

## Paper Templates SNUP

Cutting up scraps of paper to use as cutting guides serves no useful purpose. It's an extra step in the cutting process that can easily be completely eliminated.

There are 3 primary ways to manually cut a shape in glass.

- **Trace Cutting** - where the glass is placed over the pattern and the score made looking through the glass and having the glass cutter follow the pattern lines.
- **Transfer Pattern Cutting** - where carbon transfer paper is placed between the glass and the pattern with the pattern shape then drawn onto the glass. The piece is then cut following the lines drawn on the glass.
- **Paper Templates** - where pieces of paper are cut up, placed on the glass, and the cutter run along the edge of the template.

A comparison of these alternative shows that trace cutting has a clear advantage:

- **Accuracy**  
The accuracy of a score depends not on the method used but by the skill of the individual doing the scoring. If you are skilled enough to accurately score along the edge of a piece of paper, you are skilled enough to score directly along the pattern line – either by trace cutting or by scoring along the line drawn on the glass.
- **Speed**  
Of the 3 possible methods, templates take the longest time because it adds on the labour-intensive step of cutting up pattern pieces.
- **Design**  
In attempting to position the pattern shape to gain best benefit of glass grain or pattern, the template method is the least effective.
- **Pattern**  
With either the trace or transfer method, only one copy of the pattern is needed and the same original pattern can be reused numerous times.