

Instructions

We recommend that you possess basic to intermediate stained glass experience for working with our kits. Some kits require more advanced skills than others. Many of our kits feature quite small pieces which pose a challenge in copper foiling. We are sure you will find the finished product worth the extra effort.

The most important thing to start with is a flat surface (plywood is not flat).

REMOVAL FROM PACKAGE - First, remove your pattern and glass from the packaging. We recommend cutting around each of the pieces of glass with a craft knife. Do NOT bend pieces when removing them from under the shrink wrap. Be gentle this is glass!



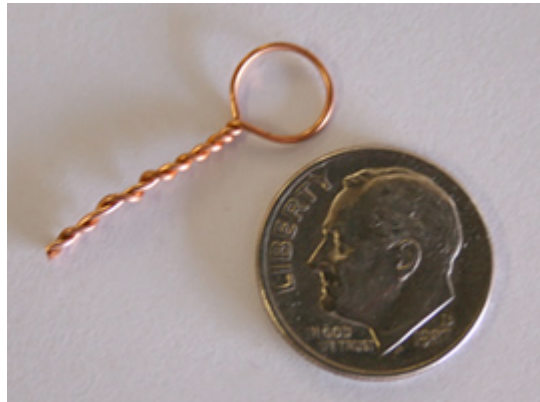
FOILING - After removing your kit and laying it out on the pattern you are ready to foil. The kits shown completed by our artists are foiled using different widths of copper foil. Large body and main pieces are foiled using 7/32" foil. Small detail pieces are foiled in 3/16" foil and in some cases even that is trimmed down for the best features.

SOLDERING - Now you are ready to solder. Please keep in mind that many of the pieces are small and will not withstand great amounts of heat. In order to avoid cracking or breaking of pieces please do not allow these pieces to get too hot during the soldering process. Take time to allow the glass to cool and return to that area after a minute or two. This is extremely important with long thin pieces of glass.

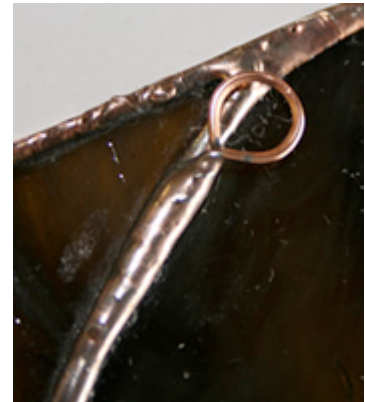
COPPER REINFORCING STRIP - We finish our products by wrapping the entire outside edge with Copper Reinforcing Strip. We recommend tinning (covering with solder) the entire length of reinforcing strip you will be using and then soldering the strip to the outside of the kit. This will allow the reinforcing strip to take patina and will make it unnoticeable when the project is complete. This reinforcement strip is very pliable and with a little practice you will get the hang of it in no time. This is well worth the time to add the extra strength to your glass.



HOOKS - On the pattern included with your kit you will see locations for hook placement. We make our hooks by taking copper wire and wrapping it around a screwdriver to form a circle. You then continue in a twisting motion to form a “tail” on the hook. It is best to twist the tail until it is an inch and a half long. This will allow for more solder to ensure a secure hold. Solder the hook on the solder line corresponding with the location provided on the pattern. Please make sure you are using a wire gauge that is heavy enough to support the weight of the glass you are hanging!!!



Completed hook before being soldered in to kit



Hook soldered into the back of a kit

FINISHING - The last step is of course putting the final touches on. If you are leaving your solder lines silver then just give your project a bath. Otherwise a good coat of patina and a bath is all it needs. Use heavy gauge fishing line or jack chain to hang your art. Once again please make sure to pick a line that is rated to hold more than enough weight. Also replace the fishing line every year or so, it does deteriorate over time due to sun exposure. Also we recommend using a hook placed into a ceiling or window trim for hanging. **NEVER** use a suction cup to hang your glass. Suction cups lose grip when exposed to extreme temperatures and will **ALWAYS** result in broken glass.

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