

## **The Great Glass Saw Experience**

.....by Dennis Brady, Victoria BC Canada

*I bought a glass saw expecting to use it for production work. Not “just any” saw. It had to be big enough to cut stacks of glass, so I bought the biggest saw I could afford. It was like opening a surprise gift when it arrived I couldn’t wait to find out what all things this wonderful new device could do. It had no trouble cutting through 6 deep stacks of glass and worked equally well on stone and marble. “What else can it do?” There was a bunch of no longer needed tempered glass shelving in the shop so it seemed logical to try cutting it. I knew everybody told me you can’t cut tempered, but I just couldn’t resist trying my new wondertool on it. That diamond blade had sliced about an inch into the glass and I’m thinking, “Hah....those experts don’t know nuthin’. It cuts perfectly through tempered glass”. Then BOOM.....huge explosion.... sounded like a shotgun went off in front of me. That glass shelf exploded into a quadzillion pieces each travelling in a different direction – much of it towards me. I spent 3 seconds cutting into that glass – then 30 minutes removing bits of it from my forearms.*

*There are two lessons to be learned from my experience.*

- *Don’t try cutting tempered glass with a band saw.*
- *Don’t believe the claims that tempered glass breaks into nice safe little pieces. That’s bunk. Those “nice safe little pieces” had razor edges that easily imbedded into my flesh. Had that exploding glass shrapnel hit my face, I would assuredly be permanently blinded.*

*I laugh when I look back at my stupid experience, but I’m always uncomfortable whenever I’m around any tempered glass – remembering how thoroughly unsafe those “little pieces” really are.*