

Stamping with Mica Powder

Preparing the glass

Thoroughly clean the glass with dish soap or alcohol. Avoid using glass cleaners. They can leave a film that will cause the mica to stick to the glass everywhere and not just where it has been stamped.

What to use

You can use any rubber stamp that can be purchased at any store that sells them or have one custom made to any desired design. Either a glue pad or “VersaMark” will work but if the image has fine detail, or if you plan to cap the image with other glass, the “VersaMark” pad is preferable.

Preparing the stamp.

Apply glue to the stamp. You can either press the stamp onto the pad or press the pad onto the stamp.

Applying glue to glass

Press the stamp with glue on it onto the glass. Press down as straight and steady as possible to prevent the stamp from sliding on the glass. Take care to press down firmly but gently and especially be sure the corners of the stamp are pressed down. If you aren't gentle, the stamp will move and smudge the image. Lift the stamp straight up to remove.

You can also draw a pattern on the glass with a “Versa Marker” and apply mica to the glue it leaves.

Applying the mica

Sprinkle a small amount of mica onto the glue you applied on the glass. Spread it around gently with a small paint brush. Try to brush the mica away without touching the glue. If you aren't gentle, you will smudge the image. Continue until all the glue is covered. You can apply a single colour mica or a mix of different colours. Wipe the excess mica away gently with a clean cloth or paper towel.

Firing

You can fire with or without a glass cap. If you plan to use a cap, do NOT use a glue pad. The glue is too thick and can create bubbles in the fuse. This is not a problem if you use a “Versa Pad”. Also, do NOT fire with the mica touching the kiln shelf.

Different temperatures are required to fire different makes of mica. It's important to fire hot enough to fuse but not so hot the color burns out. Most makes require firing to at least tack fuse and fire well at full fuse.

Don't be concerned if a small amount of mica comes off after firing. Only the mica that is in direct contact with the glass will fuse. The rest will simply brush away.

Cleanup

Carefully wash the stamp clean with soap and water and let dry ready for the next use.

Iridescent and dichroic glass.

Mica will not stick to a metallic surface. If you want to use iridescent or dichroic glass, you must cover it with clear glass (either under or over). The mica will then fuse to the clear while the uncovered clear fuses to the dichroic or iridescent surface.

