

Dicro Slide Patterned Sticks for Use in the Flame



by Deb Crowley

I have been searching for a way to make multicolored, patterned thin bars, or sticks, out of dichroic glass for the fish beads I make. These were always too thick and bulky to reheat out of more than two colors for lampworking use. Previously I would have had the tedious task of laying several thin-rolled dichroic coatings over each other for depth and new colors of sparkle. Now with the innovative Dicro Slide product from GlassHopper Patterns, I can use scissors to create any pattern in any color—or multiple colors—in the comfort of my kitchen, not at my dusty sandblaster! Because you use scissors or punches, there is absolutely no waste blasted or etched away either. Let's look at some of the things that can be done with Dicro Slide.



In this example you can see the various simple patterns made using only straight cuts and scissors. This photo shows the “sticks” with the Dicro Slide positioned on the thin-roll black or clear Bullseye glass. Being a decal, the pattern is easily applied with water and blotted lightly. Let dry between each layer so previous layers won't move easily. Add another layer of thin-roll clear Bullseye glass cut 1/4" wider so it will overlap all the dichroic pattern. Any “float” dichroic that comes to the surface will scorch in the flame, so full-fused encasing will prevent any development of scum or devitrification.

Next, load into a papered or kiln-washed shelf, ramp to 1000°F over an hour, then rapidly full-fuse the sticks to 1500°F until edges appear as one edge, ramp down to 960°F, and anneal for 1 hour. Anneal-cool to 600°F over another hour.

Dicro Slide™

Yellow Gold Yellow Copper
Bullseye Glass Co.

Thin-Roll Clear Thin-Roll Black

Tools and Materials

Scissors or Punches Etchall® Dip 'n Etch
Etchall® Resist Gel Kiln Wash
Flat-Lap or Glass Grinder

2



In Figure 2, we see the sticks fully fused and ready to use. The slightly off-straight or excessively fat-stick edges were ground down on my flat-lap (or you can use a glass grinder) and washed.

Make sure to preheat the ends of the sticks (as far into the kiln as you can still handle and pick them up!) for at least 30 minutes before starting the bead. I made three fish beads out of the lower three sticks. After making the beads, I used B&B Etchall Dip 'n Etch to etch the fins on the fish and two of their faces.

3



The company also makes a killer Resist Gel for beads that makes it super easy to resist areas (such as eyes) so they will not etch in the acid bath. Figure 3 shows the masking for the fish beads. The gel peels off in one piece, too. Sweet!

4



In Figure 4 we see the Blue Wrasse fish with etched face using the clear stick in the first photos.

5



Figure 5 is the Blue-Green Wrasse using the center stick.

6



Figure 6 shows the Red Wrasse with the superb glimmer of Yellow Gold and Yellow Copper Dichro Slide of the lowest stick. Gorgeous!

We see the finished results of using these products in various different ways, utilizing many glass techniques to create art glass that goes beyond our current capabilities.

This Dichro Slide product has almost no end in sight for me as a glass artist. The applications for our fused, lampworked, and studio furnace-blown work are limitless. Thanks to Howard and Georgia Spelman of GlassHopper Patterns for their innovation and dedication to helping us as artists to explore their vision!

This stuff rocks—cold, warm, or hot! Get some and try it for yourself, but don't blame me when you get hooked on it like I am.

www.theglasshive.com




GlassHopper Patterns

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by Deb Crowley*