Kiln Cookin' Glass

Kilnforming Myths

Myth 1 Fusing & Slumping Glass is complicated and difficult to learn

Although some skilled and talented artisans are doing work that is complicated and difficult, fusing and slumping glass is basically simple and straightforward. Glass responds to heat in predictable ways at predictable temperatures. Once you've learned what to expect at different temperatures and how different types and thicknesses of glass respond to kiln firing, you're ready to start cookin' glass. It's really no more difficult than cooking a roast for Sunday dinner.

Myth 2 You have to stay with your kiln while it's firing.

That was maybe true in the past, but the introduction of digital controllers allows you to program instructions to your kiln and leave it alone to do as you instructed.

Myth 3 Kilns are difficult to operate.

Electric kilns are nothing more than glorified toasters. They're what you'd have it your fireplace bred with your toaster. If you're not afraid to use your toaster, why would you be afraid to use a kiln?

Myth 4 Kilns use a lot of electricity and are expensive to operate.

Most people are surprised to learn how little electricity a kiln really uses. It's simple to calculate. Multiply the voltage times the amperage to calculate the wattage. Then multiply the wattage times what you pay per kilowatt hour for electricity (that will show on your power bill). Although the kiln might be on for 10 or 12 hours, it isn't drawing power all that time, but is turning off an on as needed to maintain the programmed temperature. It's rare for it to be drawing power for more then 25% of the time it's firing. Firing a load to fuse or slump in a small kiln often costs about 25 cents in electricity and even fairly large ones use only about $1 worth of electricity to fire.