THICK CHANNEL PENDANTS

Creative Paradise Inc.

This tutorial can be adapted to work with any of Creative Paradise's variety of dam molds to create many different sizes and shapes of pendants. The particular dam mold used here is the GM178 Patty Gray Large Rectangle Dam, which has interior dimensions of 5" x 12.5".

MATERIALS:

- GM178 Patty Gray Large Rectangle Dam
- Fusible Compatible Glass (COE96 Used Here)
- Suitable Glass Separator/ZYP
- Kiln Shelf Paper
- 1/8" Thick Fiber Paper
- Tile Saw
- Mosaic Nippers
- Fired Gold (Optional)

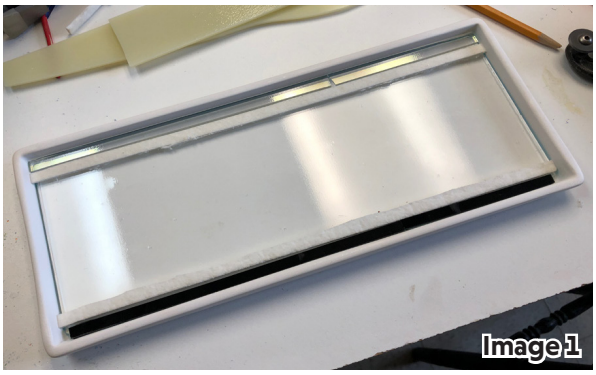


Image 1

Image 2

Image 3

Image 4

Begin by preparing your mold well with glass separator. We recommend using spray-on ZYP. If using a spray-on separator and/or powder frits, **make sure to always wear a mask during use**.

Once the separator has dried, cut a 4.75" x 12.25" sheet of kiln shelf paper and place it in the bottom of the GM178. Then place a cleaned 5" x 12.5" piece of Standard Thickness Clear sheet glass on top of the paper.

Cut two 1/4" x 12.5" strips of 1/8" Thick Fiber Paper. Place these strips of Fiber Paper along the length of the mold, allowing 3/8" – 1/2" gaps between the mold wall and the fiber strip. Then place 3/8" – 1/2" thick strips of the standard thickness sheet glass of your choice between the fiber strips and the mold walls, as shown in **Image 1**.

Select various colors and shapes of compatible glass to scatter around and fill the area between the fiber strips. For this example, scraps and nipped bits of Pale Purple, Pale Blue, Medium Amber, Sea Green, Black Opal, Vanilla Cream Opal, Red Opal, Lemongrass Opal, Turquoise Blue Opal, and several pieces of various dichroic glasses were used to fill this layer (**Image 2**). Also used here were several pieces of glass previously fired with liquid gold left over from a prior project.

Fill in any gaps in this layer with compatible clear or colored frit (**Image 3**).

Create the next layer of glass using the same colors as the first layer or add complimentary colors instead. Different kinds of glass can add many interesting effects- try using streaky glass, glass with streamers, or even a sprinkle of medium grain frit! You can also add pieces of Clear to give depth and dimension to your final pendants.

For this layer, be sure to cover each Fiber Paper strip completely with glass, as this is what will create the hole that allows the pendants to be worn (**Image 4**). The Fiber Paper can cause the glass to roll back if the glass running across it isn't making solid contact with the glass on the other side of it.

Image 5

Image 6

Place the filled mold on 1/2" kiln posts on a level shelf in the kiln so that the majority of each post is outside of the mold to avoid uneven heating (**Image 5**, shown after fusing). Fire using the suggested schedule in **Table 1** or your own preferred Full Fuse, though do note that this is three layers (9mm or so) of glass.

Once the glass is fused and cooled, gently remove it from the mold.

Take a moment to look for and isolate specific areas of the glass that you think will make interesting pendants. Use an appropriate Tile Saw or Ring Saw to begin cutting up sections of the glass (**Image 6**). To ensure your pendants are wearable, make sure that each section you cut has the Fiber Paper running through it in some place.

Place the sliced pieces in a small vessel filled with water to prevent the ground glass on the cut edges from drying out. If the saw created a rough edge, you can smooth it out with a diamond hand pad. Once all your pieces are cut, use water and a scrub brush and/or a microfiber towel to scrub the ground glass residue from the cut edges of the glass.

After all your pieces have been scrubbed, allow them to dry. Give them plenty of time to dry to ensure the Fiber Paper dries as well. Once everything is dry, place the pendants with the Fiber Paper still inside on a sheet of Kiln Shelf Paper on a level shelf in the kiln and Fire Polish the edges using the suggested schedule in **Table 2** or your own preferred Fire Polishing schedule.

Once the pendants are polished and cooled, use a toothpick and some water to gently poke the Fiber Paper out. Thread a string or ribbon through the resulting hole and enjoy!

TABLE 1: FULL FUSE*

Seg.	Rate	Temp (°F)	Hold
1	300	1150	60
2	50	1300	30
3	350	1470	10
4	9999	950**	90

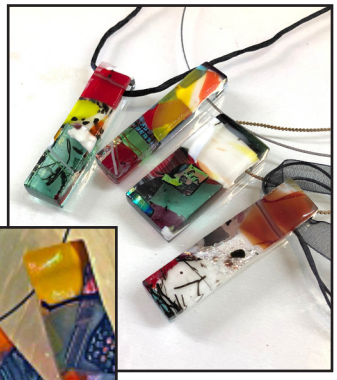
**If using COE90, adjust this to 900°F

TABLE 2: FIRE POLISH*

Seg.	Rate	Temp (°F)	Hold
1	300	1000	30
2	9999	1300	30
3	9999	950**	60

**If using COE90, adjust this to 900°F

*Before firing, it's important to know your kiln to see if you need to adjust our suggested schedules for your use. For tips on how to do that, please click here to see our Important Firing Notes!



Above example created with GM178.

Left example made with GM74

ADAPTING FOR OTHER DAM MOLDS:

This technique will work with any of our dam molds (see examples to right), though it is better suited to the rectangular and square ones. If using a different dam mold, simply adjust your initial measurements to suit your particular mold.

The initial sheet of Kiln Shelf Paper in the mold should be approximately 0.25" smaller than the inner dimensions in all directions. The initial sheet of glass should be about the same dimensions as the inside of the mold. Keep the width of the Fiber Paper strips consistent but change length accordingly.

For more information, tutorials, and molds, visit our website: www.creativeparadiseglass.com

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