

Plugged Glass Cutter

There are 2 common reasons for oil cutters to plug up and stop wicking oil (in order of likelihood)

- Low air pressure in the oil chamber. As oil wicks out, it creates a partial vacuum inside the oil chamber. This can be prevented by routinely removing the filler cap to allow air in to repressurize the chamber.
- Oil is too thick. Toyo originally recommended using kerosene. That is still the best choice. Second best is diesel oil. If there is a third best, I've not yet discovered it - and I've tried dozens of different. The stuff sold as "Cutter Oil" is suitable ONLY for dipping. It's MUCH too thick to wick properly.

It doesn't make any difference whether you use an oil filled cutter or you dip it into oil before cutting, but there are very good reasons for NOT cutting dry. Professional glaziers have been dipping their cutters into oil for over a century. Toyo just created a cutter that provided reliable oiling without having to remember to dip it. There are 3 good reasons for using oil and not cutting dry.

- A well oiled wheel is CONSIDERABLY more likely to produce a consistent pressure score.
- A score made with an oiled wheel produces CONSIDERABLY less chipping in the score.
- The oil left behind in the score CONSIDERABLY increases the likelihood the break will follow that score. It's a common practice with pro glaziers when breaking thick glass to purposefully pour out oil to fill the score before breaking the score.

There's only one good reason for cutting dry. It eliminates the need to clean off any oil left from the score. For stained glass or kilnforming work, the oil can be efficiently removed with nothing more than rinsing in warm water.