“No Drill” Fused Glass Lamp Shade

Cut a 11.75” diameter circle in a standard thickness of clear iridized glass. Cut this circle in half and then cut these portions in half, giving you 4 wedges of a circle.

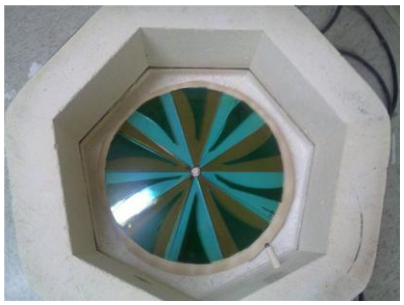
Using a mosaic nipper, carefully, nip the end tips of these wedges such that when the wedges are placed back together to form a circle, a gap is present in the center of the circle where the tips of the wedges meet. The size of the gap required will depend on the size of the hardware on top of the lamp base that you plan to place the fused glass blank on. When placing the glass wedges back in the circle configuration, you will need to assess which side of each wedge is iridized and place it iridized side up or iridized side down depending on your artistic preferences. Cut two small fiber paper circles the size of the hardware piece that you will ultimately need the fused glass blank to fit on. An easy way to do this is to press the fiber paper firmly on the threaded end such that an impression is made in the fiber paper. Cut around the outer perimeter of this demarcation to make the fiber paper slightly larger than the threaded end. Place these two pieces of fiber paper on top of each other in the gap created by the nipped tips of the circle wedges. If necessary, nip the ends of the wedge pieces a a little more to make room for these fiber paper pieces.

Irid up? Or Irid down? If you choose to fire the glass with the iridized coating of the base circle down, the glass placed on top of the clear irid circle will fuse directly into the clear glass as you would expect in a glass to glass fused piece and a lovely iridized finish will remain unbroken on one side of the lamp shade. If you choose to fire the glass with the iridized coating of the base circle up, the glass placed on top of the clear irid circle will resist fusing slightly because of the iridized coating and create more of a gap between the individual pieces. This technique can be very effective. The top portion of the fused mosaic piece

(fig. 2) illustrates the effect of glass to glass fusing (irid down). The bottom portion of the image illustrates the effect of glass to irid surface fusing (irid up).

Place the clear irid circle base on a piece of Thin Fire paper on a kiln shelf and use pieces of complimentary colors (Light Olive and Caribbean Blue used in illustrations) to cover the clear irid circle base. You can choose to be loose and use mosaic nippers to randomly place pieces of glass here and there filling the clear irid glass below. You can also create a pattern with these random pieces such as found in the image. It is helpful to use clear Elmer's glue to glue the focal point in place and fill in the area around the focal point with loose pieces.

You can also create uniform geometric wedges to fill the clear irid circle (as shown in the finished lamp).



Whichever pattern you choose, make sure to completely cover the seams of the clear Irid glass wedges on the base layer to make sure that the glass fuses completely together. And make sure to fill up to but not cover the fiber paper gap filler in the center of the clear irid circle.

Fire the project using the following firing schedule:

Segment	Rate	Temp	Hold
1	300	1100	10
2	300	1350	30
3	9999	1450	10
4	9999	960	90
5	100	800	15

Apply a suitable glass separator to GMXX Lg Lamp Drape according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Center the fused glass blank directly on the Drape mold and fire using the following firing schedule:

Segment	Rate	Temp	Hold
1	125	300	15
2	125	1100	20
3	125	1220	40
4	9999	950	60
5	100	820	20
6	100	500	5