

Handy Hints Sheets

Cutting Glass: Score & Snap

...helping you get started.

YOU WILL NEED:

- 1x Logan Adapt-a-Rule
- 1x sheet 2 mm float glass
- 1x marker pen
- 1x completed frame / glass size measurements
- Kevlar gloves

Marker pen



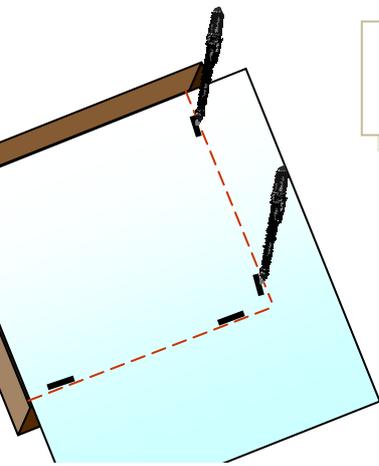
Logan Adapt-a-Rule



Toyo glass cutter



Kevlar gloves



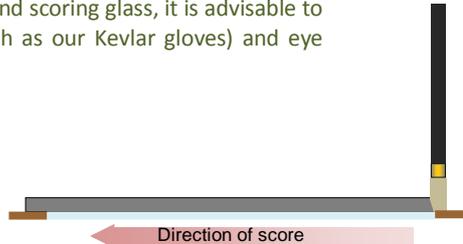
Create wide marks that sit just inside the frame.

Use small pieces of 2 mm backing board ahead and after the glass.

While there are other ways of snapping glass, the method outlined below is more controlled and therefore a safe approach when starting to work with glass.

1. Using this method you should find the cut glass fits the frame. Place a sheet of 2mm float glass over the back of the frame, with two sides and one corner sitting on the edge of the rebated part of the moulding.
An alternative is to cut the glass to the size of the mounted artwork – this is a better option when working with larger pieces
2. Make broad marks with a glass marker to show the position for the score line.

When handling and scoring glass, it is advisable to wear gloves (such as our Kevlar gloves) and eye protection.



3. Place the glass on a clean, level surface ready for cutting. The whole sheet should be supported. You can use small pieces of 2mm backing board to start the score ahead of the glass and to run on to at the end. **This ensures a strong "edge-to-edge" score line. As confidence increases these may not be needed.**
4. Always cut the shorter of the two dimensions first.
5. Place the rail edge of the Adapt-a-rule (approximately 2mm) inside the marks on the glass. Because of the width of the glass cutter's "head", line up the slit, housing the cutting wheel, with the centre of the marks. Bring the rule to the cutting head: it should now be in the correct position to score through the centre of both marks.
6. Starting from the top, keeping the glass cutter vertical, apply pressure and make ONE clean score towards you.

NB If you think the score line has not been successful DO NOT repeat the line: it will damage the cutting wheel. Turn the glass over and then score on this surface.

7. Slide the scored sheet of glass to the edge of the work surface so that you are in a better position for snapping the glass.
8. Your bent fingers (see photo) should be pushed together and placed under the glass, so that the line between them runs directly under the score.
9. Thumbs should be either side of the score line (in close)
10. Snap along the line by pushing upwards and outwards. On long cuts, a light wriggle of the held ends will extend the snap along the whole score line.



GLASS TYPES

It is important to recognise that there are several basic types of glass products used in picture framing and be aware of limitations as well as the benefits each offers.

2mm Float: this is the standard glass used in framing. Easy to work with and excellent value. **No UV protection or anti-glare qualities.**

2mm Diffused: this is a non-reflective glass (approx 2 x price of 2mm float). It has a chemically etched surface (should face out) which removes the reflective quality. The etched surface becomes visible (grey haze) when artwork is more than 1 layer of mount away from the glass. **Offers no UV protection.**

Conservation Clear (UV blocking): a coated glass (approx 4 x price of 2mm float). It screens out 98% of the damaging effects to artwork of UV rays. Ideal for conservation work or where elements of the artwork are particularly open to light damage. **Offers no anti-glare qualities.**

After those comes a whole range of specialist products. These can provide special qualities either separately or in combination. These features are:

- Clarity & brightness;
- Safety (3mm glass);
- "whiter" glass colour;

Top range, **museum glasses** will combine all the features described. But prices will reflect this and may start at around 35 times 2mm float sheet prices.

Remember to dispose of glass waste safely.

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