



What Makes this eNOTE Unique

The base glass for these earrings is piece of striped glass. You can make the striped sheets whatever size works for you, but even a 4" square piece will yield a lot of jewelry parts.

To make your earrings uniquely yours, use your own color and design sense to choose the colors of Bullseye glass and stringers and to create the patterns the stringers make on the sheet glass.

Glass & Materials

- Dichroic coated thin (2mm) glass, black or clear, with solid color dichroic coating
- Bullseye 1mm stringers in clear and any colors you choose
- Patterned thin (2mm) dichroic glass compatible with Bullseye Glass
- 2" length of 1/16" fiber paper
- GlasTac Gel

Tools & Supplies

- Basic Glass Cutting tools
- 6"x6" kiln shelf or larger

Prepare the Striped Glass

First cut a piece of dichroic glass to use as the base for the stringers. For the base glass, use any color dichroic glass you want. (We used dichroic on clear—dichroic side down.)

To make the striped glass, glue transparent or opal 1mm stringers alternating with a clear transparent 1mm stringer on a sheet of thin dichroic glass in any pattern you like. Use GlasTac or similar glue designed for kilnforming to hold the stringers in place.

Why clear stringers? The clear stringers will melt and become invisible after firing, but are an excellent way to make uniform spaces between the darker stringer lines.

- For a tight striped pattern, you can alternate one clear and one black stringer until the entire surface is covered.
- For a looser pattern, use an assortment of mixed colors of stringers in whatever colors you like.

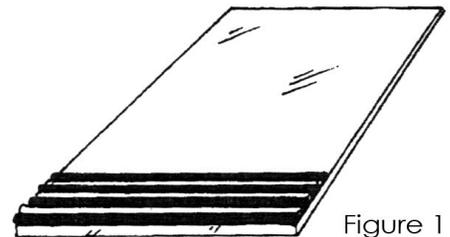


Figure 1

Allow the glue to dry thoroughly, then put the piece of glass on a prepared kiln shelf and fire as fast as your kiln will go to approximately 1380°F (750°C). And hold 10 minutes. Because of the size and thinness of the glass and stringer layup, the striped sheets can be fired and cooled relatively quickly, so no annealing cycle is needed.



Figure 2

To Make the Drop Earring

Cut strips of striped glass 1/2" wide by 1 1/2" long, with the stripes running across the width. (Figure 2). For each earring pair, also cut 4 pieces of clear 1mm stringer, each 1 1/2" long.

Next, cut a 1/8" strip of 1/16" fiber paper 2" long. Fiber paper is about 1/16" thick, so you are basically making a fiber thread that will create the channel through which you can string your wire.

Center the strip of fiber paper down the length of the rectangular striped tile and adhere with glue.

Next, glue two stringers on each side of the fiber strip (Figure 3).

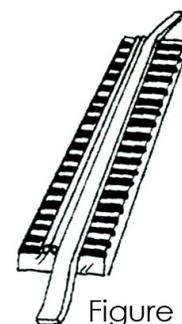


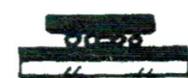
Figure 3

Take care to position the stringers and fiber thread exactly in the center of the rectangular piece or it can shift in the kiln. There should be about 3/32" of striped glass exposed on either side of the center channel. (Figure 3)

Allow the fiber and stringer layup to dry thoroughly

before adhering the dichroic overlay. This will help to keep the channel from shifting.

Cut two strips of dichroic glass (patterned or solid color) that are 5/16" wide and 1 1/2" long. Glue one of these dichroic strips directly over the fiber/stringer channel you've created on each earring blank. The dichroic strip should slightly overhang the stringers. (see figure 4).



Before Firing



After Firing

Figure 4

Be very careful when you center the strip. If it is off-center, it can slide off the stringers during firing. Allow the pieces to dry thoroughly before moving them to the kiln.

These pieces can be fired as quickly as your kiln will allow. In our kilns, we fire the tiles up to 1400°F (760°C) in 45 minutes, and hold for 10 minutes. Let the kiln cool naturally. There is no need for an annealing step for the earring blanks.

Cleaning the channel and finishing the earrings

After the earring blanks have cooled, use a stiff wire to push the fiber thread out of the channel. Do this under running water so that you'll wash the loose fibers out of the channel and avoid making fiber dust.

String the earring blank on a head pin, using spacer beads if desired to complement the dichroic pattern. Leave about 3/8" of the pin exposed. Bend the pin at a right angle using round-nose pliers.



Roll the very end of this bent portion of the pin around the pliers, forming an unclosed loop. Insert the hooked loop into the jump ring of the ear wires. Close the loops to attach the earrings securely to the ear wires.