



WORKS of GLASS

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Electro Plating

- Sometimes, in a shop or at a craft show, you will see a stained glass piece that has a very bright, shiny appearance on the solder or lead seams. That item has been electroplated. I have been to shows and heard vendors tell the customer “that they just put a lot of wax on it and shine it up real good.” This is a big fat lie!
- The piece has been plated by use of an electroplating technique. Plating is a process where a finished glass project, lead or copper foil, is dipped into a vat containing a chemical solution with metal particles in it. An electrically charged source is attached to a soldered portion of the finished glass piece which draws the metal particles in the chemical solution onto the solder seams. To protect the metallic coating, a clear lacquer is also applied, which also gives a bright and shiny finish. This is true with both chrome and brass plating.
- Mirror or iridescent glass should not be used on pieces to be electroplated because the metals stick to the mirror and iridescence causing an unpleasant look. Due to the nature of the chemicals and equipment used, this process should be left to the plating professionals.

I don't know anyone around [Works of Glass](#) in Ames that does electroplating.

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