

Stained glass taster day

Glossary of terms and tools

Cartoon

Full scale drawing showing lead lines as a guide for cutting the glass. This can also show lead thickness and glass colours.

Cutline

A tracing of the cartoon showing the exact shapes to cut.

Glass cutting

The glass pieces must be cut accurately using a glass cutter. The best cutter to use is oil-filled which keeps the wheel cool and therefore sharp.

Tools and materials

- Coloured and textured glass
- Oil-filled glass cutter
- Marker pen to mark cut lines
- Tapper
- Cut running pliers
- Grozing pliers

Glass alteration/decoration

Painting, staining, acid etching, sand blasting, fusing, slumping are some ways to change the appearance of the surface of the glass.

This is not covered by the taster day.

Grinding the glass

After the glass pieces have been cut to shape it is often necessary to make some adjustments using a glass grinder. This work can be done by hand but it's much quicker with an electric grinder.

Leading up

Fitting all the glass into the lead came can be like a complicated jigsaw. Everything is held in place by wooden battens and horseshoe (farrier's) nails. The lead is cut to size using a lead knife or lead cutter and the Fid is used to remove distortions to the lead produced during cutting.

Tools and materials

- Lead came (various widths and styles – I mostly use flat came with a 5mm high heart).
- Lead knife
- Lead nipper pliers
- Ultrashears lead cutter - optional
- Nova tool or Fid
- Farrier's nails used with lead and glass blocks
- Board and battens

Soldering

When all the lead has been cut and fitted the joins must be soldered together to make it hold together.

Tools and materials

- Soldering iron
- Solder
- Tallow
- Steel brush or wire wool to roughen the lead for soldering
- Steel brush to remove the tallow after soldering

Cementing and polishing

Blackened putty (called cement) is pushed under the flanges (edges) of the lead. This strengthens the panel and makes it waterproof.

Tools and materials

- Black cement
- Whiting
- Wooden skewers
- Old credit card cut into strips approx 1.5cm wide
- The flat end of the fid to squeeze out excess cement
- Stiff brush
- Black grate polish
- Soft cloths (to apply and buff the polish)

Hanging

The final technique is to solder two copper loops to the top of the panel so it can be hung.