

Melt Your Valentine's Heart

Designs, Fabrication, and Text by Darlene Johnson and Judy Lee

These calorie-free Valentine's Day gifts will capture everyone's heart! Read all of the instructions before beginning any of the projects.

Firing the Hearts

Bullseye Hearts

Assemble and glue the hearts and place them on a prepared kiln shelf. In a standard kiln, fire the hearts to about 1400° (017 small Orton cone).

In a mini kiln, you will need to fire slowly at first to avoid thermal shock, which can fracture your fantasy! Heat your mini kiln to about 600° degrees, turn it off for five minutes, and resume firing until the edges of the glass are fused and rounded (about 1750°). If you have a control switch, heat on medium until the pyrometer reads about 1000°, then switch to high.

Wasser Glass™ Heart

For the heart cut from Wasser glass, fire the project in a standard kiln to about 1350° (between 019-018 small Orton cone). In a mini kiln, fire until the edges are just beginning to round (about 1450°-1500°).

Whether using a standard kiln or a mini kiln, turn it off when you reach the desired fusing level. Open the lid to let the interior cool to about 1300°, then close the lid and allow the kiln to cool to about 300° before opening again.

Firing Fire-On Gold

Place the heart on the kiln shelf. Leave the kiln lid propped open about 1/2" until the temperature reaches about 800° or until you no longer smell the gold burning off. Continue firing to about 1300° (020 in a standard kiln).

To prop open a mini kiln, use several pieces of fire

Bullseye Glass Company Numbers

Crazy Quilt Heart

- Clear Thin, #1101-50
- Deep Royal Blue Thin, #1114-50F
- Light Pink Thin, #1411-50F
- Medium Amber Thin, #1137-50F
- Emerald Green Thin, #1417-50F
- Cobalt Blue Transparent Stringer, #1114-07
- Pink Opal Stringer, #0301-07
- Yellow Opal Stringer, #0120-07
- White Opal Stringer, #0113-07

Pink Heart Trimmed in Eyelet Lace and Gold Ribbon

- Light Pink Thin for Heart, #1414-50F
- White Iridescent Thin for Eyelet Lace, #0113-51F

Wasser Glass™ Numbers

Red & White Lace-Trimmed Heart

- Red, #141
- White, #101

brick. Place a small chip of Wasser glass at the front of the shelf and turn off the kiln when the edges of the glass begin to round slightly (about 1450°-1500°).

Crazy Quilt Heart

This design was inspired by the crazy quilt pattern, which calls for scraps of fabric pieced together in a random fashion. The embroidery stitches that decorate the seams are made from stringers and small glass balls formed

by melting frit.

It is important to use glass of the same thickness for all of the colored design pieces. We used thin-rolled Bullseye glass. To add extra sparkle, use iridescent glass.

Step 1: Cut one heart from thin-rolled clear Bullseye glass. Cut the individual design pieces from four different colors of thin-rolled glass. We used: Deep Royal Blue (#1114-50F), Light Pink (#1411-50F), Medium Amber (#1137-50F), and Emerald Green (#1417-50F).

Step 2: Use a diamond drill bit to drill a 1/16" hole in the clear heart and in the colored piece that will be fused to it. Clean and dry all of the pieces.

Step 3: Align the two holes and use fusing glue or Water Friendly Medium to glue all of the colored design pieces to the clear heart. Place the glue close to the cut lines and edges, not in the center of the pieces. This will help eliminate bubbles in the finished piece. Allow the glue to dry. Use a toothpick to pack the drilled holes with fiber paper. This will prevent them from closing during firing. Remove any packing residue from the front of the glass.



Step 4: When the glue is dry, place the project, colored pieces down, on the kiln shelf. Called reverse firing, this technique keeps the lines in the finished heart nice and sharp.

Step 5: Place some pieces of white and blue frit on the kiln shelf. They will form small glass beads when you fire the heart. Make more than you will need so you can pick uniform-sized balls for the French knots in the stitching. If you are using different colored stringers than ours, match the frit and stringer colors.

Step 6: Fire the project as instructed at the beginning of this article.

Cutting the Stringers

We used the following Bullseye stringers:
Cobalt Blue Transparent(#1114-07),
Pink Opal (#0301-07),
Yellow Opal (#0120-07), and
White Opal (#0113-07).

Step 1: While the kiln is cooling, cut your stringers to create the stitching. The easiest way to cut stringers to a uniform length is with a band saw. Break the stringers into approximately 3" pieces and lay them side by side on a piece of scrap Wasser glass. Place 1/4" copper foil tape across the end to secure the stringers to the glass. Leave a small space and place another piece of 1/4" foil across the row of stringers (Illustration A).

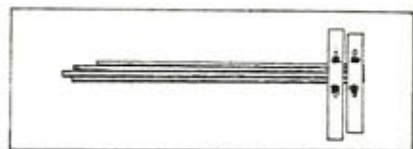


Illustration A

Repeat as necessary until you have enough pieces for the stitches you need.

Step 2: Cut the stringers between the copper foil tape with a diamond band saw. If you are using your glass cutter, tape the stringers to a smooth, hard surface and score between the copper foil tape. Remove the stringers from the tape and break the stringers apart. Cut the yellow stringers individually to the lengths shown on the pattern.

Step 3: After the kiln has cooled, remove the heart and glass balls. Rinse the balls in water to remove the kiln wash residue. If it still remains, let the balls soak in toilet bowl cleaner for about an hour, shaking them periodically to help remove the residue. Wear gloves to protect your hands and rinse the balls with water. Dip the glass balls into overglaze and set them on a piece of clean glass so the excess overglaze will drain off before you place them on the heart.

Step 4: On the clear side of the heart, arrange the stringers and glass balls as shown on the pattern. Use Fuse Master's Water Friendly Medium to glue the stringers and balls into place. Unlike regular fusing glue, Water Friendly medium does not boil as it burns, so pieces do not move during firing.

Step 5: Fire the heart to about 1375° (018 small Orton cone) in a standard kiln or to about 1650°-1700° in a mini kiln. Fire the mini kiln as instructed at the beginning of this article.

Pink Heart Trimmed in Eyelet Lace and Gold Ribbon

Ribbon and lace are staples in country decor. Our lace was created by using glass and fired-on gold accents. We used thin rolled Bullseye to create a more delicate look. You can easily substitute standard-thickness glass.

Step 1: Follow the pattern's outermost lines to cut the heart from Bullseye Light Pink Thin (#1414-50F).

Step 2: Use a 1/16" diamond drill bit to drill a hole as indicated on the pattern. Clean and dry the heart and pack the hole with fiber paper to keep it from closing during firing.

Step 3: Cut the eyelet lace strip from Bullseye White Thin with Rainbow Iridescent (#0113-51F). Shape the curves with your glass grinder.

Step 4: Clean and dry the piece. Apply an overglaze like Fuse Master's Super Spray to the surface and side edges of the white glass.

Step 5: Use fusing glue or Water Friendly Medium to glue the piece onto the pink heart as shown on the pattern.

Step 6: Fire the heart according to the firing instructions at the beginning of this article.

Step 7: After the heart is cool, use Hanovia's fire-on gold (available at ceramic shops) to add the gold ribbon and eyelet detail to the white glass. To create sharp lines for your ribbon, use copper foil to mask off the glass on either side of the area that you apply the gold. Be sure to press the foil edges with a popsicle stick to prevent the gold from leaking under the foil.

Step 8: Apply the gold to the area between the foil mask to create the ribbon. Use a fine brush to apply the eyelet dots. Allow the gold to dry before removing the tape. Mistakes in applying the gold can be removed with a cotton swab dipped in alcohol.

Step 9: Follow the instruction given at the beginning of this article for firing fire-on gold.

Red & White Laced-Trimmed Heart

For the traditional Valentine, we used Wasser Glass™.

Step 1: Following the outermost line on the pattern, cut one heart from White Wasser Glass™ (#101).

Step 2: Use a 1/16th" diamond drill bit to drill the hole. To create the ruffles, make 1/4" cuts around the edge of the white heart with a diamond band saw as indicated on the pattern. Glass pulls up as it melts, so the lines you cut will open up in the kiln. If you do not have a diamond band saw, use a 1/4" bit on your grinder and follow Illustration B to create the curves.

Step 3: Cut the red heart from Blood Red Wasser Glass™ (#141).

Step 4: Cut the smallest heart and leaves from white Wasser Glass™. You can also use a small die-cut heart cut in half for the leaves.

Step 5: Clean and dry all of the pieces. Pack the hole with fiber paper to keep it from closing during firing. Remove any packing residue.

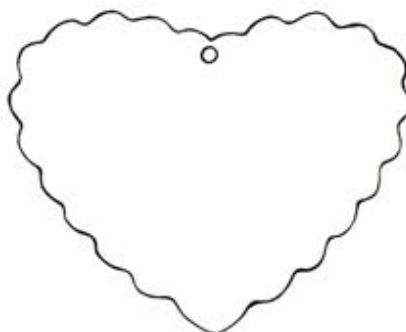


Illustration B

Step 6: Center the red heart over the white heart and glue it in place. Position and glue the small heart and leaves to the red heart.

Step 7: Fire as instructed at the beginning of this article.

Step 8: After the heart has cooled, apply the fire-on gold to the leaves and add the stem and dots on the ruffle. Mistakes in applying the gold can be removed with a cotton swab dipped in alcohol.

Step 9: Fire the gold as instructed at the beginning of this article.

Finishing the Hearts

To finish the hearts, string a gold or coordinating ribbon through the hole. Sulky offers a variety of colors and can be found at most sewing stores.



*Darlene Johnson and Judy Lee have published four Fused Fantasies books: **Enchanted Creations**, **Simply Stunning**, **La Fused Boutique**, and **Glass Magic**. Johnson has been involved with stained glass for sixteen years, doing commissions, teaching classes, and selling supplies.*

*An artist by training, Lee learned fusing on the job as she collaborated with Johnson on their books. She now owns her own studio, **Glass Impressions**.*

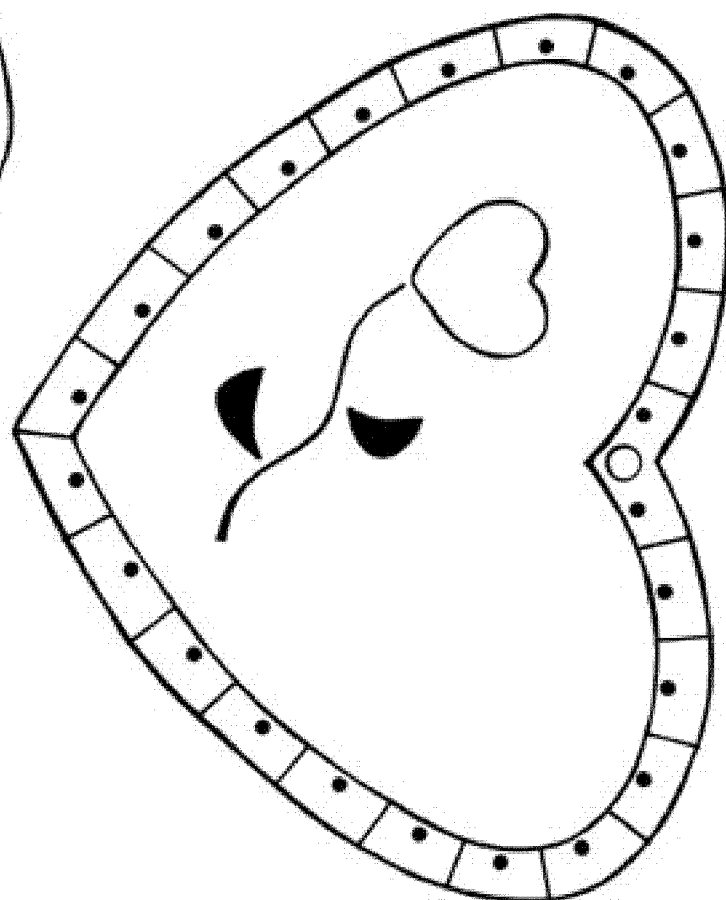
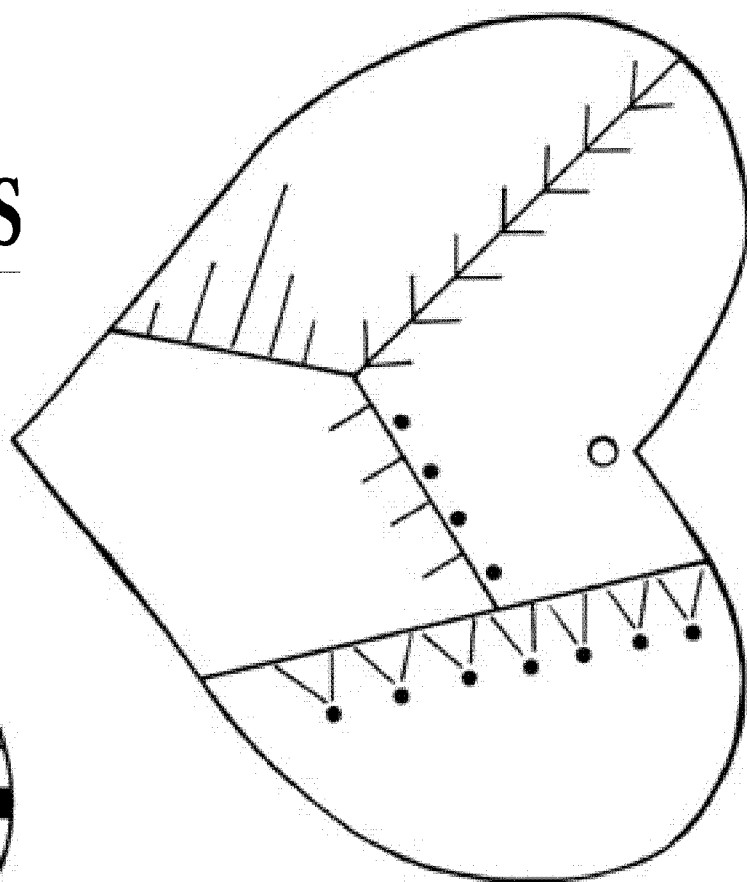
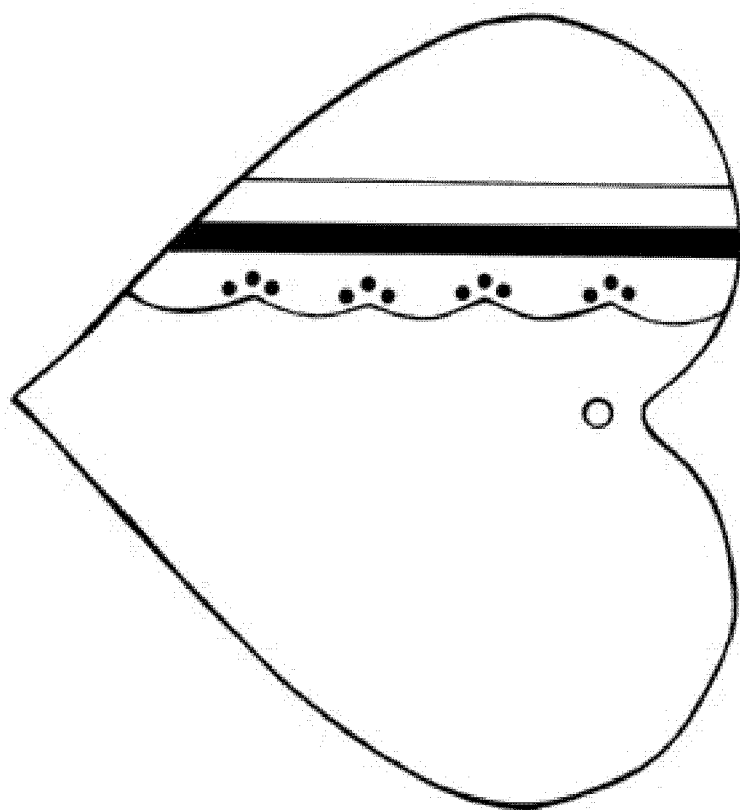
*The two also publish **The Fused Art Newsletter**.*

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