

### TIPS AND TECHNIQUES

- Know your microwave wattage before you begin. If you do not have the manual look on the back or inside of microwave for this information or call you microwave manufacturer.
- Clean your glass by removing all glass debris and the oils from your hands with water and a lint free cloth. Dry your piece completely before fusing.
- Capping dichroic glass with clear glass creates a 3D look and a shiny finish. Dichroic without a cap results in a satin finish.
- Sometimes when firing one layer of dichroic glass your piece has sharp/jagged edges. If this happens, reduce the power and use a longer heating time. Slower is better when fusing dichroic glass.
- If your piece turns black or dark, you have over fused your glass, too hot or too long, or both.
- When using clear dichroic glass, the coated side may be difficult determine. To identify the coated side, hold the glass to light and look at the edge. The top has a dichroic film that extends to the edge; while the non-coated side shows a clear edge.
- Pre-heat your glass for 2 minutes at 50%. This will allow your glass to heat up slowly and evenly; otherwise, it can crack.
- Next, set the microwave for 3 minutes on High (800 watt), 2 minutes on high (1100 Watt) and 2 minutes on high (1200 watt). Then open and peek briefly at your piece. Be careful, as too much cold air will cause the piece to crack.
- If you are experiencing breakage, fire on a lower power and can require a longer period of firing time.
- Add 30-second increments until the desired look is achieved.

### STUDIO NOTES

1. If dichroic glass heats up too quickly it will crack.
2. Glass wants to be evenly heated just like in a regular kiln and the turntable helps to ensure this.
3. Glass thickness, the type of glass used and the number of layers will effect on how long it will take to fuse a project.
4. If you are using a Fuser's Glue to hold your project together make sure it is completely dry or your piece will crack.

### DO NOT FUSE GLASS WITH VARYING COE (COEFFICIENT OF EXPANSION).

**WARNING:** Glass inside the microwave kiln can reach temperatures of 1400°F – 1600° F. Glass at this temperature is capable of causing serious bodily harm and property damage. Handle with extreme caution and care. Not recommended for children. **CAUTION:** Fusible glass edges can be sharp, handle with care. Wear safety eye protection when using glass crafting tools and accessories.