

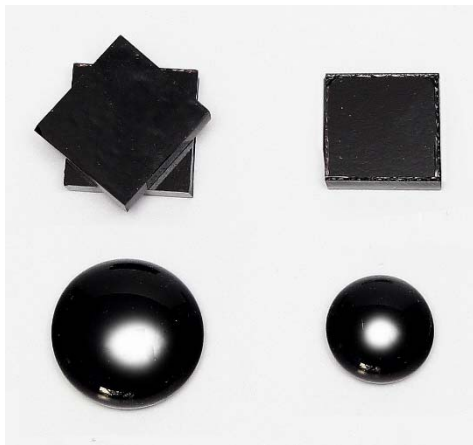


Making Pebbles

You can make perfectly round pebbles by firing square pieces of glass to a full fuse in your kiln. The size of the pebble will depend on the size of the squares fired and whether you fire a single piece of glass or stack multiple pieces.

When fired to a full fuse, glass begins to round off. Small pieces will become perfectly round but larger pieces will only become partially round. To make larger perfectly round pieces, you have to stack multiple layers.

In the photo below, the image on the right is a single 1/2 inch square fired to full fuse to produce a 3/8 inch round pebble. The image on the left is two 1/2 inch squares stacked and fired to produce a 1/2 inch round.



This works for 1/2 inch squares but not for larger squares. To produce reliable larger rounds requires stacking more than two layers.



The image on the left is 3 layers of 3/4 inch squares fired to produce a 1 1/8 inch round. The image on the right is 3 layers of 1/2 inch squares fired to produce a 5/8 inch round.

Size Predictions

<i>1 layer 1/2 inch square</i>	<i>3/8 inch round</i>
<i>2 layer 1/2 inch squares</i>	<i>1/2 inch round</i>
<i>3 layer 1/2 inch squares</i>	<i>5/8 inch round</i>
<i>4 layer 1/2 inch squares</i>	<i>3/4 inch round</i>
<i>1 layer 3/4 inch square</i>	<i>1/2 inch not round</i>
<i>2 layer 3/4 inch squares</i>	<i>3/4 inch not round</i>
<i>3 layer 3/4 inch squares</i>	<i>1 1/8" round</i>

Firing Schedule

SEGMENT	RAMP	TEMP	HOLD (min)
1	900F (500C)	1460F (790C)	30
2	FULL	960F (515C)	30

An unusually long hold is needed to allow the glass time to draw into a full round. If you have a kiln that allows you to turn off the side elements and fire with only the lid elements, you will get more reliable rounds. Glass is drawn towards heat. If there is only top heat, the glass is drawn up and will thus pull in to form the desire round.