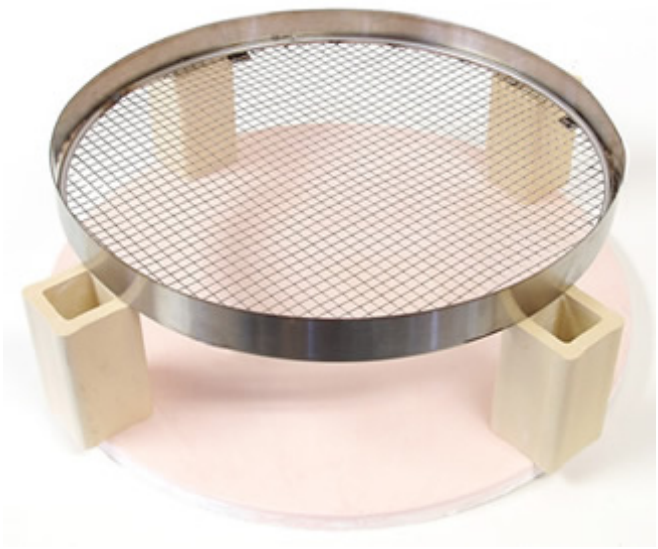
SCREEN MELT USE INSTRUCTIONS



PREFIRE
You should fire your screen melt before using it to remove any residual oil or contaminants left from production. Fire it to at least 1000° F then allow it to cool. If you remove it from the kiln before fully cool, remember that the metal will be hotter then your kiln thermocouple reads – so it's a good idea to wear gloves when handling hot metal. Don't be concerned if you have a quantity of spalling (black metallic dandruff). This brushes off.

REUSING THE SCREEN
To reuse your mesh for more firings you have two options:

- Reuse without removing residual glass. This works well if you will be using same or similar colors on other melts or if you use different screens for different melts.

- Remove residual glass. The best way to do this is to smash it with a hammer to break off any glass stuck to the mesh. Don't hit too hard. It works best if you only lift the hammer only an inch or two and hammer rapidly – like a jackhammer. The repeated banging breaks off any glass stuck to the mesh.

SPALLING
You will experience spalling (little bits of metal flaking off like metallic dandruff) on your melt with each firing. Don't worry. This is happening as the metal cools and is after the glass has solidified. It isn't stuck in the glass and just brushes off.

SAFETY
Take care to ensure none of the frame or mesh touches a kiln element. Use gloves or tongs to remove hot metal or hot glass from your kiln.

MEASURING for VOLUME
You can predetermine what size your melt will be by the weight of the glass you put on the screen to be melted.

- For each 1" diameter use 3.25 oz
- or, for each 1mm diameter use 3.5 grams.

Not all of the glass will melt through. Some will stick to the mesh. When calculating the required volume, allow an extra 10% for that.

KILN WASH
Most of the time when you fire glass to melt temperatures some kiln wash will attach to the glass. It's more likely to attach to opal glass then to transparent.

CONTAINERS
You can melt directly onto your kiln shelf, or if you wish to control the size and shape of your melt, into a metal or clay mold. If you use metal, be sure it's stainless steel. You can use a ceramic container or an earthenware saucer (the kind used beneath flower pots). Earthenware saucers work fine but are unreliable. Some will last for dozens of firings while others will crack with the first firing.

You can either coat the container with kiln wash or line it with fiber paper. Kiln wash is much more likely to stick to the glass and may require sandblasting to remove.

COLORS
Avoid using too much dark colored glass – it can overpower the pattern. Using a lot of clear will allow you to more easily see the fascinating patterns formed inside the melt.

Mix the sizes of pieces you use. If the pieces are too small, they'll just fall through the mesh but will still melt. If the pieces are too large you'll have a large area of a single color. Melts look the most attractive when there's a delicate mix of colors.

Examples of finished screen melts