

Stressometer Film

How to Test Your Glass Before Fusing

Who can use Stressometer Film?

Glass fusing artists will find this product extremely useful for creating glass art that is less likely to fall apart or become damaged due to glass incompatibility.

Why use Stressometer Film?

Use this product to see if the fusible glass is you want to use in your project is compatible. Using incompatible glass together in a fusing project usually damages and potentially destroys the project.

Sometimes glass from the same manufacturer can have compatibility issues. The COE marked at either 90 or 96 means that the glass is closer to one or the other, but rarely exactly 90 or 96.

The best way to test for compatibility of glass is to use the RICT test (Reynolds Interface Compatibility Test). This test shows the artist what glass is compatible and not compatible for fusing. Stressometer film is critical for this test.

How to use this film and perform the RICT test

1. Mark one sheet of clear as a test glass and use it only for testing. All other glass will be tested against it.
2. Cut a quantity of 1" squares out of the control clear.
3. Cut two 1" x 1/2" pieces from each sheet to be tested. Assign each sheet a number and record it in a log book along with the color, manufacture, and any other helpful data. Allow room to enter your test results.



4. Label each test bar.
5. Build a test bar by stacking two 1" squares of clear on a prepared kiln shelf. Place the two 1" x 1/2" pieces of sample #1. Set the pieces of sample #2 next to the clear. Continue alternating clear, sample, clear, sample etc. the length of the kiln shelf. Be sure to start and end with clear. Use straight edge if needed to keep the bar straight. Care should be taken so that the samples and clear are sitting close together without overlapping.
6. Heat the bar to a full fuse and anneal.
7. Sandwich the test bar between two backlit polarized lenses.
8. Rotate the lenses to the darkest orientation. Rotate the bar to a 45° angle to the lenses. Samples that have a coefficient different than the base glass will show a white glow along the end of the sample. The size and brightness of the white glow indicates the severity of the stress created at the sample/clear interface. Samples with no halo are compatible with the clear and should be marked as such.

Samples showing only slight stress are also acceptable. Samples with a greater amount of stress may also be usable but the greater the stress the less durable the finished piece is going to be. Environmental stress and annealing stress are going to add to whatever level of compatibility stress is already in the piece. Breakage will occur whenever the combined forces create a stress level that exceeds the strength of a particular piece of glass.

Notes about this product:

- Keep this film in the cardboard holder to keep it flat when not in use.
- Stressometer Film is a reusable product. If handled with care, it will last for many, many tests.

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