

## Using Jigs

I'm firmly planted on both pro and con sides.

If you're only making one, making a jig is a waste of time. SNUP. That's why I'm opposed to using paper templates for cutting glass and any of the angle cutting trinkets like the Morton stuff. If you're making multiples, jigs are an investment. Time spent making the jig, saves time each time it's used.

If you need to cut a piece of glass to an angle (any angle) there's no reason you can't just draw lines on a piece of paper and use a straight edge to cut the angles. You could probably cut out a half dozen pieces in the time it takes to make a jig, or to set up one of the angle guide thingees. If you can't make an accurate score with a straight edge, spend a half hour practicing. If you still can't get it, abandon glass work and take up pottery.

However.....if you plan to make a quantity of the same thing, making a good jig is the best time investment you'll find. For one project, just do it. Trace cut and assemble the always works old-fashioned way. For multiples, make your own cutting guides and assembly jigs. Paper templates and angle guide whatsits are at best a poor compromise. Times wasted for making ones, and inadequate for multiples. SNUP.

I think the real value in jigs isn't in just their use but more in learning how to make them. You can't expect to buy a jig for every project, but you can learn to make one for anything you want to do. The first jig everybody should learn how to make is how to just nail a coupla scraps of wood onto your work table to hold a panel in place while soldering. None of the little metal strips with map pins can do anything those wood scraps doesn't duplicate.

Become self-sufficient and self-reliant. Learn to build instead of buy.