

How to Use Mirrored Glass in a Stained Glass Window

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In Chicago, we have countless stained glass windows that feature double-sided gold mirrored glass. Because the window is reflective on both sides, it is as beautiful from the street as it is from indoors.

Of course, the glass is not actually mirrored on both sides. The effect is created by cutting two pieces of thin gold mirror and placing them back to back in a single lead came. The glass is clear and the gold is real gold that has been deposited on the glass by Angel Gilding, not gold leaf.

At www.angelgilding.com we can show you how to mirror glass with gold or you can buy 1/16" thick pre-mirrored gold, copper and galena glass to use in your own stained glass windows. The sheet size is 9" x 14" .

Steps:

- 1) To cut the glass for a "glass sandwich" place the pattern on the reflective side of the glass and cut one piece with the pattern right side up.
- 2) Turn the pattern over, place it on the reflective side again and cut the second piece.
- 3) Cut carefully to avoid having to grind the glass to shape. The ground edge is more likely to admit water and flux that can ruin the mirror later. If you must grind the pieces, do it now and let the pieces dry completely.
- 4) Cover all the edges carefully with mirror edge sealant and let that dry before you begin leading up.
- 5) We strongly recommend that you solder the joints next to the mirrored pieces with La-Co paste flux.
- 6) Remove any traces of sealant from the face of the glass only after the panel has been cemented. DO NOT wash the panel before you putty it. Water inside the mirror sandwich can ruin the mirror.
- 7) We strongly recommend that you use La-Co paste flux, which is non-acidic and not water-based, when you solder any came that touches the mirrored pieces. It cleans off easily in the process of puttying your window.

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