



Hazelrock
♡ HOUSE

LEARN HOW TO MAKE

Fused Glass

A BEGINNERS GUIDE

WWW.HAZELROCKHOUSE.COM

Welcome

We'll soon have you making your own fused glass!

Your Teacher is
Emma FitzGerald



I began glassmaking in 2014 when my other hobby (making soap) turned into a job. I was fascinated by the colours and textures achievable in glasswork so I have been experimenting for a good few years. I look to nature for inspiration along with my love of all things mid-century and retro. I particularly enjoy creating texture with frit.

I have a background in science, achieving a BSc (Hons) in Genetics and a Masters Degree in Medical Laboratory Science from Queens University, Belfast. I was also awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Science Education from University College, Worcester.

I founded Purple Herb Soap in 2010 which I closed in 2015. I now enjoy teaching Soapmaking and Fused Glassmaking to curious and resourceful individuals at the Hazelrock House Studio in Stirling, Scotland

I'm now here to help you to begin your journey into Fused Glass. Don't worry, I've got your back.

www.hazelrockhouse.com

Preparing Your Kiln Shelf

Molten glass is very sticky. Unless we as glass makers put something in between the glass and the kiln shelf, the glass will stick to it. Once it is cool there will be no way to separate the glass from the shelf without damaging both the glass piece and the shelf.

We need to coat the shelf with something to prevent that happening. Kiln wash is ideal for this purpose. You could also use thinfire paper or papyrus paper but these are not as cost effective. I use Bullseye Shelf Primer for my shelves but there are many other makes you can choose from, Shelf Primer is easy to use and I've made a little video to show you how.

You can find it [here](#) or click the image below



HOW TO

Kiln Wash
a Shelf

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Step by Step Instructions

You'll need some shelf primer or other kiln wash, a scraper, a dust mask, a Haik brush, a bowl to mix it in and some water.



Safety



It is really important from a safety point of view to wear a mask whilst working with shelf primer. It can irritate the lungs so a mask is essential. Even if it does make you look a bit mad!

Measure out one part kiln wash into the bowl. Add 5 parts water. Mix thoroughly with the Haik brush and leave to slake. The clay in the kiln wash will absorb some water so the mixture needs to sit for a few minutes.



Next have a look at your kiln shelf. Is the kilnwash chipped and damaged? Then we need to remove it.



Put your dust mask on first.

Take your scraper and start to gently scrape the kiln wash of the shelf. Be careful just to gently run the scraper along the surface and don't dig it in to the kiln shelf.



Keep scraping until the shelf is free from kiln wash. Give the shelf a wipe with a dry cloth. You'll have kiln wash scrapings all over your table now. You can use a HEPA filtered vacuum cleaner to clear them away or use a damp cloth. Keep your mask on when doing this.

Now you have a clean kiln shelf and a bowl with kiln wash and water mixed in it. You'll need to stir this before every brush stroke as it settles out very quickly.

A haik brush is best for applying the shelf primer as it has very fine bristles. You could use a paintbrush with fine bristles instead if you can't get hold of a Haik brush.

Once you dip the brush in, you can touch it to the side of the bowl to remove any excess. When applying, use long straight strokes and make sure to cover every part of the shelf in the same direction. Once the water has absorbed, you can add another layer. It doesn't need to completely dry out, just absorb and be less soggy wet on the surface.



Stir the mixture well. Keep stirring every time you dip the brush into the bowl so the particles don't get a chance to settle out.



Brush in long straight strokes. Each layer should be brushed in the same direction. I'm doing the first one up and down.



Let that settle in so it's not just so sopping wet. It doesn't need to be very dry. Then brush another coat on, this time working in the opposite direction. Each coat will help to even out the fine brush marks made in the previous layer.



Add another coat, this time go diagonally.



Add a fourth layer in different direction again.



Finally add a fifth layer of kiln wash. No kiln shelf should be visible through the kiln wash. If it looks a bit patchy, you can add a few more layers.

Make sure the shelf is completely dry before you use it. If it isn't dry bubbles can form in your glass as the moisture evaporates from the shelf and gets trapped under it. You can heat your kiln shelf in the kiln for 20 mins at 500 degrees Celsius or you can leave it overnight to dry in a warm place.

Your kiln shelf is ready to use. You can now get creating!