

Bullseye or Spectrum

Because you can't mix Bullseye and Spectrum for fusing, new kilnformers are faced with the decision of which glass to use. There's no clear answer as to which is best. Each has some advantages and some disadvantages. Which brand to use depends on what feature is most important to you. Here's some advantages to consider:

Bullseye

- Has more colour variety – in sheet glass, rod, frit, and billets.
- Supplies excellent technical support
- Provides superb customer service.
- For a large enough order, anyone can buy at wholesale prices.

Spectrum

- Costs less.
- Easier to cut – smoother texture and greater consistency.
- Less waste – you can use right up to the edge.
- More efficient size – larger sheets mean there'll be less waste.

Many experienced artisans use both. For special projects that require a wide assortment of colours, they might choose Bullseye but for production work where cost is important, they'll use Spectrum. If you do decide to use both, it's essential to make sure you don't mix them. Bullseye will NOT fuse to Spectrum. Some artisans keep the two different glasses physically separated but that's not totally reliable. It's just too easy to accidentally misplace a piece in the wrong place. A system that's more reliable is to label each piece of glass. You can mark the glass with felt pen, but that requires removing the ink. An efficient and easy way to identify glass is with small coloured labels. Stationary suppliers sell small inexpensive price sticker labels in a variety of colours. Select one colour for Bullseye and another for Spectrum. Because Bullseye's labels are orange, we use orange stickers for all pieces of Bullseye glass. Because Spectrum's labels are red, we use red stickers for all Spectrum glass. For art glass that isn't fusible, we use white stickers. Simple system. Every piece of glass is clearly identified as to where it can be used.

If you decide to work with both Bullseye and Spectrum glass, it's also important to know that they don't fire at the same kiln schedules. Spectrum is a softer glass and softens at a lower temperature than Bullseye. If firing to a specific temperature produces a desired effect in Spectrum glass, you will have to fire Bullseye to a higher temperature (about 25° F) to produce the identical effect in Bullseye glass.