A true story from Dennis Brady

I bought a glass saw expecting to use it for production work.   Not just "any" saw would work. It had to be big enough to cut stacks of glass, so I bought the biggest saw I could afford. I was like opening up a surprise gift when it arrived.   I couldn't wait to find out all the things this wonderful new device could do. It had no trouble cutting through 6 deep stacks of glass and worked equally on pieces of stone and marble.

"What else can it do?" I wondered.

I had a few pieces of no longer needed tempered glass shelving in the shop so it seemed logical to try cutting it with my marvelous new tool. I knew everybody had told me you can't cut tempered glass, but I just couldn't resist trying. That diamond blade easily cut almost an inch into the glass and I was thinking, "Hah ….those experts don't know nuthin'. It cut perfectly through tempered glass".

Then… BOOM…huge explosion….sounded like a shotgun went off just in front of me. That glass shelf exploded into quadzillion pieces travelling a supersonic speed in every possible direction.   Much of straight towards me.   I spend about 3 seconds cutting into the glass – then about 30 minutes moving bits of it from my forearms.

There are 2 valuable lessons to be learned from my experience.

1. Do not try cutting tempered glass with a band saw.

2. Do not believe claims tempered glass breaks into nice safe little pieces.

A whole lot of those "nice safe little pieces" had razor edges that easily embedded into the flesh of my arms.   If that exploding glass shrapnel had hit my face, I would likely have been permanently blinded.

I laugh when I look back at my stupid experiences, but I'm always uncomfortable whenever I work with tempered glass – remembering how thoroughly unsafe those "nice safe little pieces" really are.