Types of Glass

Artíque is a scribed "antique" glass, alive with the surface striations characteristic of mouth blown sheet glass. A Spectrum exclusive.

Bariole Streakies contain one or more colors combined with opal, and flashed on either a clear or tinted base glass.

Baroque is a "reamy" glass, produced by combining glasses of mismatched compositions. The different glasses "oppose" each other when they are stirred together, creating textured swirls and vivid color contrast. Made exclusively by Spectrum Glass.

Cathedrals are single color glasses, with slight, irregular surface texture. Degree of light transmission is directly related to density of color; clear glass is highly transparent, dark colors are very opaque.

Catspaw is a reproduction of the original texture produced by Kokomo in 1888 and is highly desirable for restoration work and antique reproductions.

English Mottle is a cathedral glass characterized by a soft pebble-like texture.

Flash glass is composed of laminates of different colors.

Float glass clear window glass made by rolling molten glass onto a bed of molten tin.

Fractures are collage glasses that contain paper-thin chips of color glass.

Glue Chip is glass that has been textured by applying molten glue and then peeled away to produce a frost-like pattern.

Granite is a textured glass with up to eight colors and iridescent coatings to create activity and a subtle sophisticated surface.

Iridescent Glass contains a thin layer of metallic crystal that has been bonded to glass during sheet forming, creating a colorful, shimmering surface effect.

Opalescent glass contains one or more cathedral glasses combined with white opal glass to create a variegated, multi-colored sheet. Available with varying degrees of light transmission.

Opals are solid color, opaque glasses. These non-variegated products are highly reflective in nature and thus especially popular for mosaic and mural application.

Opalume is a very dense uniform mix of opal glass with no streakiness.

Ring Mottles are fashioned after those made by Tiffany. These organic dappled patterns of varied opalescence are used to simulate naturalistic qualities of light.

Rough Rolled cathedrals have a subtle, delicate texturing that gently mutes transmitted light and images.

SilverCoats contain a bright, reflective silver-coat on one side, turning specialty glasses into shimmering super-specialties perfect for projects that demand brilliance. Made exclusively by Spectrum Glass.

Streaky glass is a combination of two or more cathedral colors with no opal content.

Streamers are collage glasses that contain threads of color glass.

System 96 products are formulated and "Tested Compatible" especially for fusing, slumping and other hot glass work. This Spectrum line of sheet glass is complemented by many specialty glass products, including glass frits, noodle, stringer, dichroic glass, and casting billets, made and supplied by System 96 partner companies. All System 96 products are tested against an identical standard to insure compatibility of viscosity and expansion coefficient.

Vecchio glass contains a bark-like texture that resembles a cross between a soft granite and rough rolled, but more linear.

Victorian Mottle is opalescent glass manufactured with the traditional catspaw dappled pattern.

Waterglass is a cathedral glass with a natural surface texture created by stretching the hot glass sheet while it is still in a pliable state. The result is gentle, rolling waves that resemble the surface of a lake or stream. A Spectrum exclusive.

Wispy glasses are composed of about 75% cathedral glass and 25% opaque white glass.

FLOAT GLASS

Types of Glass

Clear float glass is inexpensive and can be a low cost way to produce attractive kilnformed projects, but float glass is highly susceptible to “tin bloom”. Anti-devitrification compounds will reduce the likelihood of tin bloom, but to minimize this problem, it’s important when using float glass to identify the “tin” side. That’s the side that was facing the molten tin when the glass was made. The tin side should be faced against the mold when slumping or against the shelf when fusing. The only dependably effective way to identify the tin side is to shine a shortwave ultraviolet light on the surface of the glass to detect the faint fluoresecence reflected by the tin on that side.

When firing float glass, the temperatures at all points in the firing schedule should be increased by 50° F.

IRIDESCENT GLASS

This is glass with a metallic coating on one side. Iridescent glass formulated specifically for fusing will maintain it’s coating at fusing temperatures, but the metallic coating on regular other iridescent glass will burn off at full fuse temperatures. However, if fired only to slump temperatures, regular art glass iridescent glass will retain it’s full metallic appearance.

DICHROIC GLASS

Dichroic (meaning 2 colors) glass was originally developed as a way to put a metallic coating on glass for the US space industry. It has the unique property of reflecting one color while transmitting another color. By shifting the glass at different angles, you will see two different colors. It’s produced by spraying thin layers of metallic oxides (such as titanium & magnesium) onto the glass surface at very high temperatures in a vacuum furnace. Dichroic glass is one of the most expensive types of glass available. Although expensive to make, the beauty of dichroic glass has made it popular for jewelry and for decorative additions fo kilnformed glass.

COE COMPATIBILITY

TESTING COMPATIBILITY