



# WORKS of GLASS

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## Grinder Tips

- Put an old rubber boot mat underneath your grinder to catch any spillage from your grinder. Just make sure that your grinder doesn't "sit" in any water or it will short out!!
- When grinding a lot of pieces for a pattern, place a piece of clear contact paper over top of your paper pattern. This way, you won't have to grind, dry, test-fit, and repeat. You can just grind and test-fit, quickly going back and forth.
- Try to have your pattern where you are test-fitting right beside your grinder. Cuts down on time spent just moving back and forth.
  - I know you do it for a hobby but time saved is time saved. Time is something you can't buy and we all need more of!
- Rinse out your sponge often, and replace when it becomes deformed.
- Clean out the ground up glass in the bottom of your grinder regularly with a narrow plastic putty knife. (Do what I say and not as I do!!!) The head seems to stay wetter because with all that ground up glass gone the brush or sponge can wick the water better! Scrape it out into an old plastic container, or just scrape into the garbage.
- Don't forget the grinder coolant!!! Get an old water bottle or something clear that you can easily close and fill it with water first, and then add the coolant. If you do it the other way around it will foam on you and you will loose your coolant!
- Move your grinder down when it gets dull. If you get "cut" marks in your fingers it is time to move the head! You should be able to get three or four sections out of a typical grinder head. Once again, save yourself time and stress. I would wager that everyone needs to go move their grinding head right now! About the only thing better than a new spot on the grinding head is a new iron tip and the only thing better than that is a beautiful piece of glass that cuts like butter!!!
- When you move your grinder head always spray the shaft with WD-40. You don't want the head to "rust" on the shaft.
- Once your grinder head is worn out, keep it for use as a smooth bit to use on mirror or bevels. You only need to save one! And while you are saving...save an extra set screw, cuz you never know when you may drop that little devil now that you moving the head in a proper fashion. If the head is trashed...buy a new one! Stained glass is supposed to be fun!!!

- All grinders come with a **standard head**. **Works of Glass** suggest you toss that and buy a **fine head**. It is all we use in the classroom and the only thing I would ever consider using on my personal grinder. The standard head is too chippy on the glass which can lead to stress points which can lead to heat cracks when you solder. Sometimes the lead or foil will cover the chips and sometimes it won't. I suggest **NEVER** using a standard head on a stepping stone, nothing will cover those chips!

*Monicia*