

Plating 101

by Vic Rothman

First build the window (base layer). Plates can go on the front or back (ie. Tiffany, LaFarge). They can be the same size and shape as the piece below, or can cover many pieces, or a part of a piece.

FOIL; do not bead where the plates are going to go, just tin. The easiest way to attach the plate is to wrap the plate in foil and tin. Place on top of base window and solder WITHOUT any flux. Be careful not to let the solder get between the plates. You can also use wide foil and foil 2 pieces of glass together and solder on the base window.

LEAD: do not putty where the plates are going. When the putty dries out dust will collect between the plates. You can wrap plates in lead and solder to base. Tin the lead first then solder WITHOUT flux. You can use "high" heart lead and put 2 pieces of glass together. If can even lead a second window on top of the base if you want. To do this use a smaller "H" lead then the lead below and tack solder the interior leads to the base, and fully solder the perimeter lead to the base. Lightly putty the plate lead with a dry putty, do not push it under the lead too hard.

Robert Oddy said to vent the plates to prevent moisture. I have restored many Tiffany, LaFarge and other 100 year old plated windows and never seen moisture between the plates. I have a foiled window with plates that I made 20 years ago that has lived it's entire life in a bathroom, no moisture. Seal the plates all around. If you leave spaces dirt and moisture WILL get in. As Oddy also said, if you use many plates you will add weight to the window that may cause problems if not properly rebared.