



Learning to Lead

Design, Fabrication, and Text by Rob Torres of Oak Tree Stained Glass Studio

There are several techniques that can be used to create a leaded channel window. This particular technique is one that was selected from the CD software, *Learning to Lead*, from Oak Tree Stained Glass Studio.

The project explores the creation process and will hopefully give insight to the more experienced crafter well as the student.

Planning and careful thought on the front end will surely make a difference in the quality and overall look of your panel. Try choosing your pattern first and then selecting your glass to complement the various components within the panel. Don't worry about changing your mind on color selection. Use colors that excite you, and always remember that in stained glass

Spectrum Glass Company

#891-6S, Pink Champagne Opal for Outside Border, 1-1/3 Sq. Ft.
 #100H, Clear Hammered for Background and Center Diamond, 3 Sq. Ft.
 #152W, Ruby Red Waterglass® for Diamonds, 2/3 Sq. Ft.

Other Materials Required

6-Foot Length of 9/32" or 1/4" Zinc Came U-Capping
 (3) 6-Foot Lengths of 3/16" Round Lead H-Came
 60/40 Solder Liquid Flux
 Glazing Compound Whiting Black Patina

there is no right or wrong way to choose the correct colors.

One of the most important steps in creating any art glass panel is the selection of the glass to be used. Pick out colors that make you feel good.

Where grain direction

is needed on the pattern, try using an opalized straight-grained glass. If you can think of a color, it has probably been created in glass.

Planning ahead is a wise move in such areas as backgrounds and borders. Try to imagine if the panel will transmit light through it or reflect light off its surface. Then hold your glass in such a way as to duplicate how the glass will ultimately be viewed.

1. Pattern Cutting Cut pattern pieces apart.

2. Glass Cutting Wear safety glasses while scoring the glass using firm, even pressure.

3. Breaking the Glass Use running pliers to run the score.

4. Fitting the Lead Panel Block the outer edges of the panel using 1" x 3" pine or oak strips. Starting with the left and top legs, maintain a right angle in the upper left corner and work the panel down and outward. With 90 percent of the panel finished, add the bottom and right legs while firming up. Grind all glass before you begin the fitting process, and maintain a close tolerance while tucking the glass into the profile or channel. Then gently remove dirt, oils, oxidation, and unwanted debris from the surface of the lead with a wire brush to achieve a proper solder joint.

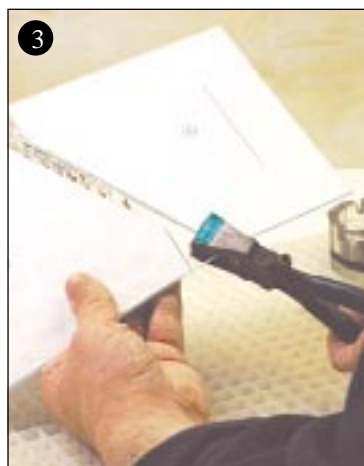
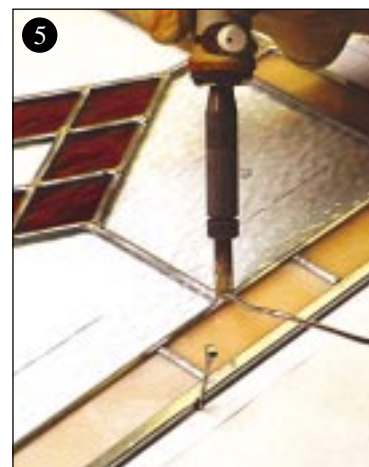
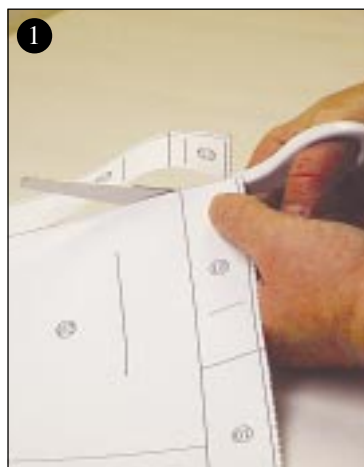
5. Soldering the Joints A rheostat is used to regulate heat, one of the most important aspects in soldering lead channel. Test the soldering iron on some scrap lead to determine a comfortable working temperature. Finishing off the panel with an outer edging came will add strength to the panel and can be used as a frame from which to solder loops and attach chain.

6. Cementing the Panel Starting toward the top of the panel, work in the glazing compound with a cement brush to fill the voids between the ears of the lead and the glass. Work it in evenly using diagonal brush strokes across the lead came. Occasionally you will need to clean off your brush by scraping away any excess using a wooden dowel or putty knife.

7. Applying Whiting Cover the panel with whiting to dry out the cement, to clean the glass and the lead, and to prevent the cement from hardening onto the lead. Let the panel sit for a few minutes. Next, gently rub the surface of the panel with a dry cloth to clean the moist cement from the lead and glass. Then point the lead lines and joints using a small 1/4" round wooden dowel sharpened to a pencil-like point. This defines lead lines and scrapes away excess cement from the side of the came and the surface of the glass.

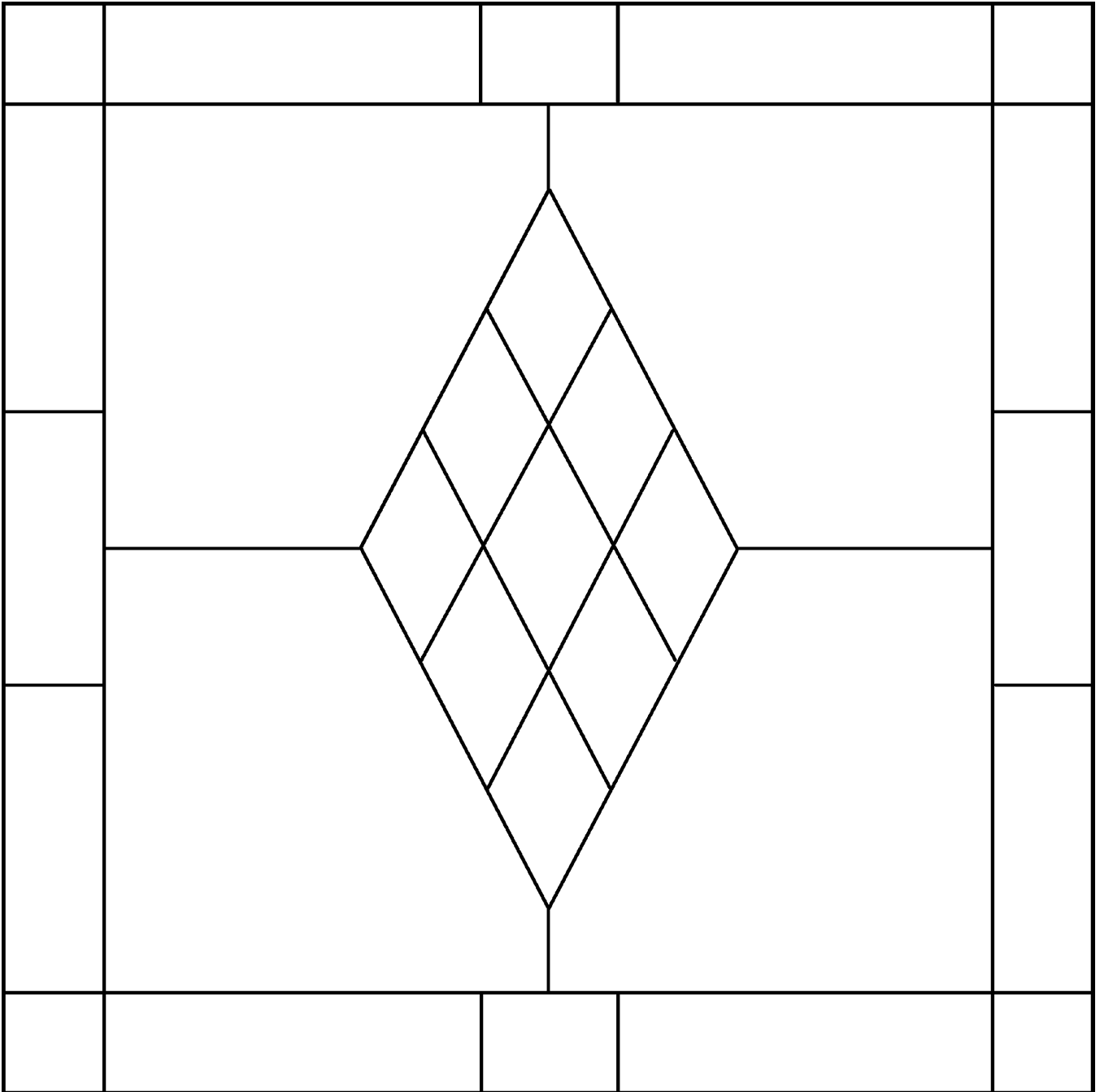
8. Cleaning the Panel Dust the panel with a shop vac. Then buff the panel with a rag and clean any excess cement from all surfaces. Next run a soft bristle brush over the entire panel, which should clean most of the remaining particles from the surfaces of lead and glass.

GPO



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