

Tips for using Elastic Glass™

These are random thoughts to help you work with Elastic Glass™. I am sure you will make a much longer list on your own.

- 1) The unfired elastic glass does become darker on the first firing. What you see in the jar is not what you get. Full fuse is best for color.
- 2) Most colors can be mixed. You need to test a small amount to determine the outcome. It may not be what you want.
- 3) White can be mixed with colors to create pastels. A great technique.
- 4) BE SURE you close the container tight to prevent drying out. You can also spritz a little water into the jar before you tightly close it. That helps to prevent drying out.
- 5) Pre-fired projects can be stored in a zip-lock bag to prevent drying out.
- 6) A pasta machine is useful, but not necessary. I use a 12 inch piece of PVC pipe (1" diameter)
- 7) If your Elastic Glass is too hard, You may be able to soften it up by using Elastic Glass™ medium. Roll out the material, then spread a light coating of medium (with your finger tip). Work it in well.
- 8) If it is too sticky, you can add some Kaiser Flux or clear powder frit.
- 9) When molding Elastic Glass™, after removing it from the mold, I dry it. I often air dry it overnight, but it can be dried in a 275°F toaster oven. Drying with a hot air gun also works, but you need patience so as not to over dry the product. I sometimes let it dry in the mold.
- 10) You can pat mica onto Elastic Glass™. It fires on quite well.
- 11) It is best to work Elastic Glass™ on a very smooth, non porous surface, like a laminated sheet, smooth glass., or a smooth plastic placemat.
- 12) You can use a light dusting of Kaiser Flux on the work surface to prevent sticking. Even if the Flux shows slightly before firing, it will not show after firing.
- 13) In most uses, I suggest you keep the Elastic Glass™ rolled out thin. It works quite well, and it lessens the cost of the final piece.
- 14) You can put the Elastic Glass™ in the refrigerator or freezer if it is distorting when you try to slice it.
- 15) A jeweler's saw works great in cutting Elastic Glass™
- 16) When you take it out of the jar for the first time or after long storage, condition it by rolling it out or by hand mashing it. This often loosens and warms up the material. This is also a good time to add a little Elastic Glass™ medium if the EG is too thick.
- 17) Size is not a limitation. You can make projects of all sizes.
- 18) If you are putting two pieces of EG side by side and they do not adhere, wet your fingertip with Elastic Glass™ medium and wet the adjoining surfaces. Lightly work them together.
- 19) Color of Elastic Glass™ is best when fired to full fuse.
- 20) White Elastic Glass™ does not give a good crisp white. Since it is fused frit, it will have some air (and organics from the binders) trapped that grays it a little. A long 20-40 minute hold at 1000°F helps minimize the graying.

Be creative! Elastic Glass™ is in its infancy. You can come up with a myriad of new uses that no one else has done.