that lubricates the wheel automatically; this lubrication is the secret of easy glass cutting.

When scoring the glass the cutting wheel should always be held perpendicular to the surface. Apply firm downward pressure so that a slight scratching noise may be heard. Too much pressure will result in small glass chippings being visible along the score while too little pressure will not score the glass. Never go back across a scored line a second time.

To break the glass, hold it firmly in your fists between the thumb and index finger of each hand and twist your wrists to obtain an outward pressure. Alternatively cut-running pliers may be used. These are designed to exert the same pressure by gently squeezing the pliers.

When cutting glass you can see through, place the glass over the "cutline" on your workbench. If you are using opalescent glass, which is often too dense to see through it will be necessary to cut the "cutline" into templates and draw the shape around these onto the glass. If the entire panel is in opalescent glass, a duplicate will be required: one to cut up and one to use on the bench.

We suggest that you practice on scraps of 3mm clear glass obtainable from your local glass merchant before making a project.

We can supply beginners books give good instructions for those learning to cut glass