

## **Basic Guide to Fusing Glass**

In order to fuse glass you have to know at least some basic properties of the glass. The first thing that is the most important is that all glass is not created equal. Glass expands when heated. This expansion is called Coefficient of Expansion (C.O.E. - the rate at which glass expands). The glass you will fuse has to match in expansion or it will crack upon cooling. Never mix glass that you don't know the C.O.E. of unless you run compatibility tests.

### **Tools for you to use**



**Glass Cutter**. Glass cutters come in two basic shapes, the Pencil grip and Pistol grip.



The next tool you should have in your glass tool kit is a **Grozing Plier**.

1. **SHAPE-** Decide what style pendant you want to make, such as square or rectangular. Cut your 2 pieces of glass into your desired shape & clean them well (finger prints can leave ugly marks on fired glass). Lay your bottom piece down. (Hold the edges of your glass to reduce fingerprints.) Next cut designs out of thin glass, dichroic glass, &/or frit, stringers, confetti etc. & lay them on top of your base piece. You can hold them in place with a drop of thin clear liquid glue. Do not pile up your decorations on top of each other, you can overlap some of the pieces but just don't pile it up. Then lay your top piece on it, this should be clear glass.
2. Place your piece on the fiber blanket on the kiln shelf. There should be at least a finger's width between each piece. Create a "key" for the class to indicate which glass piece is yours.
3. Now you are ready to fire. Your target (Set point) temperature is 1450°.
4. Select your piece and glue a bail (finding) onto to the pendant. Findings are different accessories used in jewelry making, from bails to chains. Before applying glue or epoxy, rough up the back of the pendant, as this will give it a better bond.
5. Design the pendant. A simple design is stringing the pendant on a beautiful chain, or you can do a more complex design by adding beads and silver.