40 Great Glass Fusing Projects

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Includes Full-Size Patterns
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PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALAN WYCHECK

STACKPOLE BOOKS
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Once you have made some simple fusing projects, you might want to make accent components to take your work to a higher level. We have provided instructions for making nuggets, bending stringers, making vitrigraph streamers, and creating fusible wire hooks.

I hope you enjoy producing unique components that are sure to add creativity and distinction to your projects. Make plenty—you will find yourself reaching for these accent pieces often!

**Making Nuggets**

There are numerous projects in this book that use fusible nuggets. While commercially prepared fusible nuggets are available, some projects may require nuggets that are sizes or colors you can’t find. Making your own fusible nuggets is very easy and can be a good way to use scraps of fusible glass.

Start by cutting several strips of glass 5⁄16 inch wide. The grid and cutting system is a great way to cut uniform strips of glass, but you can accomplish the same results with just a glass cutter and ruler.

Using the cutting system (or a cutter and ruler), score a straight line 5⁄16 inch from the edge of the piece of glass (see chapter 3 for glass-cutting instructions).

Use your breaking pliers to break off the strip of glass. Notice that the pliers are placed at the base of the score line for better leverage.

We have created a series of 5⁄16-inch glass strips in a variety of colors.

Use mosaic cutters to nip the glass strips into small pieces. Grasp the glass with the leading edge of the mosaic cutter wheels. Nip off segments that are ¼ to 5⁄16 inch. A gentle squeeze will break the glass.

**MATERIALS FOR MAKING NUGGETS**

- Grid and glass-cutting system or glass cutter and ruler
- Breaking pliers
- Mosaic cutter
- Fusible glass (we used dark blue, deep aqua, sky blue, and clear)
- Kiln paper
- Prepared kiln shelf
Continue nipping the glass into similarly sized pieces.

These pieces are ready for the kiln. If we heat the glass to a full fuse temperature, the irregular shapes will round nicely into smooth nuggets. Fire using Firing Schedule C, listed in chapter 5, or use your own program to fire to a full fuse temperature of 1480 degrees F and hold at the top temperature for 12 minutes.

Begin to lay out the glass pieces on a prepared kiln shelf that has been covered with kiln paper. Allow a little space between the glass pieces—pieces that touch will not round into individual nuggets but will bond to the neighboring glass.

Allow the kiln to cool to 100 degrees F or less before opening the kiln. After firing, the glass nuggets are nicely shaped.

Wash, rinse, and dry the nuggets well, and they will be ready for use in your projects.

Bending Stringers in a Torch Flame

Stringers are thin canes of glass available for purchase in a large variety of colors. For some of our projects, we like to bend these stringers into different shapes to enhance a design. If you have access to a Hot Head torch head, you can bend many stringers in a short period of time. Similar results can be achieved by bending stringers in a candle flame, but it will take longer and requires some patience. Whatever method you use, bend lots of stringers.

Attach the torch head to the MAP gas tank. Slide the adjustable ring over the tank and insert the L bracket. Tighten the adjustable ring with a screwdriver.

Clamp the L bracket to your work surface.
Open the gas tank by turning the control knob on the torch head to the left. Immediately use the striker to light the torch. Turn the gas back until your flame is mostly blue and about 1½ inch long.

Hold a stringer with tweezers in each of your hands. Slowly introduce the stringer into the flame. In just a few seconds, the glass will turn red and you can manipulate its shape.

Continue shaping the stringer from end to end.

Place the bent stringer on a kiln paper-covered baking tray to cool.

When you have bent as many stringers as you want, be sure to stop the gas flow by turning the control knob on the torch head to the right. The stringers will cool very quickly and be ready for use in myriad project designs!

**MATERIALS FOR BENDING STRINGERS IN A TORCH FLAME**

- MAP gas tank
- Hot Head torch head
- Adjustable ring
- L bracket
- Clamp
- Screwdriver
- Striker
- Tweezers
- Baking sheet covered with kiln paper
- Fusible stringers
Heart Tile Box Lid

Although there are many ways to use a fused tile, this one will be inserted in the lid of a wooden box. The finished box will make a lovely dresser accent for keeping small jewelry pieces or coins.

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MATERIALS
White fusible glass, 3⅛-inch circle
Red Mardi Gras fusible glass, 3⅛-inch circle
Red opal fusible glass, ¼ square foot
Pattern, two copies
Scissors
Rubber cement
Glass-cutting tools
Hairspray in pump container
Adhesive
Wooden box with lid
Kiln paper
Prepared kiln shelf
These projects will be nice additions to any bathroom. They were created with black-and-white on clear Baroque glass. Although the glass is not marketed as a COE 96 fusing glass, there is no problem with compatibility because the glass is not fused to any other glass. Using a glass like this can run the risk of devitrification, however, as was described in chapter 1. To prevent a cloudy look on our project, we will apply a lead-free overglaze.

**MATERIALS**

- Black-and-white over clear Baroque glass, 8-inch square for the toothbrush holder
- Black-and-white over clear Baroque glass, 4- by 5-inch rectangle for the soap dish
- Prepared short stainless-steel floral former mold
- Prepared 5¼-inch square slumping mold
- Ruler
- Glass marker
- Lead-free overglaze
- Soft brush
- Kiln paper
- Prepared kiln shelf
Nature provides us with some amazing designs. In this project, we will use a variety of plant materials to create a beautiful platter.

### MATERIALS

- Dark blue cathedral fusible glass, 7 ¾ by 11 ½ inches
- Clear fusible glass, 8 by 12 inches
- Variety of ferns and leaves, pressed overnight to flatten
- Dust mask
- Mica powder
- Spoon
- Tweezers
- Small powder sifter
- Hairspray in pump container
- Clear stringers
- Kiln paper
- Prepared kiln shelf
- Prepared slumping mold
This creative bowl is a delicate piece of glass. While it may not be as hefty as some of the other projects you create, it makes a nice accent piece for display. Experiment with different color combinations to complement your home décor.

**MATERIALS**

- Clear fusible nuggets, about 120
- Sky blue fusible nuggets, about 180
- Deep aqua fusible nuggets, about 200
- Dark blue fusible nuggets, about 240
- Kiln paper
- Prepared kiln shelf
- Prepared slumping mold, 12-inch round, shallow bowl
A fused key rack is an unusual but functional piece of art. It will help organize the morning rush as your family heads off to work or school.

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**MATERIALS**

- Fuser’s Reserve glass, 7 by 9 inches
- White fusible glass, 6 ⅛ by 8 ⅞ inches
- Aventurine green fusible glass, ½ square foot
- 17-gauge fusible wire
- Wire cutters
- Needle-nose pliers
- Pattern templates
- Silver marker
- Green vitrigraph streamers or bent stringers
- Glass-cutting tools
- Ruler
- Hairspray in applicator bottle
- Pattern for hook layout
- Kiln paper
- Prepared kiln shelf
- Prepared wave-shaped slumping mold
Another method of slumping bottles is to fire them directly into a mold. We have included two examples, but there are many possibilities.
Fused glass jewelry has gained popularity in recent years. Many techniques have been refined by experienced glass fusers to provide a variety of sparkling accents to any wardrobe. We will present several jewelry projects using individual cabochons; we will also make a fused sheet of dichroic glass that will be cut into shapes with a glass saw. At the end of the project section, we will show you how to attach the appropriate jewelry findings to your glass.

**Pro Tip:** Remember to maximize your kiln usage by firing projects together. As jewelry pieces are generally small, they can be tucked around the edges of other projects that will be fired to the same temperature.

Patterns on page 165
This pendant light will be sure to impress the musician in your family. The layout of the design takes time and patience, but the end result makes it all worthwhile!

### MATERIALS

- White fusible glass, 2 sheets
  - 12 by 12 inches
- Black noodles
- Black stringers
- Black fusible nuggets, 80 to 90 made from ¼- by ¼-inch glass pieces
- Ruler
- Hairspray in applicator bottle
- Glass-cutting tools
- Tweezers
- Glass markers, black and silver
- ¼-inch grinder bit
- Pendant light fixture
- Kiln paper
- Prepared kiln shelf
- Prepared tall floral former mold