

# HANDY HINTS SHEET 7

...helping you get started.

How To Cut Glass

## YOU WILL NEED

MARKER



RULE



GLASS CUTTER



Glass-cutting is always the section that concerns people. BUT the process is quite simple and by taking into account the nature of the material you are working with and some simple health and safety guidance, you can approach this work with real confidence.

There are a number of glazing products available, each with its own advantages and disadvantages. For standard framing, the most often used material is **2mm float glass**.

To build your confidence practice using a rule, glass cutter and the snapping technique on waste sections of glass.

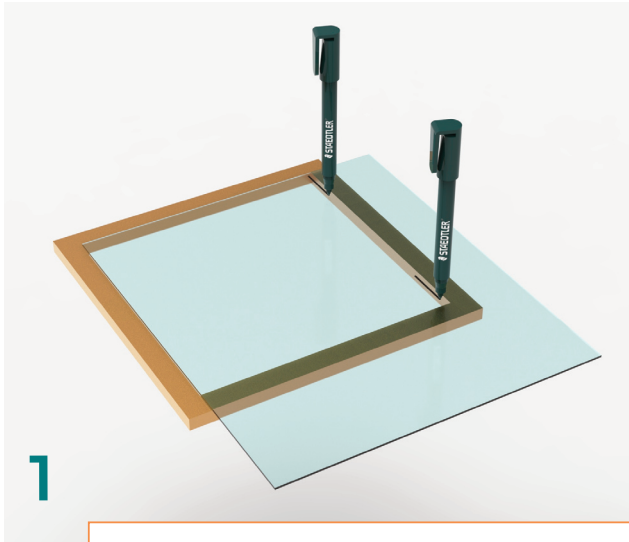
## CUTTING GLASS

- 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.
- 2 An alternative is to measure, then cut the glass to the "GLASS SIZE" size of the planned project – this is a better option when working with larger pieces
- 3 Make broad marks with a glass marker to show the position for the score line.
- 4 When handling and scoring glass, it is advisable to wear gloves (such as our Kevlar gloves) and eye protection.
- 5 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.*
- 6 Always cut the shorter of the two dimensions first.
- 7 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.

### HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Before starting to work with glass, make sure you:

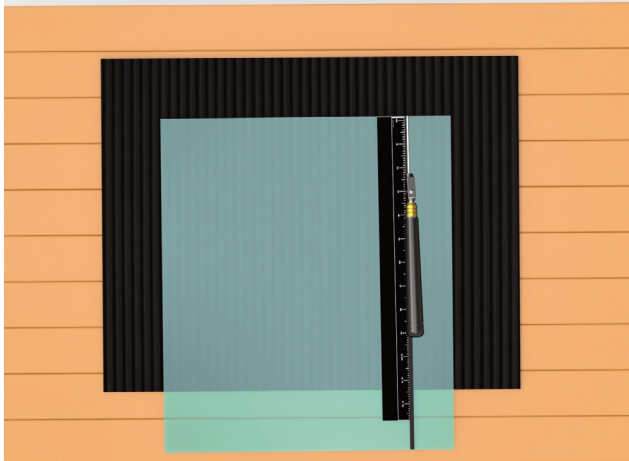
- Have a tidy work area so that glass can be placed on a clear flat surface;
- Take great care when carrying glass (vertically with hands at top);
- Wear protective gloves when handling glass, being especially careful with freshly cut edges.
- Have a means of disposing of waste glass, safely.



1

CREATE WIDE MARKS THAT SIT JUST INSIDE THE FRAME

USE SMALL PIECES OF 2MM BACKING BOARD AHEAD AND AFTER THE GLASS



2

BRING THE RULE TO THE POSITION OF THE GLASS CUTTER HEAD: USUALLY ABOUT 2MM INSIDE THE MARK



Glazing: Float glass or better, free from obvious blemishes and of appropriate thickness for the frame size. It must be cut to allow sufficient clearance inside the rebate of the frame. It is not acceptable for the glazing to touch the artwork. For large items and for items to be hung in areas accessible to the public, safety should be considered, e.g. laminated or acrylic sheet may be advisable.

- 7 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.

- 8 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.
- 9 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.
- 10 Thumbs should be either side of the score line (in close)
- 11 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.

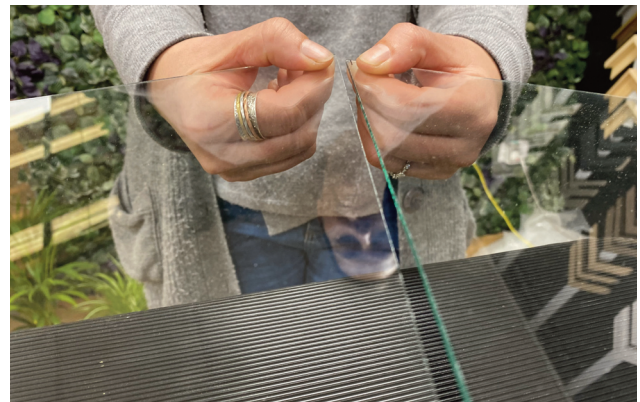
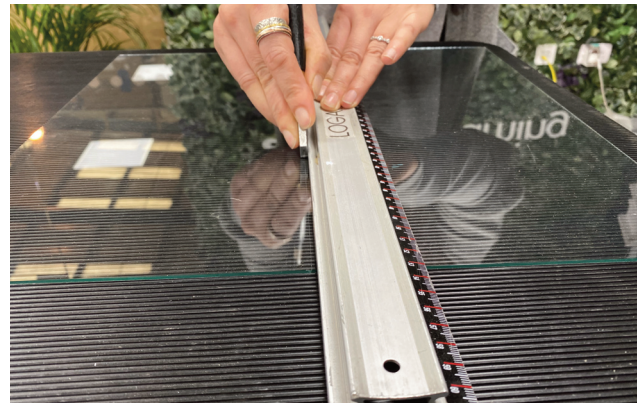
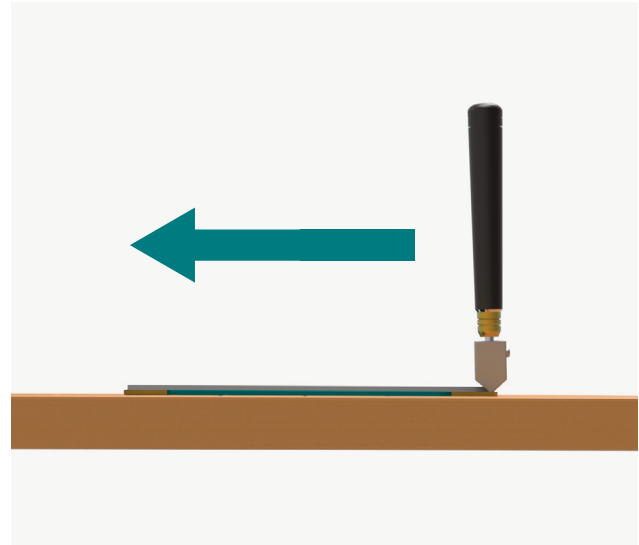
### IMPORTANT NOTES:

The glass should fit into the frame rebate without sticking. Atmospheric conditions will cause the frame to swell or shrink slightly and this could be a problem for very tightly fitted glass.

It is possible to score and snap a sliver of glass from edges. This should be done with great care: The final snap should be made using special nipping pliers.

Glass behaves differently at varying temperatures: let it rest at the cutting temperature for a couple of hours before cutting.

Very cold glass is more difficult to work with.



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.