

ROAD TEST

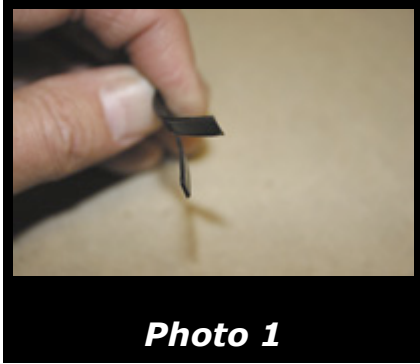


Photo 1

Putty: a thing of the past?

No Days Glaze 160™ from Streuter Technologies

Streuter Technologies of San Clemente, California makes their entrée into the stained glass realm with a product that may change the way you work, especially if your methods include working with lead came. Their new *No Days Glaze 160™* offers a real alternative to puttying, or cementing your windows once they've been assembled and soldered.

No Days Glaze 160™ is a solvent-free, ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA), copolymer based, thermally-cured bonding product (whew!). It comes in strips that look like window or door insulation, in varying sizes; all tailored to the many widths of conventional lead came. To put the *No Days* process and its usage in a nutshell, you:

1. Cut your piece of glass to your pattern or layout.
2. Cut the appropriate strip of lead came to surround or border the piece.
3. Cut a matched strip of *No Days* to the length of the lead came strip.
4. Set the *No Days* against the heart of the came strip.
5. Position the prepared lead strip against the glass piece on your layout with glazing nails.
6. Heat the length of the installed *No Days* strip with a hair dryer or heat gun.
7. Snuggle the lead came against the glass for fit and wait 30 seconds for it to cool.
8. Never use glazing putty, whiting or toxic cements again.

It really is that easy; but there's much more the *No Days Glaze 160™* system than that.

A new approach to an old method

To replace the centuries old practice of glazing or puttying stained glass windows, *No Days* has to satisfy quite a few demands and expectations first. Let's take a look at the material itself. *No Days Glaze* arrives in 18-inch strips colored pewter or black. (See photo 1, top left) The strips are 0.030-inch thick and currently available in the following widths: 9/64, 5/32, 3/16, 13/64, 7/32, and 1/4 -inches. The strips are smooth and flexible to the touch, almost like rubber bands. As you can see from the above list, you can match the *No Days* strips to just about any width of lead came or metal channels.

Unlike traditional puttying and cementing, *No Days* is not applied as the last step in your window's construction. Rather, the material is fit into the lead came as you cut the came for its initial fit against your glass. This step itself necessitates a re-thinking of your normal way of working. For all intents and purposes, you will be eliminating any puttying, cementing and application of whiting, usually performed at the end of your project by adding the *No Days* application at this juncture in the process, and that brings us to the real magic of this material. Before you solder, you set the *No Days* with heat. When heat is applied to the *No Days* material by means of a hair dryer, or more efficiently, a heat gun, *No Days* softens, melts actually, and fuses to the lead and glass forming a waterproof seal and adding strength to your panel. As you continue to assemble your panel and surrounding your pieces with lead and *No Days* strips, (You also need to repeat the heating routine as you work each piece) the seal is completed. When cool, the *No Days* material cures to a bond that can withstand up to 22psi (pounds per square inch) of force. Conventional putty fails at less than 1psi!

To add a dollop of pleasure to the magic, *No Days Glaze™* is solvent free, non-toxic, does not create fumes, dust or airborne particulates, (Needs no cleaning with whiting!) and is virtually worry-free. Since your strips are cut to size, you will waste very little, if any *No Days*, as you can utilize any small cut off strips as well. It also has an indefinite shelf life. Starting to sound interesting?

We hit the Road Test

We had to try *No Days Glaze™* for ourselves. Despite all of its pluses, we were concerned with two points. First, what happens when you apply solder to the joints once the panel has been cut, leaded and the *No Days* has been applied? Will the heat affect the already cured strips? Will it burn away creating gaps in the *No Days* seal? And finally, what happens come repair time? How easily can *No Days* be re-softened to allow broken or damaged glass pieces to be removed and replaced?



Photo 2

To answer these questions, we built a little sample panel (No critiques please) to check out these points.

As we said at the beginning of this article, using *No Days Glaze™* will change the way you work. As stated: the *No Days* strips are cut to size as you cut your lead strips to wrap around your glass. This will take a little getting used to, because at first, it seems to add a step to the process. But remember you won't have to apply putty or cement or clean up with whiting late, so basically, it is eliminating two steps or more.

The *No Days* strips are set into the channel of the lead came before it wraps the glass. We used 3/16" lead came for our little practice project. The appropriate *No Days* strip fits firmly into the came, but it does need a little help to get there. A fid, run against the installed *No Days* will do the job easily (See photo 2). Once the material was set into the came, we fit the glass into the channel. At this point, we stopped to apply heat to the *No Days* strip we just installed. It doesn't take a lot of heat to activate the *No Days*. A good hair dryer will do. We used a heat gun set to low. Anything more powerful, like a heat gun set to high, would be too much. Let the heat get out of hand and you risk cracking the glass.

As you heat the *No Days*, you will see it become shiny as it softens and wraps itself around the edges of the glass. The instructions that come with the *No Days* suggest you give the glass a slight push into the came as the material softens to guarantee a close fit. This is the basic process. As it cools and cures (It only takes a few moments), the *No Days* not only fills the space you putty or cement would normally fill, it adds so much strength to the joint that you can actually pick the lead and glass up before soldering without having them come apart.

As with any new product, especially one that challenges such a traditional way of working, the more you work with it the easier and more routine it becomes. To work with curved or contorted pieces of lead came, the *No Days* is placed into the lead before the came is bent to shape. It's also a good idea to cut your strips to the same exact length of your came, so once the material is softened and cured, no gaps in the seal are created.

When the entire panel was done, soldering the joints was easy. We were concerned that the heat from the soldering iron would have an effect on the cured *No Days*, but it did not. In fact, we noticed that the edge and corner joints sealed together from the heat of the soldering iron.

Clean up

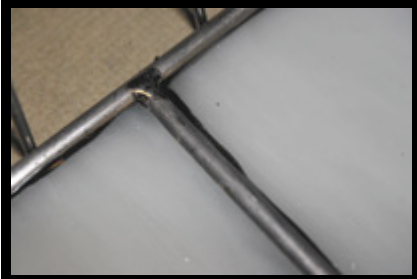


Photo 3

When the joints were all soldered, we did notice that the *No Days* had squeezed out of the channel and onto the surface of the glass in places (See Photo 3). We'd clean this up easily using a single edge razor blade to remove the *No Days* material that had squeezed onto the surface of the glass (See photo 4).



Photo 4

Repair

How easy would it be to repair a *No Days* panel? We found that re-heating the section to be repaired allowed us to easily remove the lead came (See photo 5). It softened just as easily after it cured. Any residual *No Days* on the glass could be cleaned up with a single edged razor blade.



Photo 5

So how do we like it? We do. Did we mention that it's non-toxic, and clean, and replaces puttying, cementing and filling the air in your workshop or studio with whiting? Anything that makes glasswork safer and cleaner is definitely worth a shot in our book. Will it make your life as a glass craftsperson easier? You'll need to try it for yourself, and that's exactly what we recommend.

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